

## **MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson – Councillor Evans (CE) and Councillors – Clark (HC), Travis (RT), James (RJ), Dando (JD), Derham (JDr), Harrison (HH) and Hutton (RH).

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

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

**169/19** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence from Councillor Hughes (LH) were received and approved. County Councillor Hewitt-Cooper (NHC), District Councillor Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had sent their apologies.

**170/19** COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS –There was no report from NHC. The report from JG read out by CE included the following:

- Donna Nolan, one of the two deputy Chief Executives and Monitoring Officer, has accepted a job as MD of Watford Borough Council and leaves Mendip on 31<sup>st</sup> December. The Council is not looking for an immediate replacement and instead is allocating her responsibilities between the Chief Executive and five Group managers.
- Prior to the next publication of the Register of Electors on 1<sup>st</sup> December a review committee of Polling Districts and Polling Places has been set up. Whilst some minor changes have been agreed a more detailed review can only now realistically be undertaken after the forthcoming general election. No changes are planned for Ditchheat.
- As part of the preparedness planning for Brexit the Council organised, in conjunction with Defra, a briefing on Food and Farming at the Bath & West for local businesses. Further preparedness planning continues internally.
- As part of its action plan on Climate Emergency, the Council is undertaking an energy audit of the Shepton site to identify areas for saving.
- Due to an increase in planning applications a short-term backlog of applications has recently built up. With some more appointments this has been eliminated and applications are now being dealt with to schedule.
- Finally, the Council has announced free parking for "Small Business Saturday" and the two weekends prior to Christmas. Details are on the MDC web site.

**171/19** REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY – The report from PCSO Dury includes the following incidents:

24<sup>th</sup> September – Report of a noisy vehicle travelling along Wraxall Rd on a regular basis – Police spoke to the registered owner and offered advice on noisy exhausts.

28<sup>th</sup> September – Report of a light showing in an empty property in Pylle – Police attend and find no evidence of forced entry and an outside light on.

30<sup>th</sup> September – Report of dangerous driving at the temporary lights at Arthurs Bridge, Ditchheat – Advised to report incident and upload dash cam footage on force website.

5<sup>th</sup> October – Report of sheep in the road along Easton Rd, Pylle – Farmer attended to secure sheep.

9<sup>th</sup> October – Report of a tanker stuck on Wraxall Hill – Police attend.

10<sup>th</sup> October – Report of suspicious behaviour by unknown males at a farm in Pylle from the previous night.

11<sup>th</sup> October – Report of a flood along Wraxall Rd – Highways dealing.

22<sup>nd</sup> October – Report of fuel stolen from a lorry parked overnight in a lay-by along the A37 Ditcheat.

172/19 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

- a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – None.
- b) There were no requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests.

173/19 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

174/19 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

- a) Repair of wooden fence alongside the river by the Alham Bridge – the Clerk reported that the Highways Department were undertaking an inspection of the fencing and any repairs considered necessary would be done.
- b) Rubbish dumped by Aster Housing owned property in Southview – The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reported again to Aster Housing advising them that if the rubbish was not removed it may be necessary to get MDC to remove it for which Aster Housing would be charged. JD confirmed that the rubbish had not been removed. CE will take a photograph of the rubbish and forward to the Clerk. The Clerk will follow up. **Action: The Clerk.**

175/19 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

176/19 MATTERS ARISING from the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - The Clerk reported that the comments of the PC of the proposed route of the footpath and the alignment of the proposed dwellings had been forwarded to the architects, but no response had been received.

177/19 PLANNING

1) The following planning application was considered:

- a) Proposed erection of a double-sided natural stone walled garden enclosure with gated openings. Bridge House, Alhampton. Ref: 2019/2574/HSE. **Outcome:** Recommend approval with the following comment that the view of the PC is that the construction would not detract from any aspect and is in keeping with the style and size of the property.
- 2) It was noted that planning permission has been granted for the following: The Manor House, Ditcheat. Refs: 2019/1901 & 1595 & 2238/APP.
- 3) It was noted that the following applications have been withdrawn:
  - a) The Manor House Inn, Ditcheat. Ref: 2018/0824/APP.
  - b) Priors Leigh, Ditcheat. Ref:2019/1892/HSE.

