

## **MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

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

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

BY INVITATION: District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – There were two members of the public present. CE invited members of the public to address the Council. Mr L Wright, acting on behalf of the applicant for the planning application on the agenda -Item 138/18 a) 1) – for Owley Farm, gave an overview of the planning proposal.

Mr Harris explained that he was seeking support from the PC to get a speed limit introduced on the A371 (Item 141/18 a) on the agenda) on the stretch of the road that goes past his house, south of the Natterjack Inn to Arthurs Bridge.

130/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence from Councillors Hutton (RH), Clark (HC), Harrison (HH), Kerr (SK) and Travis (RT) were received and approved. County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC) and PCSO Dury had also sent their apologies.

131/18 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – There was no report from NHC. JG gave an update on matters relating to the District Council as follows:

- The Leaders of Somerset's councils have confirmed that work has commenced to find a partner to assist the process of assessing all the options for the future of local government service provision in the county. The Council Leaders agreed a broad set of principles which will inform the work to make sure that the best interests of all Somerset communities are served and are working together to determine the best future for Local Government in the county. This is with a view to considering the possibilities for service delivery and financial efficiencies within the context of significant reductions in funding for councils across the country. Procurement has started to identify an organisation to work with the Councils on the feasibility and potential benefits of a range of options. All of Somerset's MPs plus Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset Councils will also be invited to participate in the process to discuss and identify common ground.
- The Council has agreed to increase its financial support for the CAB service following the announcement of SCC cuts affecting the service.
- An update on the organisation and work of the Planning Department is due to be made next week, but no appointment has yet been made for the Head of Planning & Growth.
- At a recent meeting of the Standards Committee it was agreed that the Council did not need to introduce Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks for Councillors as few have contact with young children or vulnerable adults and adequate procedures and best practice already exist.
- The Council has had a more than 90% response from parish councils' Declarations of Interest forms, the best in the county.
- The Capita 5 Councils' contract continues to deliver the expected savings. A service issue affecting Land Charges property searches has been resolved and most enquiries are now answered within 2-3 days.
- A by-election has been called in Wells following the recent death of Councillor Danny Unwin. This is scheduled for November 25<sup>th</sup>.

132/18 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- The Clerk read out the report which included the following incidents:

17<sup>th</sup> August & 24<sup>th</sup> August – Report of a lorry stuck on Wraxall Hill – Police attend  
18<sup>th</sup> August – Report of a tree down on A37 Wraxall Hill – Police/Highways attend.  
24<sup>th</sup> August – Report of a car broken down on Wraxall Hill – Police attend.  
24<sup>th</sup> August – Report of a disturbance in Alhampton – Police attend.  
26<sup>th</sup> August – Report of a lorry stuck on Wraxall Hill – Police attend  
7<sup>th</sup> September – Report of a theft in the village.

133/18 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

- a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda: CE declared a personal interest in Item 139/18 b) 2) as the recipient of the payment.
- b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests - None.

134/18 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

135/18 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

- a) Painting and repair of fingerpost signs – The Clerk reported that £3,710.50 had been received and banked. The work on the first two signposts had been completed. The Clerk will speak to the contractor and ask for a progress report.

**Action: The Clerk.**

- b) Shroud on Elephant rocker mobile in playground – CE reported that despite purchasing an additional key to lift the elephant of its base, it had not been possible to remove further bolts that secure the base. It was resolved that as there was no mention of the shroud being damaged on the recent inspection report that no further action will be taken.
- c) Gate leading from toddlers' play area to junior play area – JD reported that the matter seems to have resolved now that there has been some rain. No further action required.
- d) Update regarding the signs informing users to beware of thefts from cars parked at the entrances to Haddon Wood. Nothing to report - the Clerk will follow up with HH.
- e) Pooling of water at entrance to Haddon Wood adjacent to Jacobs Lane – nothing to report. The Clerk will follow up with HH. **Action: The Clerk.**
- f) Mural board in the bus shelter in Ditcheat – the mural has been completed. The Clerk will write to Chyrs Henning to thank her for undertaking the painting.
- g) The Clerk reported that Somerset Waste Partnership had issued containers for recycling waste to the resident in Ditcheat along with information and advice on how to sort and leave out the waste for collection.
- h) The Clerk confirmed that the quotes for the replacement of the remainder of the safety matting had been obtained for the purposes of applying for grants and financial assistance for the project.

136/18 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

137/18 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

CE reported that although the decision on the planning application for development of Folly Orchard was not yet known it was understood that the matter was likely to be considered by the Planning Board. It was confirmed that RH would attend on behalf of the PC.

