

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2019 AT 7.45PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairperson: Councillor Evans (CE); Councillors Clark (HC), Travis (RT), Dando (JD), Clifford (SC) and Hutton (RH).

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss P Griffiths, Clerk to the Parish Council.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There was one member of the public present.

051/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence from Councillors Harrison (HH) and Hughes (LH) were received and approved. District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had also sent their apologies.

052/19 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – There were no reports as these has been presented at the earlier Annual Parish Meeting. Copies of which are available on the website.

053/19 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- The Clerk read out the report which included the following incidents:

11th March – Report of a tree fallen in the road at Wraxall – Further call tree has been removed prior to police arrival.

13th March – Report of a motion sensor being activation in a property in Wraxall – No signs of suspicious activity, property clear of any break-in – No further calls.

9th April – Report of a suspicious van previously seen around the village of Huxham – 999 advice given.

16th April – Report of an accident on the A37 Wraxall – Police attend.

054/19 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – SC declared a personal interest in agenda item 059/19 a) 3) as he lives opposite the proposed new exit from the car park.

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

055/19 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

056/19 MATTERS ARISING from the meeting held on 14th March 2019.

a) Pooling of water along Snagg Lane - RH reported that despite work being done to clear the ditch the road was still prone to flooding following heavy rainfall. RH had informed the Highways Department that the problem had not yet been resolved. It was agreed to monitor the situation. **Action: All.**

b) New signs for playground – The Clerk will clarify with Wicksteed

c) Lintern Close – signs requesting dog walkers to clear up any dog waste – The Clerk reported that whilst MDC has been requested to erect some signs and had been reminded of the request no response had been received. The Clerk will follow up and expedite the matter to the District Councillor. **Action: The Clerk.**

d) Parking - Lintern Close and Southview. CE reported that Aster Housing have requested cooperation from the occupants of the houses to park at the rear of the bungalows, but no improvement had yet been noticed. CE reported that MDC had clearly misunderstood about the issue with parking of vehicles by Southview and had merely offered to sell the land to the PC with a covenant stipulating that parking should be allowed on the open space. CE will contact MDC again. **Action: CE.**

- e) Floodlights on Ditcheat Hill – the hazard of the floodlights has been reported to the highways Department and the Planning Department at MDC but no response had been received. The Clerk will follow up and ask the District Councillor to assist in getting the matter resolved. **Action: The Clerk.**
- f) Dog fouling on Ditcheat Hill –Neighbourhood Services at MDC have been informed about the problem regarding the dog fouling and the matter of dog waste bags being left on the road however, no response had been received from MDC. The Clerk will follow up and ask the District Councillor to assist in getting the matter resolved. **Action: The Clerk.**
- g) Water main replacement Wraxall Road – Road notices were now in place. The Clerk will put a notice in the FTN give details of where further information can be obtained. **Action: The Clerk.**
- h) Litter pick – HC reported that the litter pick had been very successful with 25-30 bags of rubbish being collected.

057/19 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

058/19 MATTERS ARISING from the meeting held on 4th April 2019.

- a) Local Plan Part II – It was noted that the response from the PC had been submitted and that the examination hearing would take place between 23rd July to 2nd August. It was confirmed that CE would attend on behalf of the PC. **Action: CE.**

059/19 PLANNING:

- a) Planning applications - the following planning applications were considered:
 - 1) Full application – External alterations, parking and garden associated with the approved change of use of the building to a dwelling (2018/2306/PCD) Longhill Farm, Ditcheat. Ref:2019/0581/FUL. **Outcome:** 'Recommend refusal' with the comments as follows: The Parish Council considers that the extent of the proposed curtilage is too large, incorporating agricultural land in contravention of Class P 2 as detailed in the Planning Officer's report following the application for change of use of the building to a dwelling (2018/2306/PCD) and is far in excess of the recommendation of the Planning Officer for the change of use application.
 - 2) Household application – alterations and single storey rear extension to existing dwelling including new dormers and new single storey garage to replace existing, Wraxall Lodge, Wraxall. Ref: 2010/0685/HSE. **Outcome:** 'Recommend approval'.
 - 3) Full application: Alterations to vehicle access. Provision of new parking area and new exit, Alhampton Inn, Alhampton. Ref:2019/0633/FUL. SC advised the meeting that the occupier of Langford Barn. the property immediately opposite the exit, then left the room. **Outcome:** 'Recommend approval'. SC returned to the meeting.
- b) It was noted that planning permission has been granted for:
 - 1) Full application – Land at Back Lane, Ditcheat. Ref: 2018/2752/FUL.

060/19 FINANCE

- a) Receipt of the precept – £11,000.00 was noted.
- b) Annual Return – Section 1: resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement.
- c) Balance as per cash book at 31st March 2019 = £10,177.31 plus £982.00 for the defibrillator and £140.50 for the signpost repairs. It was agreed to use some of the monies remaining for the signpost to get the Ditcheat village name sign repaired by Somerset Forge at a cost of £60.00 + VAT. **Action: The Clerk.**
- d) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques for the following:
 - 1) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's expenses - 1st January to 31st March 2019 - £16.99. RESOLVED: that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques signed.
- e) The payment to the following was noted:
 - 1) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance in March 2019 - £210.00.

061/19 THE PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS 2018 (Websites and mobile applications) – Resolved that the Clerk will seek advice from Somerset County Council IT department, who organise the hosting of the PC website, about what action that the PC should take. **Action: The Clerk.**

062/19 PLAYGROUND

a) Any matters of report – HC reported that following the weekly inspection it was noted that the wood edging strip on the safety matting of one of the swing sets was starting to rot. Agreed to monitor the situation.

063/19 HIGHWAYS

a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported:

1) It was noted that the pavement kerb by Hazeldene has been repaired.

b) Matters for report to the Highways authority:

1) Back Lane in Ditchat is becoming very rutted with potholes forming on the 1st bend by Ashbarton.

The Clerk will report the above. **Action: The Clerk.**

064/19 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

a) Update on matters previously raised/reported:

1) CE reported that Aster Housing had been informed of the overhanging hedge on the footpath in Smiths Lane and it was understood that work to trim back the hedge would start early April – CE will remind them that the work had not been yet been done. **Action: CE.**

065/19 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' – CE reported that the following had been raised:

a) Concern that the road signs advising about the preparatory work for the water mains replacement were still in situ. Noted that at time of meeting the signs had been removed.

Volunteer required for Rendezvous on 11th June. CE will attend on 11th May.

066/19 HEALTH & SAFETY - Nothing to report.

067/19 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE – The clerk advised that the Declarations of interest forms would be sent out electronically with guidance on completion and returning of the forms. Any councillor requiring a hard copy of the forms to contact the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk and all Councillors.**

068/19 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

Chairman – CE informed the council that only 6 nomination forms for Parish Councillors had been submitted indicating that there were now 3 vacancies on the PC. The Clerk will re-advertise the vacancies and put a notice in the FTN. **Action: The Clerk.**

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 16th MAY 2019 AT 7.30pm.

Signed: Chairman to Ditchat Parish Council.

Dated: 16th May 2019.

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