

DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

MEETING (VIRTUAL) OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD **REMOTELY**, as per the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) England Regulations 2020, ON THURSDAY 1st October 2020.

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council.
No members of the public addressed the Council.

133/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies for absence from Councillors Evans (CE), Clark (HC) and Derham (JDr) were received and approved. County Councillor Hewitt-Cooper (NHC) and PCSO Dury had sent apologies for absence.

134/20 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – the reports from NHC which had been circulated prior to the meeting were noted and are available on the PC website.
The matters covered in the report included:

- Coronavirus update plus information on children returning to school, school and college transport and the Covid-19 Parish and Towns Forum.
- One Somerset - the business case prepared by SCC about the move to a Unitary Authority.
- Public Health Nursing.
- Somerset Youth Music Group.
- Armed Forces Covenant Recognition.

Concern was expressed that the briefing sheet made no mention of the fact that none of the District Councils supported SCC's case for a single unitary authority or that the District Councils were putting a case forward for an alternative option.

135/20 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- there were two incidents which had been reported to the police:

- 22nd August – Police stop a vehicle along Wraxall Hill and make an arrest for drink driving.
- 18th September – Report of a male seen wondering around parked vehicles in Longmans Lea, late at night. Male had left area prior to police attending – No further calls.
- 19th September – Report of a burglary in the village.

136/20 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.

137/20 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 27th August 2020 were approved and it was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date when physical meetings are re-convened.

138/20 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 27th August 2020.

- a) Grant application for the replacement for the safety matting in the playground – the Clerk reported that the grant application had been successful and that the award was for £4,123.00. The next step is to complete the process for accepting the grant.
Action: The Clerk.

139/20 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020 were approved and it was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date when physical meetings are re-convened.

140/20 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 10th September 2020 - None.

141/20 PLANNING

a) The following planning application was considered:

- 1) Full application – Conversion of agricultural barn to 1 no two bedroom dwellinghouse, Yew Tree Farm, Wraxall. Ref: 2020/1716/FUL. **Outcome:** Recommend approval with the supporting comments that applicant had already received consent under Part Q regulations; it is a quality development, set back from the road and not overlooking another property.
- 2) Householder application – Erection of a single storey rear extension, part removal of pitched roof and new flat roof section with terrace, alterations to external openings, new dormers in roof, and removal of sandstone columns at the front of the property, Wraxall House, Wraxall. Ref: 2020/1814/HSE. **Outcome:** Recommend approval with the supporting comments that the proposal is mostly internal alterations which will improve and modernise the dwelling and is out of sight of other dwellings.

142/20 CLERK'S SALARY – the increase in the annual salary of the Clerk as per the National Joint Council salary award for the year 2020/2021 from £3,500.64 to £3,597.36 (an annual increase of £96.72) was approved. Resolved that the award should be backdated to 1st April 2020.

143/20 FINANCE

- a) Balance of accounts as at 30/09/2020 – the Clerk reported the balance of accounts was £25,4138.09.
- b) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques for the following:
- 1) Claire Downes for work on the website - £35.00.
 - 2) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's salary 1st July to 30th September - £738.92 as salary increase approved this includes the backdated amount of £24.18 for period 1st April to 30th June.
 - 3) HMRC for PAYE/NICs – as salary increase approved - £184.60.
 - 4) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's expenses 1st July to 30th September - £29.53.

RESOLVED: that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques issued.

c) The payments to the following were noted:

- 1) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance for 7th and 24th August 2020 - £210.00.

144/20 Consultation on Planning for the Future white paper – the draft response as circulated was approved with some minor changes. The Clerk will submit the response. **Action: The Clerk.**

145/20 Consultation on Transparency and Competition (land control) – the draft response as circulated was approved with some minor changes. The Clerk will submit the response. **Action: The Clerk.**

146/20 Consultation on draft Walking and Cycling Manifesto for Somerset – the draft response as circulated was approved with some amendments. RJ to send amendments to the Clerk. The Clerk will then submit the response. **Action: RJ and The Clerk.**

147/20 PLAYGROUND

a) The report following the annual inspection and risk assessment and the actions that are required was considered. The most urgent item in the report was the elephant spring mobile which has some movement in the base plate. Agreed the Clerk will get an updated quote for a replacement spring mobile and the repair of the safety matting once the new mobile has been fitted. **Action: The Clerk.**

b) Any matters of report –

➤ The Clerk on behalf of CE reported that the trees which are overhanging the playing field had been trimmed back but would need to be cut back more again in the Spring.

➤ The outer casing of the gate closer nearest to the playground entrance is rusting and needs replacing. The Clerk will get a quote. **Action: The Clerk.**

148/20 HIGHWAYS

a) The temporary Road Closure: A371 at Prestleigh Hill – 12th to 30th October 2020 was noted.

b) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – the broken gully on the pavement opposite Brosley in Ditchat has been repaired.

c) Matters for report to the Highways authority – None.

d) RH confirmed that the tree growing out of one of the buttresses on the Alham Bride had been reported.

e) It was noted that the Highways Department are to investigate a possible blockage in the culvert under the road where it ponds badly on Wraxall Road.

f) Highways have been asked to remove the earth bank on the pavement along Wraxall Road opposite Long Batch.

149/20 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

a) Update on matters previously reported - the damaged fingerpost and stile opposite the Court in Alhampton and the step stile on the north side of the bridge on footpath SM 6/31 which need to be repaired are still outstanding. Also. the post holding the kissing gate on footpath SM 6/13 in Alhampton by Orchard House has come away from the wall and has not yet been repaired. The Clerk will report these matters again. **Action: The Clerk.**

b) Any matters for report – HH reported that the fingerpost sign on Moor Lane has fallen over RH volunteered to look at it and see if it is repairable. **Action: RH.**

150/20 HEALTH & SAFETY – Concern had been expressed by a parishioner about the odour from the litter bin caused by dog waste. The Clerk will investigate the possibility and cost of siting a dog waste bin near but not adjacent to the bus shelter. **Action: The Clerk.**

151/20 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Correspondence.

b) Reports/items for information:

- 1) Update on Support group for COVID -19 pandemic – the Clerk reported that support was ongoing for those who had requested help. The notice on the notice board by the Farm shop of how to obtain assistance has been replaced.

152/20 ITEMS OF REPORT AND/OR FOR INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman.

b) Members:

- There were no questions following the briefing note sent out by HH on the recent Parish Forum which discussed the Stronger Somerset Business Case. HH re-iterated her support of the District Council's proposals.

Signed: Chairman to Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 12th November 2020.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 12th November 2020, or sooner if urgent business necessitates, at 7.30 pm to be held remotely due to COVID-19 unless otherwise advised.

A Planning meeting will be held remotely due to COVID-19 unless otherwise advised on 22nd October 2020 7.30 pm.

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