138/18 PLANNING

- a) The following planning application was considered:
  - 1) Full planning application – Change of use from agricultural land to part equestrian/part residential formation of menage and creation of acoustic bund to the highway. Owley Farm, Ditcheat. Ref. 2018/1899/FUL. **Outcome –** unanimous 'recommend refusal' with the reason that the creation of the bund

as per the proposal appeared to be excessive for the described need. The Clerk will inform the Planning Department at MDC. **Action: The Clerk.**

- b) It was noted that planning permission has been granted for Holmeswood, Ditcheat. Ref 2018/2072.

#### 139/18 FINANCE

- a) Bank balance as per cash book at 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018 is £15,100.63 with £3,710.50 in the fingerpost refurbishment project fund and £1,100.00 in the Alhampton defibrillator maintenance fund.
- b) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.
- 1) Somerset Forge for refurbishment of fingerposts 1 and 3 on the schedule - £1200.00.
  - 2) Mr C Evans for footpath repair materials – 10<sup>th</sup> September for cement and building sand £135.48 and 19<sup>th</sup> September for cement £85.20 = Total of £220.68.
  - 3) Parochial Church Council of Ditcheat for room hire from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> September - £54.00
  - 4) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's salary – 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - £683.53.
  - 5) HMRC for PAYE/NICs 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - £170.80.
  - 6) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's expenses – 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – £100.54. RESOLVED: that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques signed.
- c) It was noted that payment has been made to the following: -
- 1) Wicksteed Leisure for annual inspection and risk assessment of playground - £72.00.
  - 2) Longhill Accounting for internal audit 2017/18 - £75.00.
  - 3) Somerset County Council for hosting of DPC website - £29.99.
  - 4) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance in July £200.00.
  - 5) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance in August £140.00.

#### 140/18 PLAYGROUND

- a) The annual inspection and risk assessment report was considered and resolved that as a result of the report that the Clerk should arrange for the more urgent works to be undertaken by Wicksteed as follows:
- Supply and installation of the replacement slats on the Bo-Peep unit along with the ancillary nuts and bolts and inserts for the holes to prevent finger entrapment.
  - Supply and installation of the wooden platforms on the Rainbow Multi-play unit.
  - Supply and fitting of chains for the swings as per the report.
  - Supply of the paint for the Bo-Peep unit – to be painted by PC volunteers.
- b) Any matters of report - none.

#### 141/18 HIGHWAYS

- a) The request from parishioner Mr Harris for assistance in the installation of a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph on the A371 south of the Natterjack Inn to Arthurs Bridge and/or the installation of concealed entrance signs to assist egress from his property was considered. Resolved that the PC will support the request. The Clerk will contact the Highways Department to progress the matter. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported:
- 1) Sunken manhole/gulley covers in Smiths Lane and water meter cover by the turning into Smiths Lane – outstanding. The Clerk will report again.
- c) New matters for report to the Highways authority.
- 1) West Lane - the wall by the entrance in to the field on the left has been damaged and stones have been knocked into the culvert thus blocking it which will cause flooding in heavy rainfall.

- 2) The fly posting on the HGV sign on the A371 by Moff Motors - the Clerk will report the matter to the Highways Department along with the matter that the fixings on the same HGV sign need to be tightened to prevent it swivelling.
- 3) Moor Lane – the camber of the road is high in the centre of the road causing grounding of some vehicles.
- 4) The fencing running alongside the river by the Alham Bridge needs repairing – The Clerk will check with RH as to whose responsibility it is to repair it. **Action: The Clerk to report the above.**

142/18 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) 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 approximately 50 m of the total 991 m left to be completed. Anticipated cost left to complete is less than the £500.00 CE had previously indicated.
  - 2) Gate posts on footpath by Priors Leigh and in Ditcheat at the back of the church - to be followed up. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Any matters for report – nothing.

143/18 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' - CE reported that more people were exercising their dogs on the cricket pitch and not clearing up the dog waste.  
CE will attend on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. Volunteer councillors needed for the 13<sup>th</sup> November 'Rendezvous'.

144/18 HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

145/18 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence:
  - 1) The letter and poster from Royal Mail regarding scam mail was noted. The Clerk will put up the poster on the noticeboards and a copy on the website.
  - 2) The letter of confirmation from the Community Heartbeat Trust that ownership of the former telephone kiosk in Alhampton has been transferred to the PC was noted.
  - 3) The letter from Hastoe Housing Association informing the PC that a two-bedroom house at Longmans Lea will be available for rent in the next couple of weeks. The Clerk will put up a copy of the letter on the noticeboard by the shop.
  - 4) The date of the CPRE AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 was noted.
- b) Reports/items for information – the notice board in Alhampton is in poor state with damage to one of the doors. The Clerk to contact Mr Pattemore to get a quote for the repair. **Action: The Clerk.**

146/18 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

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

Signed: Chairman to Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

If necessary, a planning meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in the Church Room at 7.30 pm.

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