

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairperson – Councillor Evans (CE) and Councillors – Clark (HC), Travis (RT), Dando (JD), Kerr (SK), Hutton (RH) and Hughes (LH).

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

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

175/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies for absence from Councillors Harrison (HH) and Clifford (SC) – were received and approved. County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC), District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had also sent their apologies.

176/17 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS: – CE read out the report from JG which included the following points:
There have been no major announcements recently. However, points to note are as follows:

- The Council is working with local taxi drivers to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and how to spot signs of abuse. Following some high-profile cases, taxi drivers have been identified as a group of people who may pick up early signs of abuse. To ensure taxi drivers in Mendip are able to spot signs of CSE and know where and how to report it the council will be distributing leaflets and promotional material to drivers.
- To celebrate the Queen and Prince Philip's 70th wedding anniversary in November, the Council asked for local couples also celebrating their Platinum wedding anniversary in 2017 to come forward and celebrate with them. Three couples in Mendip who have all celebrated their 70th wedding anniversaries this year came forward. The chair of the council and two fellow councillors visited the couples at their homes to present them with a special gift and offer their congratulations.
- The new standardised 5 councils' HR system has now been implemented in Mendip by Capita.
- The Rural Services Network has just published the RSN Economic Profile for Mendip which brings together key data to inform and contextualise a local authority area's economic situation. Areas covered include working age population and private/public sector employment along with five others.

177/17 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- The Clerk read out the report which included the following incidents:

22nd October – Report of a vehicle hitting two dogs along the A37 near Ditchheat, the caller was advised to report the accident at a Police Station.

31st October – Report of a vehicle broken down on Wraxall Hill – Police attended.

19th November - Report of a vehicle broken down on Wraxall Hill – Police attended.

1st December – Report of a lorry broken down on Wraxall Hill – Police attended.

2nd December – Report of a lorry unable to negotiate Wraxall Hill – Police attended.

- 178/17 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.
- a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – CE declared an interest in item 184/17 e) 1) as recipient of the payments. JD declared an interest in item 184/17 e) 1) as a member of the volunteer group undertaking the work.
 - b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests – none.
- 179/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 180/17 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 26th October 2017.
- a) Painting of fingerpost road signs – The Clerk reported the details of an estimate received for the repair painting of nine of the fingerposts in the parish. The company which had provided the estimate had confirmed that the fingerposts would be removed taken back to the workshop, repaired, sand blasted and painted and reinstalled. The posts inside the outer sleeve would be repaired/replaced as necessary and the outer sleeve prepared and repainted. It was estimated that the total cost for all the posts would be approximately £5,000.00 - £6,000.00 depending on the final cost of the finials. It was agreed that CE would approach the parishioner who had raised the matter initially and that the Clerk will obtain a further estimate and look at sources of possible funding. **Action: The Clerk and CE.**
 - b) Removal of posts in the playground - CE confirmed that the individual posts in the playground had been removed.
- 181/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the planning meeting held on 5th October 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 182/17 MATTERS ARISING - from the planning meeting held on 5th October 2017 – None.
- 183/17 PLANNING
- a) Mendip Local Plan Part II – Notification of a proposed Local Green Space(s) on land registered in PC ownership - it was agreed that the response of the PC to the proposed Local Green spaces was to approve, but agreement from the owner of the former cricket pitch to be designated a playing field would be sought. CE to look into this. It was also noted that the formal consultation on the pre-submission draft of the plan will start on 2nd January and end on 12th February – the PC will finalise its response at the meeting on 18th January 2018. **Action: CE**
- 184/17 FINANCE
- a) Bank balances as per cash book at 1st December – the Clerk reported that the balance was £13,032.21.
 - b) Developing principles and a policy for giving grants to charities – LH tabled a draft policy for consideration and ratification at the next full meeting of the PC. All Councillors to consider the draft policy. **Action: All Councillors and the Clerk.**
 - c) The draft spreadsheet detailing the expenditure for 2018/19 in preparation for setting the precept in January produced by the Clerk was considered. The Clerk will amend the draft spreadsheet to include the possible grant of £500.00 to the PCC for maintenance of the churchyard in 2018/19. However, any grant would need to be considered by the PC prior to it being awarded to the PCC. The precept to be confirmed at the meeting on 18th January 2018. **Action: The Clerk.**

