

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 12th November 2020.

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

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

BY INVITATION: County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC) (present for part of the meeting).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – No members of the public attended.

157/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies for absence from Councillor Derham (JDr) were received and approved. District Councillor Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had sent apologies for absence.

158/20 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:

- Corona Virus Update.
- Covid-19 survey.
- 2021 Primary School Places.
- Winter Gritting of the roads.
- Climate Emergency Strategy
- One Somerset: about Local Government Reform.
- Somerset Youth Parliament.
- Family Safeguarding.
- Stepping Stone Placements for young people as they move from care into adulthood.

In addition to the above NHC added that the new kerbside waste collection which includes plastics had begun in Mendip which despite some local problems appeared to be going well. The local problems which had occurred in Alhampton were being dealt with by the people concerned.

The Clerk reported on behalf of JG that he would no longer be sending a report as Mendip District Council were providing regular briefings.

159/20 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- there were two incidents which had been reported to the police:

- 15th October – Police stop a vehicle in the village regarding insurance, but matter resolved at scene.
- 28th October – Report of a damage only accident along Wraxall Road.

160/20 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.

161/20 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2020 were approved and it was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date.

162/20 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 1st October 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 process for accepting the grant has been completed. The contractor has been informed and will notify the Clerk of a start date for the work which is expected to take 1 / 2 days.
- b) It was noted that the responses to the consultation documents considered at the meeting on 1st October have been submitted.
- c) Repair/replacement of the elephant spring mobile in the infants play area – CE reported that he was confident that the plan to weld the fixings to the base plate would resolve the matter of the mobile movement of the base plate. CE had arranged for Barber’s engineer, who was undertaking the work in his own time, to complete the work on the weekend. However, this was delayed in order to wait receipt of a new shroud which would be fitted by CE after the welding had been done. **Action: CE.**
- d) Gate closer for gate into the infants play area - the Clerk reported that due to the age of the closer it would need to be replaced at a cost of £181.00 including carriage plus VAT. Resolved that the Clerk will order the closer. CE reported that in the meantime the damaged part of the closer had been taped. **Action: The Clerk.**
- e) Update on dog waste bins – The Clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Services Officer had confirmed that any additional bins would be emptied by the District Council’s contractor. The Clerk will do a proposal for the additional bins and get a quote from the supplier preferred by the District Council. **Action: The Clerk.**

163/20 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2020 were approved and it was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date.

164/20 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 22nd October 2020 – CE reported that work was proceeding at the rugby club and that despite some initial problems the road was being kept clear of mud by regular use of a road sweeper.

165/20 PLANNING

- a) The following planning application was considered:
 - 1) Listed building consent: Replacement of C20th window, Amberwell, Alhampton. Ref: 2020/2211/LBC. **Outcome:** Recommend approval with the comment that the proposal will improve the visual look of that part of the property.
- b) It was noted that permission has been granted for the following:
 - 1) Installation of a pole to support 1no. ultradish antenna; 2 no. LHG60 Dishes; 3no. antenna and 1no. wall mounted cabinet to the rear of the property for Broadband use. Lymphstone Cottage, Fosse Way, Wraxall. Ref: 2020/1649/FUL.
 - 2) Change of use of land to residential, erection of a detached garage with associated hardstanding and the construction of a landscaped bund, Owley Farm, Ditcheat. Ref: 2020/0740/FUL.

166/20 FINANCE

- a) Balance of accounts as at 30/09/2020 – £23,879.88. The verbal report from the Clerk confirmed that this figure included the reserve accounts.
- b) The bank reconciliation for 2nd quarter – July to September 2020 was approved and will be signed after the meeting by the Chairman and the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) (the Clerk).

- c) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques for the following:
- 1) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance for 5th 16th and 26th October 2020 - £210.00.
 - 2) Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) for Clerk's training – £30.00.

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

d) The payments to the following were noted:

- 1) Tony's Garden Services for grounds maintenance for 4th, 14th and 25th September 2020 - £210.00.
- 2) Wicksteed Leisure Limited for the annual inspection and risk assessment - £72.00.
- 3) Viridor Waste Management for third party contribution to safety matting project - £412.30.

167/20 Ditcheat Community Orchard and Climate fund application – The proposal from Councillor R James to utilise the space by Lintern Close formerly used as a children's' playground was discussed. Agreed that the Clerk would check/confirm with Mendip District Council that they would agree in principle for the area to be used of as a community orchard. Once formal receipt of this confirmation was received then further work on the proposal including a business plan detailing the ongoing maintenance costs would be developed.
Action: The Clerk and RJ.

168/20 PLAYGROUND

- a) Further actions following the annual inspection and risk assessment report required were considered. The most urgent items the elephant spring mobile which has some movement in the base plate, the replacement of the safety matting under the swings and the gate closure were already in the process of being addressed. Once completed all the medium to high risk items will have been removed from the list.
- b) Any matters of report –
 - HC reported that the shroud on the horse spring mobile was now beginning to deteriorate and that it will be checked on the weekly inspection. The Clerk will plan for its replacement on the 2021/2022 budget. **Action: The Clerk.**

169/20 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – the ponding of water on the Wraxall Road had been resolved following the clearing of the gully and the culvert. It was noted that the gulleys on Ditcheat Hill had been cleared.
- b) Matters for report to the Highways authority:
 - The perennial problem of water flowing down the road from Higher Farm down towards Lower Farm in Sutton had returned.
 - The sign indicating that road unsuitable for HGVs by Moff Motors on the A371 had disappeared and needs to be replaced.
 - There are several deep potholes in Back Lane, Ditcheat.
 - There is a large pothole on Ditcheat Hill on the left going from the Toll House towards Ditcheat village.The Clerk will report the above. **Action: The Clerk.**
- c) The matter of large vehicles off-loading in the No Through Road blocking the road and also the problem of noise created when offloading occurs at night-time was discussed. Agreed that RH would speak to those concerned. **Action: RH.**

170/20 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 and the post holding the kissing gate on footpath SM 6/13 in Alhampton by Orchard House has come away from the wall are still

outstanding. The Clerk will contact the Rights of Way Officer about these matters.

Action: The Clerk.

- b) Any matters for report – The Clerk reported that an email had been received from LH concerning the damage to the stone stile at the end of No Through Road and that the kissing gate which opens on to Moor Lane further down the same path is overgrown and impassable. The Clerk will investigate options for the repair of the stone stile and clear the kissing gate. **Action: The Clerk.**

171/20 HEALTH & SAFETY – None.

172/20 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence - none.
b) Reports/items for information:
1) Update on Support group for COVID -19 pandemic – ongoing.
2) Repair and maintenance of the notice board in Ditcheat - the notice board has been removed but further inspection has revealed that it requires more extensive repair than initially thought and therefore costs are likely to be double the initial quotation.
3) The Clerk asked the Parish Council to consider giving financial support to the FTN magazine in order to ensure that it continues to be produced and delivered to all households in the Parish. The Clerk will get more information from the magazine's committee and put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.
4) The Clerk reminded Councillors that the initial budget setting in preparation of setting the precept would be considered at the next meeting and to send the Clerk any information that needs to be included in plenty time – no later than 4th December. **Action: All Councillors.**

173/20 MATTERS OF REPORT.

- a) Chairman - none.
b) Members - none.

174/20 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- a) HC requested that the matter of the annual litter pick be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**

Signed: Chairman to Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 10th December 2020.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 10th December 2020, or sooner if urgent business necessitates, at 7.30 pm to be held remotely due to COVID-19 unless otherwise advised.

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