

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 27th AUGUST 2020.

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

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

BY INVITATION: District Councillor John Greenhalgh (JG).

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

106/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies for absence from Councillors Clark (HC) and Hughes (LH) were received and approved. County Councillor Hewitt-Cooper and PCSO Dury had sent apologies for absence.

107/20 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – the reports from NHC and JG which had been circulated prior to the meeting were noted and are available on the PC website. JG added to his report by confirming that the new kerbside system for collection of waste would commence in Mendip towards the end of October. Details will be sent to all households.

108/20 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- there were two incidents which had been reported to the police:
➤ 7th July – Report of a speeding vehicle through the village of Ditcheat
➤ 15th August – Report of an accident along the A371 near Ditcheat – Police attended.

109/20 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.
a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda – JD declared a personal interest in Item 115/20 c) as a former employee and current recipient of a pension.
b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests - None.

110/20 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2020 were approved and it was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date when physical meetings are reconvened.

111/20 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 9th July 2020.
a) Reinstatement of verge in Southview - completed.
b) Grant application for the replacement for the safety matting in the playground – the Clerk reported that the grant application was proceeding well, and that the Grant Officer would be visiting the site with the Clerk early in September.
c) Cutting/trimming back the playfield path hedge - the Clerk reported that the solicitor acting for the late owner of the property had given assurances that the hedge would be cut back and maintained. JD reported that the hedge had been cut back.
d) Serious incident in Ditcheat village regarding two dogs not under control – the Clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer had taken a statement from the complainant and had spoken to the owner of the dogs.

- e) Noted that the playground had been re-opened following the erection of the signs.
- f) Confirmed that the signs about walking dogs on the cricket field had been put up.

112/20 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2020 were approved and it was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date when physical meetings are re-convened.

113/20 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 30th July 2020.

- a) Annual inspection and risk assessment of playground – it was noted that the order has been placed.

114/20 PLANNING

- a) The following planning application was considered:

- 1) Full application – Creation of single access track between Lye Lane and Lower Huxham Farm, Lower Huxham Farm, East Pennard. Ref: 2020/1408/FUL.

Outcome: 'Recommend refusal' for the following reasons:

- Proposal indicates Lye Lane widening on land not in applicant's ownership.
- Certificate B has not been served on owner of land in 1 (above).
- Proposed visibility splays are on land not in applicant's ownership.
- Proposal includes removal of trees not in applicant's ownership.
- Questionable information in proposal regarding visibility sizes.

- b) It was noted for information that the Inspector's Note ED31 indicates that the additional hearings for the Mendip Local Plan Part 2 examination are likely to be held mid to late October 2020.

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

- 1) Footpath diversion associated with planning application, Priors Leigh. Ref: 2019/2887/FUL.
- 2) Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Use C3), Barn 3, Snagg Lane. Ref: 2020/0976/PAA.
- 3) Raising of rugby pitches and creation of grass bank to provide viewing, Castle Cary Rugby Football Club, Alhampton. Ref: 2020/1034/FUL.
- 4) Retrospective change of use of an agricultural storage building to be used for accommodation and feeding of dairy cows, Easthill Lane. Ref: 2020/0648/FUL.

115/20 FINANCE

- a) Balance of accounts as at 23/08/2020 – the Clerk reported the balance of accounts was £25,404.09. There was £8,491.92 in the budget and £16,912.17 in the reserves accounts.

- b) The bank reconciliation for 1st quarter – April to June 2020 was approved and will be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

- c) Business banking switch – it was resolved not to change the Parish Council's accounts to another bank.

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

- 1) Re-issue of cheque for payment to Habitat Aid for replacement Jubilee tree - £65.00.

- 2) Community Heartbeat Trust donation for year 4 - £126.00.

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

- e) The payments to the following were noted:

- 1) First Image Signs for the COVID-19 signs for the playground - £192.00.

- 2) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance for 6th, 17th and 27th July 2020 - £210.00.

- 3) Campaign to Protect of Rural England (CPRE) - £36.00.

