

## **MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2018 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

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

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

BY INVITATION: County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC) and District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG).

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

109/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence from Councillors Evans (CE), Clark (HC), Clifford (SC) and Kerr (SK) and Travis (RT) were received and approved. PCSO Dury had also sent his apologies.

110/18 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – NHC gave an update on matters relating to the County Council as follows:

- The library consultation on the future of the service has now ended with over 7000 responses. The responses will now be carefully considered before recommendations are put before SCC's Cabinet in the early autumn.
- Somerset Waste Partnership: Collection crews have been working under very difficult conditions this last month to maintain the service. The combination of extreme heat and associated mechanical failures have meant that some collections have been missed, but the crews have worked hard to catch up, supported by excellent on line communication to customers. SWP's contractor, Kier have agreed that all waste collections from now on will start at the earlier time of 6am to help ease the pressure on crews and vehicles.
- Mendip Pupil Referral Unit: A £3 million education facility for vulnerable pupils has opened for pupils and staff at a purpose-built school in Somerset. The new Tor School is a Pupil Referral Unit and Medical Tuition Centre in Glastonbury, with state-of-the-art facilities. The 12-classroom facility at the former Beckery site provides support for 80 vulnerable children and young people from the Mendip area and brings together services previously delivered in three different locations.
- Somerset Rivers Authority: The Private Members Bill, put before the House of Commons seeking to establish the Somerset Rivers Authority as a separate precepting authority failed due to the intervention of a single MP on a procedural matter. The Governing Board of the SRA have now written to the Environment Secretary Michael Gove to seek his support and personal intervention in order that the ongoing funding issue is resolved well before the next financial year.
- The Adopt a Path scheme is open to anyone in Somerset whether you are a walker, horse rider or cyclist, and almost any public right of way can be adopted. Volunteers are simply asked to use their chosen path as often as they can and report any problems they come across. If they want to, they can also help with some light maintenance, with equipment provided. Paths can range from 50 metres to several miles long – or several paths can be combined to create a circular route. Volunteers can now also help look after part of the new 58 miles coastal path between Brean Down and Minehead. As always volunteering details can be found at [www.somerset.gov.uk/getinvolved/Volunteering](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/getinvolved/Volunteering)
- Hinkley C: The dry and settled weather has been good news for construction at Hinkley Point, and any delays caused by the late wet winter have now been caught up. Construction is also almost complete on Bridgwater's Bath Road at the entrance to the new accommodation campus, and progress with the long-awaited jetty is now well underway.

- Paperless Meetings: Following discussion at July's full council, SCC elected members took the decision to complete their move to digital papers for all council meetings and committees. From 1st September all council meetings will be paper free (with limited exceptions for equalities impact).

There has been a notable increase in the number of vehicles on the roads in Somerset compared to 2017 on a road infrastructure already considered poor.

MDC has borrowed money to invest in properties in order to generate income.

JG gave an update on matters relating to the District Council. This is a traditionally quieter time of the year hence there is little to report but for the following:

- We were all shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of our colleague Cllr Danny Unwin who collapsed and died on Sunday. Danny was very well known in and around Wells as well as being a respected and long-standing member of the Council.
- As advised last month the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been updated and was published last month. Details can be found online.
- No appointment has yet been made for the Head of Planning & Growth. Dan Foster, senior planning officer, left a week ago. Tracy Aarons, deputy chief executive, is, in the short term, the senior officer for major planning issues and the recently appointed Rachel Tadman is a senior planning officer.
- GDPR – following on from the last meeting, I have not been able to find a written summary of the rules and regulations relating to Data Controllers. I will now follow up directly with the MDC Data Protection Officer, James Ellis.
- Residents in Somerset are being asked for their views on using the county's 111 non-emergency phone line. The county's independent health and care champion Healthwatch Somerset is asking people to share their experiences of using the service – so that the public voice can be fed into any decisions made by the commissioners later this year. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) recently rated the NHS 111 non-emergency phone line in Somerset as 'requires improvement for being safe and effective'. The survey by Healthwatch Somerset aims to capture the patient voice to ensure their views are taken into account. To give feedback and take part in the survey residents can contact Healthwatch Somerset on 01278 264405 or via their web site [info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk)

111/18 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- The Clerk read out the report which included the following incidents:

4<sup>th</sup> July – Report of a theft from a vehicle at Snagg Lane, Alhampton

8<sup>th</sup> July – Report of a broken-down vehicle on Wraxall Hill – Police attend.

28<sup>th</sup> July – Report of a concern for the welfare of someone seen lying in the road on Wraxall Hill – Police attend but find no trace of person.

30<sup>th</sup> July – Report of an accident on Snagg Lane, Alhampton – Emergency services attend.

31<sup>st</sup> July – Report of a broken-down lorry on Wraxall Hill – Police attend.

112/18 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.

113/18 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

114/18 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

a) Painting and repair of fingerpost signs – The Clerk reported that sufficient funding to complete the project had been promised with approximately half already received and banked. The work on the first two signposts had begun. **Action: The Clerk.**

b) Mural board in the bus shelter in Ditchat – the painting is in progress and should be completed by the end of August.

