

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 12th April 2018 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairperson –Councillor Evans (CE), and Councillors – Kerr (SK), Dando (JD), and Clifford (SC).

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

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

045/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies for absence from Councillors Hutton (RH), Clark (HC), Harrison (HH), Hughes (LH) and Travis (RT) – were received and approved. County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had also sent their apologies.

046/18 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS: –
The Clerk read out the report from JG - There have been no major announcements recently. However there have been several developments as follows:

- Ian Bowen, head of planning and growth, left the council last month. An experienced consultant who has been at Mendip before is covering the post until a replacement is found.
- There have been important new changes to Government performance measures relating to decisions on planning. From April quality targets have been set based on the number of refusals overturned on appeal. Failure to meet these targets will result in MDC being placed in Special Measures. Currently the Council's performance is well within the targets.
- As a result of the above further re-organisation of the department is planned including strengthening both the planning and enforcement teams. A new Principal Planning Officer has just been appointed.
- The General Data Protection Regulation comes into force on 25th May 2018. This is the new data protection regime for the EU including the UK. There are changes to how things are done under the Data Protection Act 1998 particularly things that SHOULD be done under the old regime that now MUST be done. The principle remains that we all need to ensure we protect the personal data of staff, service users and the electorate whether it is on computer or paper based. Every District Councillor is registered as a Data Controller.
- A programme to bring staff and members together to agree what sort of council we need, want and how to achieve it has been started.
- Somerset Libraries: following requests for further information on options for library users, consultation period has been extended from 22nd April to 13th June.
- Consultation has opened for the Mendip Business Survey. Companies are being asked opinions on range of skills required, growth and business support issues for next Mendip Economic Development Strategy.
- A programme to end the use of Single Use Plastic is being instigated across the Hub.

047/18 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY - CE read out the report which included the following incidents:
26th February – Report of a large stone being thrown causing damage to a garden fence in Wraxall.

1st March – Report of a slippery road surface at Wraxall Hill – Highways dealing.
 8th March – Report of debris in the road at Wraxall – Police attend and clear it.
 17th March – Reporting concerning the welfare of a male in a vehicle along Ditcheat Hill – Ambulance attend deal with male who left prior to police arrival.
 24th March – Report of a broken drain cover along the A371 Ditcheat – Highways dealing.
 31st March – Report of an accident along the A371 Ditcheat – Emergency services attend.
 4th April – Report of a broken-down vehicle on Wraxall Hill – Police attend.

048/18 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.
 a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – none.
 b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests – none.

049/18 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

027/18 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 8th March 2018.
 a) Painting of fingerpost road signs – The Clerk reported that a notice had been placed in the FTN about the project but to date had received no response. CE reported that he had had a positive response with an offer of financial assistance from a local business and would be approaching others for their support. **Action: CE.**
 b) Fitting of the new litter bin – CE reported that he had agreement from the house owner whose house abutted the playground to fix the litter bin to the wall and would do so soon. **Action: CE.**
 c) Dumping of food waste – There were no further reports of problems. It was agreed to monitor the situation and discuss again if necessary.
 d) Mural board in the bus shelter in Ditcheat – CE reported that the Art Group had confirmed that they will paint another mural once the board with the existing mural and the other walls in the bus shelter have been painted which CE intends to do. It was agreed that the PC would purchase the paint for the walls and reimburse the Art Group for the mural. **Action: CE.**
 e) Replacement for shroud on the 'Elephant rocker' in playground – the shroud and the fixings have been received and CE confirmed that he would fit it in due course. **Action: CE.**
 f) Pooling of water at entrance to Haddon Wood by Jacob's lane – CE will remind the Highways Department that this matter is still outstanding. **Action: CE.** (Post meeting note – HH has informed the Clerk that the matter is in hand and arrangements have been made to meet with the Highways Department on site when the area is dry).
 g) Public space protection orders - (brought in under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014). The response from MDC following a query from LH had confirmed that initially the order (First Order) for the prohibition of dogs will focus on under 5's play areas owned by the District Council but with agreement will be rolled out after 12 months to other under 5's play areas owned by Town and Parish Councils. The Second Order prohibiting consumption of alcohol and drugs where anti-social behaviour is taking place will include the whole of Mendip and open spaces.
 h) Pooling of water at end of Snagg Lane – CE will liaise with the Highways Department about this continuing problem. **Action: CE.**

