

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 22nd JUNE 2017 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairperson – Councillor Evans (CE) and Councillors – Harrison (HH), Travis (RT), Hutton (RH) and Clifford (SC).

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

BY INVITATION: District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council. There were two members of the public present.

Dr Osmond addressed the Council regarding the letter that she had sent to the PC about what she perceived was the premature cutting of the verges in Alhampton thus affecting the wildlife habitat in and around the parish.

093/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies for absence from Councillors Clark (HC), Dando (JD) and Hughes (LH) – were received and approved. County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC) and PCSO Dury had also sent their apologies.

094/17 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – JG gave the following report: MDC staff have been busy following the county council elections with the General Election, and several staff particularly from Environmental Health and Licensing are now actively involved at the festival though this has had a relatively minor impact on council services.

Other points of interest are as follows:

- The Council has elected a new chairman, Cllr Edward Drewe, who took up the position at the last full council meeting and following the county elections eight MDC councillors are now also county councillors
- The council has been given a Gold Award for excellence in the management of address information especially in relation to customer requests for property information for land searches
- There are going to be some changes in Planning Department following the resignations of a Principal Planning Officer and a Planner officer.
- Changes resulting from the Five Councils Partnership are now starting to happen, for example licensing administration will now be delivered by South & Vale Council (South Oxfordshire). The Licensing Officer will remain at Mendip. From 3rd July HR transactional services (administration) will be delivered from Capita's HR Shared Service Centre in Belfast. This centre of excellence employs over 300 specialist staff. An HR representative will remain on site at Mendip.

095/17 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- The Clerk read out the report which included the following incidents:

28/04/17 at 02:22 – Caller reporting hearing someone attempting to open both doors to the house. Did not see anyone. Police attend with a police dog and search the area – No trace of anyone was found.

01/05/17 at 10:11 – Report of a motorcycle accident on the A37 Wraxall – Emergency services attend.
02/05/17 at 20:53 – Report of a tanker stuck on Wraxall Hill – Police attend, tanker left prior to arrival.
14/05/17 at 16:13 – Report of a lorry broken down on the A37 Wraxall Hill – Police attend no trace of lorry.
14/05/17 at 17:41 – Police attend following a report of an alarm activated in a local business which had been set off in error.
28/05/17 at 10:49 – Report of single motorcycle accident along The Rectory, Ditcheat – Emergency services attend.
07/06/17 at 11:04 – Report of an injured deer along Wraxall Rd – Police and Deer Warden attend.
09/06/17 at 17:21 – Report of careless driving along the A37 Wraxall – Observations passed over police radio – No trace found.
11/06/17 at 23:21 – Report of a large vehicle broken down on the A37 Wraxall Hill – Police attend.
18/06/17 at 13:51 – Report of a broken down vehicle on the A37 Wraxall Hill – Police attend no trace of vehicle.
20/06/17 at 16:09 – Report of a theft near the village.

- 096/17 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.
- a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – CE declared an interest in item 103/17 e) 1) as the recipient of the payment. SC declared an interest in Item 102/17 2) as a neighbour of the applicant.
 - b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests – none.
- 097/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 098/17 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 11th May 2017.
- a) Land opposite The Lodge on the A37 – no update available. The Clerk will continue to follow the matter. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - b) Adoption of telephone kiosk in Alhampton for installation of defibrillator - The Clerk confirmed that the application for funding from the Big Lottery Fund had been submitted.
 - c) HGVs using Ditcheat as shortcut from A37 to A371 – The Clerk read out the response from Mike Dennis the Manager from The Lloyd Fraser Group whose vehicle had been seen driving through the parish who had re-iterated that their drivers have again been reminded that they must obey all road signage at all times and, specifically, they are not to use the route through the parish again. Mr Dennis went to assure the PC that they do take complaints of this nature seriously as it is not in our interests for the public to have a poor perception of either our Company, or indeed our employees as individuals. The matter is now considered closed.
- 099/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 100/17 MATTERS ARISING from the meeting held on 1st June 2017 - none.

101/17 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR – following the resignation of Andrew Sage no parishioner had come forward to volunteer for co-option. The Clerk will put another notice in the FTN and on the notice boards and the PC website.

Following a proposal by the Chairman and unanimous agreement of the Council agenda item 105/17 was brought forward.