- 116/20 Consultation on draft Walking and Cycling Manifesto for Somerset: to confirm the response of the PC. Resolved that RJ would look at the document in detail and along with support from HH make any appropriate changes for consideration at the next meeting. **Action: RJ and HH.**
- 117/20 Consultation on changes to the current planning system – deadline 17th September 2020. Resolved that HH, RJ and RH would look at the consultation paper in detail and prepare a brief report with a recommendation as to how the PC should respond. The report will be considered at the meeting on 10th September 2020. In the meanwhile, all councillors should ensure that they are familiar with the consultation paper and send any comments to HH, RJ and RH for consideration. **Action: All Councillors.**
- 118/20 Consultation on planning for the future white paper – deadline date 15th October 2020. Resolved that HH, RJ and RH would look at the consultation paper in detail and prepare a brief report with a recommendation as to how the PC should respond. The report will be considered at the meeting on 1st October. In the meanwhile, all councillors should ensure that they are familiar with the consultation paper and send any comments to HH, RJ and RH for consideration. **Action: All Councillors.**
- 119/20 Consultation on transparency and competition (land control) – deadline date 16th October 2020. Resolved that CE assisted by the Clerk would look at the consultation paper in detail and prepare a brief report with a recommendation as to how the PC should respond. The report will be considered at the meeting on 1st October. In the meanwhile, all councillors should ensure that they are familiar with the consultation paper and send any comments to CE or the Clerk for consideration. **Action: All Councillors.**
- 120/20 Draft update for website accessibility statement – the Clerk apologised that the draft statement was not available due to technical problems with downloading the assessment software. The accessibility statement on the website will be updated to reflect where the website is not yet compliant.
- 121/20 Existing provision for public transport across Mendip survey from the Scrutiny Board Access working group aiming to identify the significant gaps – RESOLVED that the Clerk will complete the survey on behalf of the PC.
- 122/20 PLAYGROUND
- a) Further actions are required following the re-opening of the playground - the Clerk will prepare more signs for the users of the playground reminding them of their responsibilities.
 - b) Any matters of report –
 - RJ and JD confirmed that the playground was being well used on a daily basis.
 - CE reported that he would trim back the trees which are overhanging the playing field.
- 123/20 HIGHWAYS
- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – the broken gully on the pavement opposite Brosley in Ditchat had not been repaired and was a considerable hazard. CE will email again as he had reported the matter originally.
 - b) There were no new matters for report to the Highways authority.

124/20 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) The temporary closure of Bridleways SM 6/20 and SM 6/21 from 20th August due to unsafe condition of bridge initially for 21 days but maybe up to 6 months was noted. The repair is on the works programme.
- 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. The Clerk will report these matters again. **Action: The Clerk.** It was noted that whilst there is still no stile over the fence in the field at the beginning of footpath SM 6/11 by Snagg Lane, the path which was blocked at the point that the footpath meets the river and along the riverbank has now been cleared and is passable. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Any matters for report – HH reported that the post holding the kissing gate on footpath SM 6/13 in Alhampton by Orchard House has come away from the wall. **Action: The Clerk.**

125/20 HEALTH & SAFETY – No matters to report.

126/20 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence.
- b) Reports/items for information:
 - 1) Update following report of HGVs travelling through Ditchheat to Wyke Farm – The Clerk reported that Wyke Farm had confirmed that only HGVs necessary for the delivery of fertiliser digestate to two farms in Ditchheat were travelling through the parish.
 - 2) 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 will be replaced. **Action: The Clerk.**

127/20 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- a) Chairman.
- b) Members:
 - Update from RH about options for improved Broadband for Ditchheat Parish – RH reported that he would be meeting with another potential supplier of an improved broadband to the Parish early in September.
 - Feedback from HH on One Somerset Unitary debate – there were no questions regarding HH's briefing on the debate.

Signed: Chairman to Ditchheat Parish Council.

Dated: 1st October 2020.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 1st October 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 10th September 2020 7.30 pm.

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