

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 20th April 2017, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM, AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairperson – Councillor Hutton (RH); Councillors Travis (RT), Dando (JD), and Clifford (SC).

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss P Griffiths – Clerk to the Council.

BY INVITATION: District Councillor John Greenhalgh.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There were no members of the public present.

046/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence from Councillors Evans (CE), Clark (HC), Hughes (LH), Sage (AS) and Harrison (HH) were received and approved. PCSO Dury had also sent his apologies. County Councillor Woolcombe-Adams (NWA) had sent his apologies that he had been unable to attend the meeting but he had sent a message to inform the PC that he was not intending to stand for the elections in May.

047/17 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.
a) SC declared an interest in item 055/17 b) 2) as Director at SCC.
b) There were no requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests.

048/17 COUNTY AND/OR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS. NWA had not sent a report but had confirmed that he would not be standing for re-election in May. JG confirmed that NWA was not intending to stand for the elections on the 4th May. Due to the County Council elections business at MDC was on hold however JG reported that the Sunday market in Shepton Mallet was going very well; the Heart of the South West devolution process had stalled and that all parish councils would shortly be receiving guidance from MDC with regards to dealing with requests for dispensations.

049/17 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY.
The Clerk read out the report which included the following:
16/03/17 – Report of a theft from a farm near Pylle – Police attend.
25/03/17 – Report of a digger working on Wraxall Hill with its boom getting to near the road – Police attend, digger left prior to arrival.
27/03/17 – Report of a burglary in Ditchheat – Police attend.
01/04/17 – Report of an apparently abandoned vehicle in a lay-by near Arthurs Bridge – Advice given.
12/04/17 – Report of a theft from an out building in Alhampton.
14/04/17 – Report of dangerous driving along the A37 Wraxall – Police attend stop vehicle and give Words of Advice.
Ditchheat has a new Beat Manager:- PC Heather Anderton joins Shepton Mallet Rural Team transferring from Frome, where she spent many years as a response officer.
Heather's contact e-mail : Heather.Anderton@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
The Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant's contact details for Lydford are:
Sgt Rachael Clark e-mail : rachael.clark@avaonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

050/17 MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record by the chairman of the meeting.

051/17 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 9th March 2017.

- a) Land opposite The Lodge on the A37 – no progress, the Clerk will continue to follow up. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Telephone kiosk in Alhampton – The Clerk reported that LH had received the response to various queries realised with the Community Heartbeat Trust and that the next step was for the PC to submit a grant application. **Action: The Clerk, LH and CE.**
- c) 'Reduce speed now' signs – still awaiting response from the Traffic Engineer. The Clerk will continue to follow up. **Action: The Clerk.**
- d) Litter caused by waste falling out of vehicles used for recycling collection- The Clerk has contacted Somerset Waste Partnership – no response received yet. the Clerk will follow up. **Action: The Clerk.**
- e) Litter pick - The Clerk read out report from Councillor Clark.
There were 10 helpers in Ditcheat and 7 in Alhampton, and 20 bags of rubbish were collected. A short thank you note was put in the FTN (May edition). Also, it was agreed that an earlier date would be selected for the litter pick next year. This was due to the mild weather causing the grass to grow which had hidden much of the litter this year. HC sent her many thanks to all Councillors for their support and help.

052/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record.

053/17 MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising from the meeting held on 30th March 2017.

054/17 PLANNING

- a) It was noted that planning and listed building permission has been granted for the following:
 - 1) Manor House Inn, Ref: 2016/2932/FUL and 2016/2933/LBC.

055/17 FINANCE

- a) Account balance as at 31st March 2017 – the Clerk reported that the balance of all accounts was £10,774.92; £6,362.71 in the current account and £4,412.21 in the reserve account.
- b) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.
 - 1) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance 3rd, 13th and 24th March – £195.00.
 - 2) Somerset County Council for creation of website - £60.00.
 - 3) Mr C Evans for materials for the repair of the Ditcheat to Sutton footpath - £177.86.
 - 4) Mr C Evans for materials for the repair of the finger post by the Old Post Office in Ditcheat - £16.25.
 - 5) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's expenses for period 1st January to 31st March 2017 - £19.92.

