

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 10th December 2020.

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – No members of the public attended.

175/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies for absence from Councillors Derham (JDr) and Harrison (HH), were received and approved. District Councillor Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had sent apologies for absence.

176/20 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR and Mendip District Council – the report from NHC which had been circulated prior to the meeting was noted and is available on the PC website.

The matters covered in the report included information about:

- Coronavirus Update.
- 2021 Primary School Places.
- Christmas shopping online – Information from Somerset Trading Standards.
- Domestic Abuse.
- One Somerset: about Local Government Reform.
- Export Growth Plan – Somerset County Council raising awareness that the South West is one of three areas chosen to benefit from the Export Growth Plan funding from the Department for International Trade.
 - Climate Emergency Strategy.

There was no recent briefing from Mendip District Council.

177/20 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- there were two incidents which had occurred in the parish:

- 8th November – Report of a broken down vehicle on Wraxall Hill – Police attended.
- 7th December – Police stopped a vehicle near Wraxall Hill at 1am, the vehicle was seized, and two arrest were made. Enquiries are on-going.

178/20 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.

179/20 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020 were approved subject to the amendment to Min 166/20 a) which should read that the balance of the accounts at 30/09/2020 was £23,879.88. It was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date.

180/20 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 12th November 2020.

- a) Safety matting in the playground – the Clerk reported that the work had been completed and the application for release of the funding along with the invoice from Vita Play will be submitted.

- b) Repair/replacement of the elephant spring mobile in the infants play area – CE reported that the base of the elephant spring mobile has been welded to the fixing bolts and no longer moved. CE confirmed that he will fit the new shroud. **Action: CE.**
- c) Gate closer for gate into the infants play area - the Clerk reported that the closer had been ordered and received. CE confirmed that he will fit the replacement closer. **Action: CE.**
- d) Update on dog waste bins – Agreed that the Clerk should place an order for a dog waste bin for the bus shelter in Ditcheat. The Clerk will send a link to CE for the proposed bin to be located near the seat on Ditcheat Hill. **Action: The Clerk.**
- e) It was noted that the notice board in Ditcheat village has been repaired and reinstated. The cost of the repair was more than the quote due to more extensive work and materials required to complete the repair.
- f) Update on concerns expressed about large delivery vehicles off-loading in No Through Road, Alhampton – RH reported that he had spoken to those concerned and it was understood that the incidents were unusual occurrences and steps would be taken to avoid a recurrence. The incidents regarding the vehicles used for recycled waste collection was discussed and it was noted that the large trucks would be replaced with smaller vehicles in future.

181/20 PLANNING

- a) The following planning application was considered:
 - 1) Erection of single storey side extension on West elevation, Brancott House, Wraxall Road, Ditcheat. Ref: 2020/2270/HSE. **Outcome:** Recommend approval with the comment that the extension is in keeping with this comparatively new building and will be an advantage for the owner of the property.
- b) It was noted that permission has been granted for the following:
 - 1) Erection of single storey garden room and raised access paving, 15 Folly Drive, Ditcheat. Ref: 2020/1969/HSE.
 - 2) Proposed two storey sunroom extension, single storey lean-to kitchen extension single storey link extension and alterations to some doors and windows, The Old Stables, Alhampton. Ref: 2020/1913/HSE.
 - 3) 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.

182/20 FINANCE

- a) Balance of accounts as at 10/12/2020 – £22,998.65. The verbal report from the Clerk confirmed that this figure included the reserve accounts.
- b) The draft budget for 2021/2022 in preparation for setting the precept was considered. It was agreed to add the cost of a grant of £100.00 to the FTN magazine to assist with the production and distribution cost. The Clerk reported that the estimate from Wicksteed for the stripping and repainting of the playground equipment was £4,812.00. Agreed tht the Clerk should get further quotes from local painter and decorators for consideration at a future meeting. The Clerk will circulate an amended budget prior to the next meeting. **Action: 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 30th November 2020 - £70.00.
 - 2) Grayson Pattermore for repair to noticeboard - £224.00.
 RESOLVED: that the above expenditure be approved, and the cheques issued.
- d) The payment to the following was noted:

1) Lock-Tec (UK) Ltd for gate closure in playground - £217.20 including VAT and carriage.

183/20 Ditcheat Community Orchard and Climate fund application – The Clerk reported that the response from Mendip District Council (MDC) was that in order for the Parish Council to use this land it would have to acquire it from MDC. However, the PC would be required to cover all valuation, legal and associated costs, regardless of whether the purchase proceeded or not. An indication of the costs are as follows: Valuation - circa £650; legal - circa £500 and advertising the disposal - circa £1000 plus the actual land purchase. It was agreed that RJ would contact MDC and District Councillor Greenhalgh to see if there was an alternative option. **Action: The Clerk and RJ.**

184/20 LITTER PICK – The date of the annual litter pick Saturday 13th March 2021 was agreed subject to the situation of the COVID 19 pandemic. The date and further arrangements will be confirmed nearer the time.

185/20 PLAYGROUND

- a) Trimming back of hedge in playground - the Clerk was instructed to get quotations for the work. In the meantime, RH will investigate what work is required. **Action: The Clerk and RH.**
- b) Any matters of report –
- CE reported that 2 or 3 of the small paving slabs by the fence between the large and small play areas are broken. CE will replace the slabs. **Action: CE.**
 - CE confirmed that the weekly cleaning of the playground equipment should continue.

186/20 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported – see below.
- 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.
 - The deep potholes in Back Lane, Ditcheat have increased in size.
 - 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 again. **Action: The Clerk.**

187/20 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 again. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Any matters for report – CE reported that he was looking at options to repair the damage to the stone stile at the end of No Through Road and also to see if it is possible to re-align the post on the kissing gate on the path from Alhampton to Sutton. Agreed that the Clerk should speak to the residents of the property next to the stone stile who had offered to ask a relative who is a stonemason about options to repair or replace the damaged stone. **Action: The Clerk and CE.**

188/20 HEALTH & SAFETY – None.

189/20 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence - none.
- b) Reports/items for information:
 - 1) Update on Support group for COVID -19 pandemic – ongoing.

190/20 MATTERS OF REPORT.

- a) Chairman - none.
- b) Members – RJ expressed concern about the burning of wooden pallets which were piled up by the side of the road in Kite Lane.

191/20 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING - None.

Signed: Chairman to Ditchheat Parish Council.

Dated: 7th January 2021.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 7th January 2021, 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.