

## **MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

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

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

**BY INVITATION:** County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – There were two members of the public present. CE invited members of the public to address the Council. Mr Roy Harris expressed his disappointment that the response from the Traffic Engineer at SCC had indicated that the circumstances surrounding the request did not meet the criteria for the introduction of a reduced speed limit. Mr Les Kimberley on behalf of the Friends of Castle Cary Library confirmed that a charity had now been established to run the library as a Community Library and that an expression of interest would be confirmed with SCC by 15<sup>th</sup> November as required. Mr Kimberley explained that there was good support from volunteers to assist in running the library on a day to day basis and that financial support was being sought from local town and parish councils.

**147/18** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence from Councillors Hutton (RH), Clark (HC), Harrison (HH), Kerr (SK) received and approved. District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had also sent their apologies.

**148/18** COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS –

NHC gave a brief update of SCC and MDC including information on the following:

- Planning department at MDC – see JG’s report below.
- Library services in the county – additional funding has been made available from SCC.
- Winter gritting of the roads – started earlier this year in October. Due to financial pressures on SCC there will be a reduction in the precautionary gritting of some routes.
- Somerset Independence Plus service official launch tomorrow. Somerset Independence Plus is the first step to bring together Housing Options service, Home Improvement agency and our independent assessment centre.
- Changes to the running and management of the community leisure centres on eight school sites across the county.
- MDC are introducing increased fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping.

CE read out JG’s report on matters relating to the District Council as follows:

- With local elections coming up next May, the Council hosted a question time event last month to give people the opportunity to learn more about becoming a councillor and encourage people to stand as a candidate. Eight people attended.
- The reorganisation of the Planning department has now been completed. There are now two teams, East and West. The team leader for East is still vacant and for the West team it is Rachel Tadman. Each team has, in addition, a senior planning officer and planning and graduate/assistant officers. The East team also has responsibility for Conservation whilst the West team has Enforcement. Ditchheat parish will be looked after by the West team. As a result of the reorganisation revised and updated procedures have been introduced to make the service more efficient. The appointment of Head of Planning and Growth remains outstanding.
- The Somerset Waste Partnership has extended its contract with Viridor which includes managing 16 recycling sites. The changes come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April next year. In general, there will be longer opening hours in summer compared to winter, all sites open until 4pm all week-end all year round and later opening at all sites. Locally as far as Dimmer is concerned, in winter it will be open from 9am to 5pm on Monday & Tuesday, closed Wednesday, Thursday & Friday and open 9am

to 4pm on Saturday & Sunday. In summer the Monday & Tuesday closing times will be 6pm. By aligning these new opening times with demand at each site there will be multi-million savings for the councils involved. The sites upgrade is part of Somerset waste services' transformation, with extra weekly plastics recycling, three-weekly rubbish collections, and an end to landfilling most refuse from 2020.

- Finally, whilst JG is away his colleague Peter Bradshaw in Evercreech will handle any council matters on his behalf.

149/18 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- The Clerk read out the report which included the following incidents:

15<sup>th</sup> September – Report of a vehicle parked on the corner of a narrow dark lane in Alhampton – Police attend.

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

11<sup>th</sup> October – Report of a suspected drink driver in Ditcheat – Police attend stop vehicle and arrest driver for failing a road side breath test.

29<sup>th</sup> October – Report of damage to a vehicle in Alhampton

150/18 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 154/18 b) 1) as the recipient of the payment.

b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests - None.

151/18 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

152/18 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

a) Painting and repair of fingerpost signs – it was noted that a further 4 signs had either been refurbished or were in the process. CE confirmed that sufficient funds had either been received or were committed to cover the costs for all the repairs.

b) Shroud on Elephant rocker mobile in playground – CE reported that HC had reported that the split on the elephant spring mobile shroud was now noticeable and that due to the previous difficulties in trying to replace it Wicksteed had been instructed to undertake the repair whilst doing other repairs.

c) Update regarding the signs informing users to beware of thefts from cars parked at the entrances to Haddon Wood - The Clerk reported that HH had advised that the metal signs were on order. CE reported that the 'No Lorries' sign on the parking area nearest to the rugby club has been damaged and needs to be replaced. The Clerk will follow up with HH. **Action: The Clerk.**

d) Pooling of water at entrance to Haddon Wood adjacent to Jacobs Lane – The Clerk reported that HH had contacted the manager for the Woodland Trust and was waiting to hear what action will be taken. HH will continue to follow up. **Action: HH.**

e) Update following the request from parishioner Mr Harris for assistance in the installation of a reduced 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 – The Clerk reported that the Traffic Engineer had responded to the request to state that a reduced speed limit in the area was not warranted. It was agreed that no further action should be taken by the PC at this time and that the residents affected should take the matter up with NHC

153/18 PLANNING

a) The following planning application was considered:

1) Listed Building Consent application – Re-build single storey lean-to on same footprint and extend to form bathroom and rear lobby and associated internal alterations. Manor Lodge, Ditcheat. Ref. 2018/2504/LBC. **Outcome:** 'Recommend approval' with the comment that the work will enhance the building.

b) It was noted that planning permission has been granted for:

- 1) The Queens Arms, Wraxall (outline – some matters reserved).
  - 2) Easthills Dairy Unit, Ditcheat (general permitted development).
  - 3) The Old Butcher Shop, Ditcheat (approval of details).
- c) Folly Orchard development - CE reported on behalf of RH that the planning application for the development of Folly Orchard in Ditcheat was not considered at the planning board in October. The Planning Officer indicated that they were waiting for further information from the applicants. RH will check the agenda for the next Planning Board on 21<sup>st</sup> November to establish if the matter is to be considered.