178/19 FINANCE

- a) The reconciliation of the bank accounts for the second quarter (June to September) of the year 2019/2020 was approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- b) The cash book balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> October – the Clerk reported that the balance is £17,858.43; with £681.00 in the Defibrillator fund and £140.50 in the signpost fund.
- c) The budget for the year 2020/2021 was considered in preparation for the formal presentation at the meeting in December. The Clerk informed the Council that the notice board in Ditcheat needed some maintenance and it was agreed to get an indicative quote for the budget. The Clerk will include sums of money in the budget for the replacement of the safety matting under the swings. RJ proposed that the Council give consideration for the printing and distribution of a leaflet regarding the reduction of carbon and the planting of trees in the parish. RJ to provide the Clerk with indicative costs for the leaflets. The Clerk will include a sum of £500.00 for amenity enhancements in the budget. Agreed that

applications should be made for grants towards the cost of the safety matting from Viridor and Tesco's Bags for Life. **Action: RJ and the Clerk.**

- d) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.
    - 1) Wicksteed Leisure Ltd for annual inspection and risk assessment - £72.00.
    - 2) PFK Accountants for external audit year 2018/19 - £48.00.
    - 3) Clerk's salary 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – £700.16.
    - 4) HMRC for PAYE/NICs 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - £175.00.
    - 5) Clerk's expenses 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - £36.11.
- RESOLVED: that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques signed.
- e) The payment for the following was noted:
    - 1) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance for September 2019 - £140.00

#### 179/19 PLAYGROUND

- a) Annual inspection and risk assessment report – agreed that the most important and urgent issue on the report was the elephant spring mobile which has corroding fixing bolts. CE to investigate further to decide whether to remove the mobile altogether or to find an alternative means of removing the fixings and re-fixing the base plate. An indicative quotation for the replacement of the mobile from Wicksteed Leisure obtained by HC is £2,066.00 plus the repair of the safety matting. The Clerk will contact Wicksteed with regards to the quotation and the refunding of the incorrectly supplied shroud. **Action: The Clerk and CE.**
- b) Update on signs for the playground – The Clerk presented the proof of the new signs which were agreed subject to a minor amendment and will arrange for the new signs to be produced. It was noted that there was now a district wide i.e. for the whole of Mendip Public Spaces Protection Order which meant that action can and will be taken if dog fouling takes place and/or dogs are not put and kept on a lead if required. **Action: The Clerk.**
- c) Any matters of report: no new matters were reported – HC reported that there has been a considerable increase in the amount of dog fouling in and around the playground particularly near the swings. Councillors will advise members of the public to take photographs of any dogs fouling the area where the owner is absent or has not cleared up the mess. The information will be forwarded to the Enforcement Officer at MDC for action. The Clerk will put a notice in the FTN appealing again to dog owners to keep their dogs under control and not to allow them to foul the playground and field and to clear it up should it occur. The new notices which will be put up soon make it clear that dogs are not allowed in the fenced off area and must be on a lead whilst on the playing field. **Action: The Clerk.**

#### 180/19 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – RH confirmed that the potholes on Moor Lane and the water flowing across the road near Higher Farm in Sutton had been reported to the Highways Department. CE queried whether the blocked gulleys on Ditcheat Hill had been cleared.
- b) New matters for report – The Clerk will report the pooling of water on the corner by the Manor House Inn and also along the Wraxall Road. **Action: The Clerk.**

181/18 PARKING SOUTVIEW, DITCHEAT – CE gave an update explaining that the only solution put forward from MDC was that the PC should purchase the land as they would not issue a licence for parking use. CE will forward the relevant correspondence to NHC ask for his assistance in getting the matter resolved. **Action: CE.**

#### 182/19 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Any matters for report – none.

183/19 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' – JD reported that two matters had been mentioned – the Folly Orchard planning application and the unevenness of the pavements for wheelchair users.

184/19 HEALTH & SAFETY - None.

185/19 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Correspondence – none.

b) Reports/items for information:

1) Dates of meetings for 2020/2021 – The Clerk confirmed that a draft plan of the dates trying to avoid having a meeting on the same dates as Ditchat Big Screen had proved very challenging. Agreed that the Clerk would revert back to the meetings being held 6 weekly with if necessary a planning meeting in the intervening 3 weeks and forward this to HC who would check with the Big Film organisers if they could work around the meeting dates. **Action: The Clerk and HC.**

2) The Clerk informed the Council that Vision 9 had offered to make a donation of £500.00 as compensation to the parish residents caused by the event at the Bath & West showground and proposed that the donation should be put towards the funding of the replacement of the safety matting in the playground.

186/19 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman – None.

b) Members – HC asked the date for the annual litter pick be agreed at the next meeting.

**Action: The Clerk.**

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

A Planning meeting will be held if necessary, on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 in the Church Room at 7.30 pm.

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