- c) Shroud on Elephant rocker mobile in playground – The Clerk will order another key from Wicksteed. **Action: The Clerk.**
- d) GDPR – The draft Privacy Policy was considered and will be amended and posted on the PC website. The policy will be reviewed again once a firm decision regarding the purchasing of a laptop is considered at the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**
- e) Thefts from cars parked at entrances to Haddon Wood – HH reported that the handmade signs had been removed twice and replaced. If the PCSO is unable to provide suitable signs, then HH will ask the Woodland Trust and/or the Friends of Haddon Wood to fund appropriate signs. It was noted that the thefts from vehicles did not appear to be on the report of Parish incidents sent in by the PCSO. HH reported that the PCSO had been unable to check whether any of the thefts had been reported as that would require a manual search of far too many records. HH will check regarding date of the latest theft to see whether that had been on the PCSO's report and ask the member of the public concerned whether it had been reported. The Clerk will check with the police if the thefts are on record. **Action: The Clerk and HH.**
- f) The Clerk reported that quotes for the replacement of the safety matting for the purposes of applying for a grant towards the cost had been received and that an application to the Bags for Life scheme and other schemes would be made. **Action: The Clerk.**

115/18 Licensing application by Moff Motors for a Premises licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 – **Outcome:** The Clerk will respond that the PC has no comment regarding the licensing application in isolation but would have wished to make comments regarding the safety of the site due to the likely effect which the expanded retail arrangements and licence are likely to have on parking (no mention being made in the application of such provision) and access and egress to the main road. However, the PC understands that this does not form part of the Licensing application process. **Action: The Clerk.**

116/18 FINANCE

- a) Bank balances as at 10<sup>th</sup> August – The Clerk reported that the balance of all accounts as per the cash sheet is £15,991.69 with the remaining defibrillator project money of £1,100.00 and the money donated for the project to refurbishment the finger signposts in the Parish currently £2,640.00 accounted for separately.
- b) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.
  - 1) Mr C Evans for footpath repair materials - £48.61.
  - 2) Mr C Evans for paint for the bus shelter mural - £74.96
 RESOLVED: that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques signed.
- c) It was noted that Glasdon UK had issued a credit note for the returned bracket for the waste bin. The Clerk will request that a refund is made direct into the bank account.

117/18 PLAYGROUND

- a) Matters of report: It was noted that the annual inspection and risk assessment has been completed - the report will be circulated in due course.
- b) JD reported on behalf of HC that a screw/bolt on the large play equipment has been exposed by the rotting away of one of the platforms. Agreed to wait until receipt of the annual inspection report from Wicksteed to decide on any action. Also, the gate leading from the toddlers' play area into the junior play area is 'snagging' – JD will check if this is due to the very dry weather and if not, then RH will put a wedge of wood to hold the gate post in place. **Action: JD and RH.**
- c) It was noted that some residents of Lintern Close whose properties backed on to the playground appear to be accessing their properties via the playground.

118/18 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported:
  - 1) Some areas along Moor Lane and West Lane have been marked awaiting action.

2) HH reported that despite the recent creation of grips along the road by the entrance to Haddon Wood by Jacobs Lane the pooling of water continues. HH has contacted the manager of the Woodland Trust to review and take the necessary action to correct the problem. **Action: HH.**

3) Water meter cover by the turning into Smiths Lane and the two sunken manhole/gully covers in Smiths Lane – still outstanding. The Clerk will report the matters again **Action - The Clerk.**

4) It was noted that the road signs left following the road works had been collected.

b) New matters for report to the Highways authority - none.

c) The temporary closure of the B3081 (Prestleigh Road) on 3<sup>rd</sup> September for approximately 19 days from 08.00 -17.00 including weekends to allow for drainage works was noted.

#### 119/18 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

a) Mendip Ramblers Walking Festival 25 – 27 August 2018 – Mendip Ramblers had undertaken their own inspection of the footpaths and had organised some repairs in readiness for the festival. CE had inspected two paths and had confirmed that they were in an acceptable state. JD reported that a footpath through a field of maize had been obstructed but that the maize had now been cleared along the path.

b) Update on matters previously raised/reported:

1) Ditcheat to Sutton footpath – the update on progress noted that good progress had been made of the renovation of the footpath with 903 m of the total 991 m completed.

2) Gate post on footpath by Priors Leigh – this had been removed. The Clerk will check if the Rights of Way team had arranged this and confirm when it will be replaced.

c) Any matters for report:

1) Estimate of the cost to complete the renovation of the Ditcheat to Sutton footpath - the estimate for the completion of the work is £500.00. It was agreed to continue to fund the work until the path is completed.

2) The Clerk will check who cleared Jacobs Lane which was currently in an excellent state. **Action: The Clerk.**

120/18 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' - JD reported that concern had been raised about the collection of recycling waste from No 1 Prospect Villas. The waste had not been put in the correct receptacle neither was it segregated and thus the Waste Recycling crew did not take the waste last week and it remained on the kerbside. The Clerk will speak to the manager at Somerset Waste Partnership and request that the correct receptacles and advice on recycling are provide to the resident. **Action: The Clerk.** Another matter which was raised with JD concerned the Old Bake House in Ditcheat; the renovation of the house which was not finished had been going on for some considerable time. JG informed that MDC were aware and would be sending an inspector to check on the property.

121/18 CPRE PETITION – It was resolved not to sign the CPRE petition regarding the proposal to treat exploratory drilling as permitted development and to include fracking in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Regime as it was not considered to be relevant to Ditcheat Parish Council.

122/18 ALHAMPTON TELEPHONE KIOSK – Resolved that the Parish Council accepts the transfer of the telephone kiosk in Alhampton which houses the defibrillator supplied by the Community Heartbeat Trust. The Clerk will sign and return the acceptance letter. **Action: The Clerk.**

123/18 HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

#### 124/18 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Correspondence:

- 1) Gypsy and Travellers' sites – none known at 13<sup>th</sup> July - the Clerk will respond accordingly.
  - 2) SALC – Mendip area representatives - the request for a representative was noted.
  - 3) Use of drones – the Clerk will respond to the PC of Curry Mallet that Ditchheat PC has no current experience of this matter and has no policy in place.
- b) Reports/items for information – none.

125/18 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- a) Chairman – nothing.
- b) Members – none.

Signed: Chairman to Ditchheat Parish Council.

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

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