RESOLVED: that the above expenditure is approved and the cheques signed.

- c) Receipt of the precept was noted.

056/17 PLAYGROUND

- a) Appointment of Wicksteed Leisure to undertake the annual inspection and risk assessment of the playground - agreed unanimously. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Any matters of report - None.

057/17 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported.
 - 1) Potholes as reported at previous meeting - most have been repaired although still some on Moor Lane.

- 2) Flooding at Folly Corner – work ongoing.
- 3) Blocked culverts/drains on Snagg Lane and Moor Lane - unclear due to recent dry weather whether any repairs have been undertaken. Agreed to monitor and report again if necessary.
- b) Following receipt of email from Janine Manning about HGVs using parish as a short cut the Clerk confirmed that Ms Manning had been requested to share the response (if any) that she receives from Lloyd Fraser. The Clerk will follow up the matter with Ms Manning. **Action: The Clerk.**
- c) There were no new matters for report to the Highways authority.

058/17 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Update on progress on repairs to Ditchat to Sutton footpath – The Clerk reported that the kissing gate to replace the stile had been received and would be fitted in due course.
- b) Update on closure of bridleway SM6/26 – following the previous meeting further investigation established the bridge had not been repaired as reported. However, the land owner where the bridge is located had indicated that he would facilitate the repair of the bridge.
- c) Any matters for report - none.

059/17 SURVEY RESPONSE - The response to the 'Growing a Rural Community for Mendip' survey was agreed. The Clerk will submit the response online. **Action: The Clerk.**

060/17 THE GREAT GET TOGETHER – The letter from Annie Maw, the Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset about this event on weekend 17th and 18th June 2017 was noted. It was agreed that the PC should help to promote the event should any parishioners wish to organise anything. The Clerk will forward for inclusion in the parish magazine, put copies on the noticeboards and on the PC website. **Action: The Clerk.**

061/17 LITTER BIN FOR DOG WASTE – the request from a parishioner for a litter bin for dog waste to be installed near the entrance to Barber's car park and the footpath which runs alongside the playing fields was considered. It was resolved not to pursue the purchase a bin specifically for the disposal of dog waste as the cost could not be justified and there was no guarantee that it would be emptied in the longer term. The bin adjacent to the seat at the foot of the steps to the church had been purchased on the understanding that it would be emptied by volunteers however this task along with the emptying of the playground bin was undertaken by Councillor Dando for which the PC was grateful. Dog owners are encouraged to remove the waste and take it home for disposal as when walking in other areas. It was noted that providing dog waste was bagged it could be disposed of in general waste bins.

062/17 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' – CE had received a comment from a parishioner concerned about the speed of tractors with silage trailers travelling through the village. RH will speak to Chris Barber. **Action: RH.**

063/17 HEALTH & SAFETY – nothing to report.

064/17 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence – nothing to add.
- b) Reports/items for information – The Clerk reported that Andrew Sage had resigned due to work commitments with effect from 12th May. The Clerk will inform MDC and take the necessary steps to advertise the vacancy. **Action: The Clerk.**

065/17 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman - none.

b) Members – SC suggested and it was agreed unanimously that a letter of thanks is sent to NWA in recognition of the commitment that he has made as a County and District Councillor over many years. **Action: The Clerk.**

SC circulated a document about the 'End Loneliness in Mendip' campaign which will be an agenda item at the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**

Signed: Chairman of Ditchheat Parish Council.

Dated: 11th May 2017.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING which is the Annual Parish Council Meeting – 11th May 2017 AT
7.30 pm in the Church Room.

PLEASE CHECK THE NOTICEBOARDS FOR AGENDAS AND DATES.
MEMBERS OF THE PARISH AND PRESS WELCOME.