

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 8th AUGUST 2019 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

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

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

BYINVITATION: County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC).

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

125/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence – Councillors Evans (CE), Travis (RT) and Hughes (LH). District Councillor Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had sent their apologies.

126/19 CO-OPTION TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL – The Clerk reported that one person who had previously expressed an interest had confirmed that they were no longer interested as unable to commit the necessary time. **Action: CE and all Councillors.**

127/19 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – The report from NHC for August included the following:

Emotional and Mental Health Support: Somerset has been granted One Million Pounds over the next three years to deliver Emotional and Mental Health Support for Young People utilising trailblazer mental health support teams across the County. This is part of a national drive to improve emotional support in schools and forms part of the Somerset Wellbeing Framework, 'whole school approach' to wellbeing and mental health. Initially 25 schools will receive support teams to work in the schools, there will also be parent educational programmes provided by the voluntary sector.

Winter Gritting: In the middle of a summer heat wave the Highways gritting policy review has been completed and the first deliveries of salt for the forthcoming winter have started arriving at depots. This winter the County Council will be investing an extra £200,000 into the service and has taken on board feedback to reassess all the criteria used to determine which roads will be gritted. This means an increase in the precautionary gritting network from approximately 720 miles to 900 miles of road, which will be treated every time ice or snow is forecast. A map of the routes can be found at <https://somersetnewsroom.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/winter-service-2019-2020.pdf>

County Finances Update: The 2018/19 Statement of Accounts for the County Council and the Somerset Pension Fund (which the County administers on behalf of all employer bodies) have both been given an 'unqualified' opinion (the best we can get) for these accounts. However, before the auditors can conclude their overall opinion, they are planning a little more work looking at the robustness of budgets for the ever-growing adult and children's social care future demand. Regardless of the outcome of this work however, their feedback fully recognises the considerable progress made during the last 10 months to ensure sustainability in the County Councils finances.

Forecast school places: The new Education Infrastructure Growth Plan is now available at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/school-place-planning-infrastructure-growth-plan/> This plan outlines the approach to school place planning and expected demand across Somerset, broken down by School Organisation Plan (SOP) areas

Summer Outdoor Activities: Kilve Court and the three other Somerset Support for Education Outdoor Centres have begun delivering an exciting summer programme for young people from across Somerset and beyond, from children's activity days and 5 day residential camps to art, music and science events, there is something available for everyone. Visit www.sseoutdoors.co.uk for further information.

Reducing Flood Risk: SCC have bid for funding for schemes that will help the county adapt to climate change by reducing flood risk through natural flood management rather than engineering. The resulting 'Co-adapt' project will bring £2.53m from the European Regional Development Fund into Somerset over the next three-and-a-half years for the projects. The Somerset Flood Action Plan, drawn-up in the wake of the 2013/14 winter floods, included a commitment to develop long-term land management actions to reduce flood risk in the face of climate change.

Library Outreach Services: The new Somerset Libraries Outreach vehicle was recently launched. The vehicle presents additional opportunities to showcase the diverse range of Somerset Library services, with targeted activities for hard to reach communities throughout the county.

Higher Education courses: A fantastic new "Study Up" website has been launched to offer a one stop shop for students of all ages to find the right Higher Education course for them right here in Somerset <http://www.studyupsomerset.org.uk>

Local Teacher Training: Somerset School Centered Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) will be moving to Dillington over the summer and from September students will be studying on campus. For more information about the training and apprenticeships on offer visit www.somersetscitt.co.uk

Free Business Training: Social enterprises, charities and co-operatives in Somerset can sign up for free bespoke training – plus a grant of £1,200. Somerset County Council is supporting the free training between September 2019 and January 2020. SCC is providing match funding of £250,000 which will enable draw down of England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding in recognition of the wider benefits of the programme.

The report from JG included the following:

- The public examination of the Local Plan Part2 that has been taking place at the Council offices has now come to an end.

A few years ago the Council submitted Part 1 of the Plan, the policies and strategies, and earlier this year submitted Part 2, the non-strategic part, which includes sites.

For the Planning Policy Team the submission for examination is not the end of the story, because the Inspector examining the Plan holds a public examination that gives third parties the opportunity to challenge the Council's proposals. If they can throw up enough challenge, their hope is that the Inspector will find the plan unsound and whatever part of the plan they are unhappy with will not take place.

The closure of the Examination is not the end of the process, there will be follow up questions from the Inspector over August and September that the team will have to respond to. Then there will be interim findings and recommendations on any modifications given that, again, the team will have to review and respond to, with the Inspector hopefully issuing his final report around December and the council then adopting the final plan in Spring 2020.

- The Somerset Waste Partnership has just published a Q&A sheet on plastics. It will answer some commonly asked questions, like "where does my recycling end up" and "how can I do more". They explain that we can have absolute confidence in the way they handle our recycling, because they lead the way in being open and transparent. They explain how the way we recycle is just as important as why we should; and tell you about their exciting plans to keep improving what they do.

The sheet can be found on the Somerset Waste Partnership web site direct or via the Mendip web site.

- Earlier this year the Council established the Officer Brexit Working Group to oversee the Council's preparation for Brexit. As the focus is now turning to a No Deal Brexit the contingency planning for such an event is being reviewed and revised by this group.
- The date of the next full Council meeting has been put back a week to the 30th September starting at 6:30 in the Council chamber.

