

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 20th DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – CE invited the member of the public present to address the Council. Mr Kevin Bird gave an overview of the planning application which he had submitted for land at Back Lane explaining the rationale for the increase in the number of houses and the reduction in the size of the dwellings from a previously submitted application which was subsequently withdrawn.

162/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence from Councillors Clifford (SC), Travis (RT), Clark (HC) and Kerr (SK) were received and approved. County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC), District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had also sent their apologies.

163/18 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – no reports.

164/18 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- The Clerk read out the report which included the following incidents:

31st October – Report of a lorry broken down on Wraxall Hill – Police attend.

1st November – Report of a vehicle found in field of a local farm in Ditchheat – Police attend.

5th November – Report from a resident of Wraxall regarding the amount of HGV's using the road into Ditchheat – Police contact caller give words of advice.

22nd November – Report of an accident on the Wraxall Road – Police attend.

28th November – Report of a lorry broken down on Wraxall Hill – Police attend.

1st December – Report of a vehicle in the River Alham, Alhampton – Police attend.

165/18 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.

166/18 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

167/18 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 8th November 2018.

a) Painting and repair of fingerpost signs – The Clerk reported that the work on the signs was progressing. It was agreed that the matter would be removed from the agenda unless there was anything further to discuss and/or a decision required.

Action: The Clerk.

b) Update regarding the signs informing users to beware of thefts from cars parked at the entrances to Haddon Wood - HH advised that the metal signs had been received and would be erected in due course. **Action: HH.**

c) Pooling of water at entrance to Haddon Wood adjacent to Jacobs Lane – It was resolved that CE would liaise with the Highways Department about this and the flooding at the end of Snagg Lane. **Action: CE.**

d) Update on the proposal to do the repairs to the Alhampton notice board – CE read out the report from RT which indicated that a more modest repair could be done for £30.00 - £40.00. However, it was noted that the repairs suggested by RT were not as comprehensive as those detailed in the quotation from Mr Pattermore. The repair/work as suggested by RT would not facilitate the locking of one side of the notice board. It was agreed that the Clerk should discuss the matter with RT and if he

was unable to do the repair and renovation as per the quote then Mr Pattemore should be asked to do the work. **Action: The Clerk.**

e) New signs for playground – It was agreed that the existing signs should be updated and a quote for additional signs prohibiting the exercising of dogs on the playground should be obtained. **Action: The Clerk.**

f) Lintern close – exercising of dogs and signs requesting dog walkers to clear up any dog waste. The Clerk will follow this up with MDC and copy correspondence to JG. **Action: The Clerk.**

168/18 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) – the Privacy Policy for the Parish Council was reviewed and approved. (Draft previously circulated via email by LH). The Clerk will put the policy on the PC website. **Action: The Clerk.**

169/18 PLANNING

a) Update on the Local Plan Part 11 – CE gave an update on the plan which was also available on the MDC website. It was noted that the plan was scheduled to be adopted in December 2019, subject to approval by the planning inspector.

b) The following planning application was considered:

1) Full application – Erection of 5 dwellings, including means of access and associated landscaping. Land at Back Lane, Ditcheat. Ref. 2018/2752/FUL.

Outcome: Recommend approval with the comment that the PC would like to see a Section 106 put in place to improve local amenities. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

1) Long Hill Farm – prior approval for change of use. Ref: 2018/2306/PCD.

2) Yew Tree Farm - prior approval for change of use. Ref:2018/2369/PAA.

d) It was noted that the change of use application for Owley Farm has been withdrawn. Ref: 2018/1899/FUL.

170/18 FINANCE

a) The balance as per cash book at 20th December 2018 was £15,823.55.

b) The PC Policy on Requests for Charitable or other Financial Donations was reviewed, and it was resolved not to make any changes.

c) The proposed expenditure for 2019/2020 in preparation for confirming the precept in January was considered. The draft proposal is to increase the precept to £11,000.00. Any questions or suggestions regarding expenditure should be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible. The precept will be confirmed at the meeting on 30th January 2019. **Action: All Councillors.**

d) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques for the following:

1) Somerset Playing Fields Association; Affiliated Membership fee – minimum £15.00.

2) Parochial Church Council of Ditcheat for room hire for September and November - £24.00.

3) HMRC for PAYE/NICs 1st October to 31st December 2018 - £170.80.

4) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's salary 1st October to 31st December 2018 - £683.53.

Resolved to authorise the above payments and the cheques to be signed.

c) The request from Mendip Community Transport for a grant towards the running costs of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2019 was considered. Resolved as per the PC policy not to give a grant.

d) The receipt of payment from the Parochial Church Council for materials leftover from footpath repairs - £41.54 was noted.

e) The receipt of repayment of VAT for years 2016/17 and 2017/18 of £1,988.13 was noted.

171/18 PLAYGROUND

a) CE reported that the medium risk work as detailed on the annual report had been completed except for the replacement of the shroud on the elephant spring mobile and the paint work which will be done later in the year when the weather improves.

- b) Any matters of report – HC had passed the weekly inspection reports to the Clerk for filing. **Action: The Clerk.**

172/18 HIGHWAYS

- a) The winter maintenance schedule was noted. It was agreed that there was sufficient gritting salt in store, so no further purchases required.
- b) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported:
- 1) RH reported that he had cleared the ditches on either side of Snagg Lane but the culvert under the road was blocked. As mentioned above CE will follow up with the Highways Department about the flooding in Snagg Lane. **Action: CE.**
- c) New matters for report to the Highways authority – CE will add the flooding on Tinneys Lane, Alhampton to his report to the Highways department. **Action: CE.**

173/18 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Somerset County Council Rights of Way Team – Parish Paths Consultation resolved that the Clerk will respond as per the suggestions proposed by Mr Roger Yeoman.
- b) Update on matters previously raised/reported:
- 1) Replacement of gate posts on footpath by Priors Leigh and in Ditcheat at the back of the church – The Clerk reported that the Rights of Way Officer had confirmed that this was the responsibility of the landowners as it was private property. **Action: The Clerk.**
- c) Any matters for report – CE will contact the owner of the Old Farmhouse about the hedge which is overhanging the pavement. **Action: CE.**
- d) JD reported that he had been told informally that it was likely that substantial work to replace the mains on the road from Manor Close in Ditcheat to Wraxall will take place from May to July 2019.

174/18 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' - CE had attended the November session – no feedback. JD who attended in December reported that a question had been asked about the Local Plan; the parishioner had been referred to the MDC website for further information.

175/18 HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report.

176/18 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence:
- 1) The press release from SCC sent via email from NHC about pollinator action plan was noted.
 - 2) The press release from SCC sent via email from NHC about the budget boost for Somerset was noted.
- b) Reports/items for information – none.

177/18 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- a) Chairman – none.
- b) Members – none.

Signed: Chairman to Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 31st JANUARY 2019.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 31st JANUARY 2019 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

If necessary, a planning meeting will be held on 10th January 2019 in the Church Room at 7.30 pm.

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