105/17 CUTTING OF VERGES IN THE PARISH

The letter sent to the PC and the Parish Plan Steering Group (PPSG) by Dr. Osmond regarding the early cutting of the verges prior to 5th June as indicated in the Somerset Highways Environmental maintenance leaflet was considered. The flora and fauna survey undertaken by Dr Osmond was also discussed. It was established that the verges had been cut for the Barbers to assist in road safety during silage collection. Following considerable discussion, it was resolved that the CE would arrange to meet with Chris Barber to discuss the survey and the concerns raised by Dr Osmond. **Action: CE.**

102/17 PLANNING

a) The following planning applications were considered:

1) Proposed repairs, internal alterations and ground floor extension Former Stables at Ringwell House Ditcheat. Household Application and Listed building consent Ref. 2017/1088/HSE and 2017/1089/LBC. **Outcome:** 'Recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses' Reason: the PC would have recommended approval should the application have been submitted prior to the work being done.

SC left the room.

2) Erection of double garage, Langford Barn, Alhampton. Household application Ref: 2017/1587/HSE. **Outcome:** 'Recommend refusal'. Reason: on the grounds that the materials proposed are inappropriate and not in keeping with the street scene. In addition, the PC would like it to be noted that there is an existing storm drain running in a westerly direction which it is believed was not maintained by the previous occupiers/owner and this runs under the proposed location of the garage.

SC returned to the meeting room.

JG left the meeting.

103/17 FINANCE

a) Internal Audit for year ended 31st March 2017 – the report from internal auditor and the Clerk's response was considered and accepted. It was resolved to accept the suggestion from the auditor that the budget for the repair to the Ditcheat to Sutton footpath should be reviewed and considered at the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk and CE.**

b) The accounts for 2016/2017 were approved.

c) Annual Return Section 2 Statement of Accounts - approved and signed. The Clerk will forward the Annual Return to the external auditors. **Action: The Clerk.**

d) Bank balances as per cash book at 14th June - £19,858.16.

e) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.

1) Mr C Evans for materials and fuel for the repair of Ditcheat to Sutton footpath - £124.72.

- 2) CPRE for membership renewal – minimum £36.00.
 - 3) Miss P Griffiths – Clerk’s salary 1st April – 30th June 2017 - £837.64.
- RESOLVED - that the above expenditure is approved and the cheques signed.
- f) The request from Evercreech Explorer Scouts for a grant of £200.00 in support of the Scout movement was considered and refused.
 - g) The payments to the following were noted:
 - 1) Tony’s Garden Services for grass cutting on 5th, 15th and 26th May 2017 - £195.00.
 - 2) Parochial Church Council of Ditcheat for room hire from 15th December to 11th May = £67.00.
 - h) It was noted that as previously advised the 2017-18 national pay award for Clerks of 1% has been agreed = additional £33.38 per annum.

104/17 PLAYGROUND

- a) It was noted that the application for funding from the Tesco Bags for Life has been successful and a grant of £1,000.00 will be received within two weeks. The Clerk will arrange for the work which will take 1 – 2 days to be done either week commencing the 17th or 24th July.
- b) Any matters of report – CE reported that the wooden slats on the seat which back on to the fence needed repair. The Clerk will obtain a quote for the work. It was agreed unanimously that the Clerk can authorise the work to be done up to a sum of £200.00. **Action: The Clerk.**

106/17 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – some of the potholes on Moor Lane, Alhampton have been repaired.
- b) New matters for report to the Highways authority – none.

107/17 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Update on matters previously reported:
 - 1. Bridge on SM6/26 – CE will check if the work has been completed.
- b) Any matters for report – CE reported that progress was being made on the Alhampton to Sutton part of the footpath, however there were some logistical problems regarding the delivery and storage of the materials.

108/17 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING ‘THE RENDEZVOUS’ - four matters had been raised:

- The state of the signposts in the parish. The Clerk will report that matter, however painting of signposts is likely to be a very low priority for the Highway Department. It may be possible for the painting to be done by volunteers. The clerk will check. **Action: The Clerk.**
- Appreciation to CE for arranging the repair of the ‘No Through Road’ sign in Alhampton.
- The speed of vehicles being driven through the Parish – it should be noted that any parishioner can report what they consider to be inappropriate driving to the police. Concerned parishioners should make a note of the make, colour and registration number of the vehicle concerned.
- House names – parishioners can find details about house names on the ‘My Mendip’ part of the MDC website.

Volunteers are required for 8th August, 12th September and 10th October.

109/17 HEALTH & SAFETY - nothing to report.

110/17 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Correspondence.

1) The request from Seafarers UK to commemorate Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September by flying the Red Ensign which is the official flag of the British Merchant Navy was considered. The Clerk will forward the details for the PCC for consideration - **Action: The Clerk.**

b) Reports/items for information.

1) It was noted that there were no matters arising from the Annual Parish meeting.

111/17 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman – none.

b) Members – RT will update the PC about the rollout of faster broadband services at the next full meeting.

Signed: Chairman of Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 3rd August 2017.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING –3rd AUGUST 2017 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

If necessary, a Planning meeting will be held on 13th July 2017 the Church Room at **7.30pm.**

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