- d) The request from Mendip Community Transport for a grant towards the running costs of the charity was considered and refused.
- e) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.
 - 1) Mr C Evans for materials for the repair of Ditcheat to Sutton footpath - £411.94 for cement, £5.98 for generator fuel and £4.78 for bolts for the kissing gate; = Total £422.70.
 - 2) Miss P Griffiths – Clerk’s salary 1st October – 31st December 2017 - £837.64. RESOLVED - that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques signed.
- f) The payments to the following were noted:
 - 1) Tony’s Garden Services for grass cutting on 9th, 20th and 30th October 2017 - £195.00.
 - 2) Ditcheat Jubilee Hall – for room hire for defibrillator training - £39.00 (monies from grant received from the Big Lottery fund).

185/17 PLAYGROUND

- a) Purchase of a new litter bin – the Clerk gave details of options for a new bin. It was agreed to purchase a light green plastic bin with no liner from Glasdon for £90.54. The Clerk will clarify the need for/type of post fixings. **Action: The Clerk**
- b) Any matters of report – CE reported that a fallen tree had been removed. CE thanked HC for continuing to mow/clear the area under the hedge which runs alongside the playground. HC reported that the weekly inspection had been completed and that the completed forms would be forwarded to the Clerk for action and/or filing. **Action: The Clerk and HC.**

186/17 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – CE reported that the gully by Tunlake had been raised.
- b) New matters for report to the Highways authority:
 - The culvert under the Alhampton end of Snagg Lane appears to be blocked causing water to pool.
 - There is water running down and across the road on Ditcheat Hill – the gulleys need to be cleared.

The Clerk will report the above. **Action: The Clerk.**

- c) JD reported that the offensive graffiti on Smiths Lane had been removed.

187/17 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Insurance for the use of borrowed electric fence and the storage of cement – The Clerk reported that the above would be covered by the excess on the policy and that provided the electric fence was installed correctly by a competent person public liability would be covered by the existing policy.
- b) Any matters for report:–
 - JD reported that a parishioner had drawn his attention to the slightly raised slabs on the cement path running from the Old Post Office alongside the playground. CE will have a look at the problem. **Action: CE.**
 - SK reported that the step on the stile by the Alhampton end of Snagg Lane on footpath SM 6/11 needs replacing. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - SM 6/10 - RH volunteered to trim back the hedge by the bridge into the next field. **Action: RH.**

188/17 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING ‘THE RENDEZVOUS’ – Nothing to report. JD will attend the December session.

189/17 HEALTH & SAFETY - nothing to report.

190/17 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Correspondence.

- 1) Email from parishioner regarding the dumping of food waste along the Ditcheat to Arthurs Bridge Road. The Clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer at MDC had been informed of the matter. All Councillors should be vigilant and inform the Clerk of any future dumping of food.

b) Reports/items for information.

- 1) The proposed dates for PC meetings 2018 to 2019 were noted – the Clerk will amend the list to show the dates of the Annual Parish meeting and the Annual meeting of the Parish Council. **Action: The Clerk.**
- 2) The Clerk reminded Councillors about the Planning training session to be held at 6.30pm on 10th January at MDC offices – all councillors wishing to attend should confirm with the Clerk. **Action: All Councillors.**

191/17 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman – nothing to report.

b) Members –

- It was agreed following a proposal from HC that the date of the litter pick for 2018 should be Saturday 10th March.
- JD reported that there is a problem with the mural board in the bus shelter in Ditcheat. CE agreed to have a look and assess. **Action: CE.**
- The Clerk will forward the email regarding the changes to the SID programme. **Action: The Clerk.**

Signed: Chairman of Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 18th JANUARY 2018.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 18th JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

If necessary, a Planning meeting will be held on 28th December 2017 the Church Room at 7.30pm.

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