

## **MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2017 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairperson – Councillor Hutton (RH) and Councillors – Harrison (HH) and Dando (JD).

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council. There were no members of the public present.

116/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies for absence from Councillors Evans (CE) Clark (HC), Travis (RT), Clifford (SC) and Hughes (LH) – were received and approved. District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had also sent their apologies.

117/17 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – The Clerk read out a report on behalf of JG. The District Council has recently published its latest Corporate Plan where it states:

**Our Vision:** Working together to make Mendip a great place to live and work in, helping our communities and businesses thrive.

**Our priorities:**

**\*Transformation\***– Finding better ways of working together, and making better use of our assets, resources and skills to deliver the best possible outcomes for our communities

**\*Inclusive Growth\***– We want to see positive growth in Mendip. We want to see businesses develop, grow and enjoy great success

Other key developments are as follows:

- The post Grenfell fire safety review confirmed that MDC/affiliated housing associations do not own/operate any buildings higher than four storeys
- On 31<sup>st</sup> July, as part of the 5 councils' partnership, Customer Services and HR moved to Capita and Post & Print to a company called Vinci
- Whilst no mention of devolution in the Queen's Speech, all the original counties involved in the Heart of the South West bid have reaffirmed their wish to continue
- Membership of all committees and boards has been revised and expanded to be more politically balanced. The Scrutiny Board will now meet quarterly and comprise four working parties meeting in between times representing policy & strategy, working with town councils, performance management & project working.
- For the current year all departments are working within budget.

118/17 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- The Clerk read out the report which included the following incidents:

18/06 Broken down vehicle on Wraxall hill, the police received 3 calls regarding this incident.

18/06 Report of dangerous driving in the Wraxall area.

20/06 Report of theft of a sign at Wraxall Vineyard.

119/17 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

- a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – HH declared an interest in item 124/17 as Chair of the Friends of Haddon Wood. JD declared

an interest in Item 125/17 a) 2) as it is possible to see the Manor House from his property.

b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests – none.

120/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

121/17 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017.

a) Land opposite The Lodge on the A37 – no update available.

b) Adoption of telephone kiosk in Alhampton for installation of defibrillator – The Clerk read out the report from LH, which will be published in the FTN, confirming that the bid for a grant had been successful and the project was progressing well.

c) Co-option of councillor to fill vacancy – The Clerk report that there had been no expressions of interest and requested that Councillors actively look for a volunteer.

d) Cutting of verges in the parish – The Clerk reported that CE had had a meeting with Dr Osmond to establish the areas she considers are most sensitive to the early cutting and proposed to speak with Chris Barber early next year about the possibility of delaying cutting. Dr Osmond was satisfied with this approach.

e) Painting of fingerpost road signs - The Clerk reported that SCC had confirmed that subject to training and risk assessments it would be possible for volunteers to paint the fingerposts. The Clerk will discuss the matter with CE about the best way to progress this matter. **Action: The Clerk.**

122/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

123/17 MATTERS ARISING from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - none.

124/17 HADDON WOOD – leasing of the wood from the Woodland Trust (WT) – HH reported that the Friends of Haddon Wood (F of HW) had decided not to proceed with the proposal to lease the wood from the WT. However, the WT had agreed that first refusal would be given to the F of HW if in future the WT need a lessee.

125/17 PLANNING

a) The following planning applications were considered:

1) Proposed drop kerb and creation of new driveway, 7 Prospect Villas, Ditchat. Ref: 2017/1719/HSE. **Outcome:** Recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses with the following comments:

➤ The Parish Council supports the application in principle but is concern about the proposal to use loose gravel which will inevitable spread onto the pavement causing a hazard.

➤ The current design is such that it is likely that vehicles will reverse out on to the highway again causing a hazard.

2) Applications – The Manor House, Ditchat - for the lawful existing use of The Manor House, Ditchat as a single dwelling. Ref: 20171883/CLE; for the approval of details reserved by conditions 3, 4 and 5 of planning application 2012/2803. Ref: 2017/1866/APP; and Removal of modern plaster partitions to reinstate the property back to one dwelling, Ref: 2017/1899/LBC.

**Outcome:** Recommend approval - The PC applauds the proposal (retrospective) which indicate that the property has been maintained in good repair and is well looked after.

126/17 FINANCE

- a) Bank balances as per cash book at 1<sup>ST</sup> August - £19,664.80 – this includes the grant of £1,000.00 for the replacement of the safety matting in the playground.
  - b) 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 - £184.89.
    - 2) Miss P Griffiths – Clerk’s expenses 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - £22.46.
- RESOLVED - that the above expenditure is approved and the cheques signed.
- c) The donation from the Rendezvous of £100.00 which is donated specifically as a contribution towards the cost of the replacement of the safety matting in the playground was noted.
  - d) Receipt of the grant from the Tesco Bags for Life - £1,000.00 – noted.
  - e) The payment to the following was noted:
    - 1) Tony’s Garden Services for grass cutting on 5<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - £195.00.

127/17 PLAYGROUND

- a) Replacement of safety matting – the Clerk reported that due to an administrative error the work to replace the matting had been postponed until the end of August/beginning of September subject to weather conditions.
- b) Any matters for report – None.

128/17 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – some repairs have been completed on the road from Ditcheat to Arthurs Bridge by Longhill Farm. The road from Ditcheat to Alhampton in very bad condition. The Clerk will report the matter again. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) New matters for report to the Highways authority:
  - The two sunken gulleys in Smiths Lane – one by South View opposite No 2 Lintern Close and the other opposite Prospect House about half way between the junction and the garages.The Clerk will report the above. **Action: The Clerk.**

129/17 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Update on matters previously reported:
  1. Bridge on SM6/26 – noted that the work has not been completed but is however passable by walkers. The Clerk will ask the Rights of Way team to update the notice confirming that the bridge was impassable by horses and vehicles. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Any matters for report – JD reported that a mower had kindly been donated by the family of the late Cyril Riley. JD has thanked the family on behalf of the PC for the donation.

130/17 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING ‘THE RENDEZVOUS’ -

- Concern was expressed about the state of some of the finger posts in the parish which are in urgent need of painting. A parishioner had indicated that funds may be made available if the PC sought and obtained permission from SCC to undertake the work on a self-help basis.

131/17 HEALTH & SAFETY - nothing to report.

132/17 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence.

- 1) Consultation on Proposals for introducing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) – the PC had no comments to make with regards to this consultation.
- b) Reports/items for information.
  - 1) Volunteer to attend Rendezvous on 8<sup>th</sup> August – JD agreed to attend.

133/17 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- a) Chairman – none.
- b) Members – none.

Signed: Chairman of Ditchheat Parish Council.

Dated: 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

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