051/18 MINUTES - The minutes of the planning meeting held on 22nd March 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

052/18 MATTERS ARISING - from the planning meeting held on 22nd March 2018 – None.

053/18 REVIEW of LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

It was resolved that the Clerk would complete the response of the Parish Council to the questions raised in the review document as per the response drafted and circulated by CE.

054/18 FINANCE

a) Bank balances as per cash book at 1st April 2018 excluding items on the agenda – the Clerk reported that the balance was £8,761.76. (This excludes the reserved defibrillator fund).

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

1) Wicksteed Leisure for spring mobile shroud and associated fixings - £163.25.

2) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance in March - £130.00.

3) Grant Thornton for external audit fee - £120.00.

4) Miss P Griffiths – Clerk's expenses 1st January – 31st March 2018 - £17.70.

RESOLVED - that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques signed.

c) The receipt of the precept was noted.

055/18 PLAYGROUND

a) CE reported that one of the gates into the small children's' play area is damaged and the closure is also not working correctly. CE will investigate that replacement of the gate and closing mechanism. **Action: CE.**

056/18 HIGHWAYS

1) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported –

a) The gullies on Ditchat Hill have been cleared which has improved but not solved the problem of the water running across the road.

b) Moor Lane in Alhampton - no work has been done on the potholes and poor road surface. In fact, the state of the road has deteriorated considerably. The signs that had been left on the road side by Longhill Farm following road works on the A371 have still not been removed. The Clerk will report both matters again. **Action: The Clerk.**

c) New matters of report: JD reported that there are the covers on two of the drain gullies along Smiths Lane are sunken in the road and create a disturbing noise when vehicles drive over them. One, is just outside No 2 Lintern Close and the other which is very close to the tree trunk on the grass area by 6 Southview - The Clerk will report the matter to the Highways Department.

Action: The Clerk.

057/18 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

a) SK reported that users, who are not residents in the village, of the paths in Haddon Wood had expressed concern that there were no rubbish bins in which to leave dog waste. CE to raise the matter at the AGM of the Friends of Haddon Wood. **Action: CE.**

b) Ditchat to Sutton footpath – Repairs to the Alhampton to Sutton section of the path are progressing well. However, the cement mixer, owned by CE, that was being used has stopped working.

c) Concrete footpath from Old Post Office alongside the village green – CE reported that the Hire Shed had kindly offered the use of a 'scabbler' which will smooth the edges of the raised path of the path thus reducing the trip hazard. **Action: CE.**

058/18 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' in April – nothing to report.

059/18 HEALTH & SAFETY - none.

060/18 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Correspondence - none.

b) Reports/items for information – none.

061/18 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman – CE reported that LH had been investigating the matter of the PC providing financial assistance to the Parochial Church Council for the maintenance of the churchyard following a legal briefing note issued by NALC via SALC. The Clerk will circulate the papers and put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**

b) Members – JD raised the matter of the continuing problem of recycling rubbish spilling out when the collectors are loading the lorry and being left on the ground. Residents are advised to call Somerset Direct on 03001232224 should they observe this happening. The Clerk will also report that matter to Somerset Waste Partnership who are responsible for the collection of rubbish. The Clerk will report both matters again. **Action: The Clerk.**

Signed: Chairman of Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 24th MAY 2018.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 24th MAY 2018 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

If necessary, a Planning meeting will be held on 3rd May 2018 the Church Room at **7.45pm** **(please note change of time)** following the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held at 7.30 pm.

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