#### 154/18 FINANCE

- a) The reconciliation of the bank accounts as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 was noted and approved.
- b) Bank balances as per cash book at 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 - £14,103.58 plus £2,510.50 in the Fingerpost Project fund with £1,108.00 in the Alhampton Defibrillator fund.
- c) The quotation/estimate from Grayson Pattemore for the repairs to the Alhampton notice board was considered. RT raised concerns about the cost indicating that it might be possible to do the work for less cost. Alternatively, it may be more cost effective to purchase a new notice board. The Clerk will advise Mr Pattemore. The Clerk will forward the estimate from Mr Pattemore to RT who will review the estimate and the state of the notice board. The Clerk expressed concern that if the repairs were not undertaken soon the notice board may deteriorate further.  
**Action: RT and the Clerk.**
- d) The request for a grant to support the work of the Citizens Advice Mendip was considered. Resolved that considering the PC's current policy it would not be feasible to offer financial support at this time. Agreed that the policy on requests for charitable or other financial donations would be reviewed at the next full meeting of the PC in December. **Action: The Clerk and all Councillors.**
- e) The request from the Friends of Castle Cary Library for financial assistance of £100.00 per annum for three years towards the running of the library as a Community Library Partnership was considered. Resolved that considering the PC's current policy it would not be feasible to offer financial support at this time. Agreed that the policy on requests for charitable or other financial donations would be reviewed at the next full meeting of the PC in December.
- f) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques for the following:
  - 1) Mr C Evans for footpath repair materials – 26<sup>th</sup> October for building sand £46.44 and 2<sup>nd</sup> November for building sand £12.82 = Total of £59.26.
  - 2) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance in October - £210.00.
  - 3) Community Heartbeat Trust for annual support - £126.00.
 Resolved that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques signed.
- g) It was noted that payment has been made to the following: -
  - 1) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance in September £140.00.

#### 155/18 PLAYGROUND

- a) The Clerk confirmed that the order has been placed for the repairs to the playground equipment resulting from the annual inspection and risk assessment report with the addition of the replacement of the shroud on the elephant spring mobile. The loose bolt on the infant climbing frame has also be added to the order.
- b) Any matters of report – JD expressed concern that a resident had been seen exercising her dogs on the playing field. Agreed that as the existing signs need to be replaced that 'No exercising of dogs allowed' should be added to the new signs. The Clerk will get a quotation for the new signs. **Action: The Clerk.**

#### 156/18 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported:
  - 1) Sunken manhole cover in Smiths Lane has been raised and the water meter cover by the turning into Smiths Lane has been marked for repair. However, the sunken gully by the large tree in Smiths Lane is still outstanding. Likewise, in

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 is still outstanding; as is the camber of the road in Moor Lane which is high in the centre of the road causing grounding of some vehicles; the HGV sign by Moff Motors which needs to be tightened to prevent it swivelling and also the fencing running alongside the river by the Alham Bridge which needs repairing. The Clerk will report these matters again. **Action: The Clerk.**

b) New matters for report to the Highways authority – the 'skid risk' signs used on the Ditchat to Alhampton road need to be removed. **Action: The Clerk.**

157/18 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

a) Update on matters previously raised/reported:

1) Replacement of gate posts on footpath by Priors Leigh and in Ditchat at the back of the church - to be followed up. **Action: The Clerk.**

2) Ditchat to Sutton footpath – CE reported that apart from some tidying up the footpath repair has been completed at a cost for the materials of £5,643.88 including VAT. JD will speak to the group of volunteers about having a photograph to help publicise the newly renovated path. **Action: JD.**

b) Any matters for report – nothing.

158/18 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' - CE reported on behalf of HC that a comment had been made about the quality and longevity of the recent road repairs. Also, a parishioner had commented about residents allowing dogs to foul the green space by Lintern Close which is owned by MDC. The Clerk will advise MDC again and request that signs are put up. **Action: The Clerk.**

159/18 HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

160/18 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Correspondence:

1) Email from Councillor Clark re agreeing the date of the litter pick for 2019 – proposed that the date should be Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2109.

2) Email from Somerset County Council via NHC about the additional funds to support the Somerset Libraries Redesign was noted.

3) Email from Somerset County Council via NHC about the Community Leisure Decision was noted.

b) Reports/items for information.

1) It was noted that a letter of support was sent to the Friends of Castle Cary library.

161/18 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman – nothing.

b) Members – The draft statement on GDPR as circulated by RT will be an agenda item for the meeting in December.

c) The Clerk will put the Policy on Requests for Charitable or other Financial Donations on the agenda for review at the meeting in December.

Signed: Chairman to Ditchat Parish Council.

Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

If necessary, a planning meeting will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in the Church Room at 7.30 pm.

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