128/19 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY – The report from PCSO Dury includes the following incidents:
 22nd June – Report of a vehicle seen repeatedly driving past a farm near the village – Police attend no trace of vehicle.
 1st July – Police stop a vehicle along Pylle Lane – One arrest for suspected drugs possession.
 6th July - Report of dangerous driving along A37 Wraxall Hill – Police attend no trace of vehicle.
 10th and 14th July – Reports of an accident along A37 Pylle – Police attend
 16th and 25th July – Reports of a broken-down vehicle on Wraxall Hill – Police attend.
 24th July – Report of a broken-down vehicle along the A37 near the village.
 28th July – Report of a disturbance in the village – Police attend and offer words of advice.
 4th August – Report of dangerous driving along Wraxall Hill – Police attend no trace of vehicle.
 5th August – Report of an accident on Ditchat Hill – Police attend.

129/19 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.
 a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – HH declared a personal interest in agenda item 131/19 c) as Chairperson of the Friends of Haddon Wood. HC declared a personal interest in agenda item 132/19 1) a) and b) as a friend of the applicant. RH declared a personal interest in agenda item 131/19 a) as fence forms the boundary of a property in which he has an interest.
 b) There were no requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests.

130/19 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

131/19 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 18th July 2019.
 a) Repair of wooden fence alongside the river by the Alham Bridge – the Clerk will follow up.
Action: The Clerk.
 b) Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September – CE Reported that the Chairman of the Royal British Legion had provided the CE with a flag. The Clerk confirmed that arrangements were in place for the Red Ensign to be flown on the 3rd September for Merchant Navy Day.
 c) Haddon Wood – Tree-sure Hunt Sunday 22nd September 2019 – HC and JD will participate on behalf of the PC. **Action: HC and JD.**
 d) NASS event at Bath and West Showground – The Clerk reported that the organisers had apologised for the inconvenience and disruption to residents of the parish and would be sending a report about how they intend to improve the situation for future events. It was agreed that no request would be made for a contribution for removing the litter as it appeared that it had be removed by others.

132/19 PLANNING
 1) The following planning applications were considered:
 a) An extension to an agricultural storage building to be used to house dairy cows and associated works. Agricultural Unit, Easthill Lane, Ditchat. Ref: 2019/1597/FUL.
Outcome: 'Recommend approval' with comment that the proposed development did

not create any visual issues and the PC is supportive of developments in agricultural enterprises.

b) An extension to an agricultural storage building to be used to house dairy cows and associated works. Agricultural Unit, Easthill Lane, Ditcheat. Ref: 2019/1598/FUL.

Outcome: as above.

2) It was noted that planning permission has been granted for the following:

a) Little Cottage. Ref: 2019/1371/HSE.

b) Green Tree Corner – approval of conditions. Ref: 2019/1264/VRC.

133/19 FINANCE

a) Cash book balance as at 8th August of £18,206.19 was noted. The defibrillator fund remains at £982.00 with £140.50 in the signpost fund of which £60.00 has been committed for the repair of the village name sign for Ditcheat.

b) The payments for the following were noted:

1) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance for July 2019 - £210.00

134/19 PLAYGROUND

a) Annual inspection and risk assessment – it was noted that the inspection and risk assessment had been booked with Wicksteed Leisure.

b) Update on signs for the playground – the Clerk reported response from MDC was that signs could include 'dogs must be kept on a lead'. The Clerk will arrange for the new signs to be produced. **Action: The Clerk.**

c) Shroud on elephant mobile - agreed that the shroud would be taped at the top and bottom to remove the risk of fingers getting trapped and that Wicksteed would be asked to specifically look at this when the annual inspection takes place. **Action: The Clerk.**

d) Any matters of report: no new matters were reported.

135/19 HIGHWAYS

a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – Noted that substantial repairs had been done on the road surface in Sutton going towards Bolters Bridge. Also, that Back Lane in Ditcheat, the road outside Mancroft House and the road from Ditcheat to Alhampton had been marked for repair.

b) New matters for report – the verge of the road by the field entrance near the seat on Ditcheat Hill had subsided. Agreed that JD would speak to the landowner about putting down some scalplings. **Action: JD.**

136/19 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

a) Update on matters previously reported – none.

b) Any matters for report – none.

137/19 CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IN DEVON AND SOMERSET. Resolved that Councillors did not have the necessary expertise to comment on the proposed changes. The Clerk will respond accordingly. **Action: The Clerk.**

138/19 PROTOCOL FOR MARKING THE DEATH OF A SENIOR NATIONAL FIGURE.

The amended draft protocol prepared by LH was discussed. Resolved to adopt the protocol.

139/19 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' - nothing to report.

140/19 HEALTH & SAFETY - None.

141/19 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence – Email from Somerset County Council Road Safety team about running a presentation for older drivers, called Route 60+. The Clerk will put a notice in the FTN to see if there is sufficient interest to organise a session. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Reports/items for information - none.

142/19 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- a) Chairman – nothing to report.
- b) Members – JD raised three matters:
 - Flying tipping was occurring again on Wraxall Road. The Clerk will report the matter. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - Rubbish has been dumped by the recently grubbed out hedge by the house owned by Aster Housing in Southview. The Clerk will report the matter to Aster Housing. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - Bundles of new telephone directories had been dumped in the bus shelter in Ditcheat which JD had removed and kept at his house. JD will contact the Clerk if they are not collected by BT as promised.

Signed: Chairman to Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 19th September 2019.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 19th SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

A Planning meeting will be held on 29th August 2019 in the Church Room at 7.30 pm.

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