

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 7th January 2021

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – there were no members of the public in attendance.

001/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. County Councillor Hewitt Cooper, District Councillor Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had sent apologies for absence.

002/21 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – The briefings from County Councillor Hewitt Cooper (NHC) and Mendip District Council (MDC) were noted and are available on the Parish Council (PC) website.

The matters covered in the report from NHC included information about:

- COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions.
- Infection rates of COVID-19.
- Somerset Coronavirus (COVID-19) support helpline number – 0300 790 6275.
- Vaccination programme roll-out against COVID -19.
- Somerset County Council (SCC) support of vaccination programme.
- High speed broadband – update.
- One Somerset Pledges: Somerset County Council has set out ten clear One Somerset pledges in the proposed move to a single Unitary authority.
- 2021 Primary School Places.

003/21 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY - there were four incidents which had occurred in the parish:

7th December – Wraxall Hill - police stop a vehicle for no insurance and recover the vehicle.

12th December – Wraxall Hill - police called because to a large piece of wood in the road was causing an obstruction which was removed.

13th December – Wraxall Hill - police stop a vehicle and make an arrest for drink driving.

28th December – Wraxall Hill - report of road works in a dangerous position, police attend site however road was found to be clear.

004/21 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.

005/21 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2020 were approved. It was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date.

006/21 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 10th December 2020.

a) Gate closer for gate into the infants play area – CE confirmed that the gate closer has been fitted.

b) Update on dog waste bins – It was agreed to purchase dog waste bins X 2 – one for the bus shelter in Ditchheat and one to be sited next to the church steps in Ditchheat. An

additional litter bin will be purchased to be sited by the bench on Ditchheat Hill. The Clerk will circulate the contact details for councillors to report if the bins in Ditchheat are overflowing. **Action: The Clerk.**

- c) Ditchheat Community Orchard and Climate fund application – RJ reported that he was proceeding with the grant application and confirmed that he had been in contact with two of the District Councillors involved in climate change matters at MDC in order to garner support for the use of the land, which is owned by MDC, as a community orchard. The Clerk reiterated the point that the land was owned by MDC who are also responsible for the maintenance of the area and that any grant would need to cover any ongoing costs. The volunteer group would need to agree with MDC what would happen to the land in the event that the group was no longer able to carry out its commitments. There should be no expectation that the PC would automatically take over responsibility for the area until agreed formally by the PC. Any involvement of the PC either for financial or other support would require the matter to be brought before the PC for formal agreement.

007/21 PLANNING

- a) The response of the Parish Council to the two consultation documents: 1) The Planning Charging Schedule including the Pre-application Advice and Planning Performance Agreement Service; and 2) The Local Validation List were confirmed. **Action: The Clerk to submit the responses.**
- b) The following planning applications were considered:
- 1) Listed Building Consent - Installation of boiler and flues, The Manor House, Wraxall Road, Ditchheat. Ref: 2020/2499. **Outcome:** Recommend approval. Reasons – The Manor House needs a new system, and the location of the boiler and flue will be hardly visible.
 - 2) Variation or Removal of Conditions - Variation of condition 3 (European Protected Species Mitigation Licence) and 6 (Loft Space Provision for Bats) of permission 2019/1477/LBC, The Manor House, Wraxall Road. Ref: 2020/2483/VRC. **Outcome:** Recommend approval. Reason- the variation of the conditions appears to be appropriate.
 - 3) Full Planning application - Erection of 1no 4/5 bedroom dwelling house, extension of curtilage following the demolition of existing dwelling house, Ditchheat Hill Farm Bungalow, Ditchheat Hill. Reg: 2020/2393/FUL. **Outcome:** Recommend approval. The application is remarkably similar to the previous application for the same site which the Parish Council supported.
- c) It was noted that permission has been granted for the following:
- 1) Erection of single storey side extension on West elevation, Brancott House, Wraxall Road, Ditchheat. Ref: 2020/2270/HSE.
 - 2) Replacement of C20th window, Amberwell, Alhampton. Ref: 2020/2211/LBC.

008/21 FINANCE

- a) Balance of accounts as of 31st December 2020 £21,765.05. The verbal report from the Clerk confirmed that this figure included the reserve accounts.
- b) The Clerk reported that due to a misunderstanding the grant from Viridor was in fact £4,123.00 not £4,623.00 as originally thought. A further payment to Vita Play to cover the shortfall of £500.00 will be issued.
- c) The budget was confirmed as £11,390.00 and the precept for 2021/2022 was set at £11,390.00.
- d) The request for a grant from Citizens Advice Mendip was considered and it was resolved that, in the light of the current Covid-related extraordinary circumstances, the Parish Council Policy on Requests for Charitable or other Financial Donations should be amended

to the extent necessary to allow a one-off grant payment of £200 to Citizens Advice Mendip. The Clerk will amend the policy for consideration and adoption at the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**

- e) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques for the following:
- 1) Miss P Griffiths – Clerk’s salary for 1st October to 31st December 2020 - £719.34
 - 2) HMRC for PAYE/NICs for 1st October to 31st December 2020 - £180.00.
 - 3) Miss P Griffiths – Clerk’s expenses for 1st October to 31st December 2020 - £22.05.

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

- f) The payments to the following were noted:
- 1) Somerset Playing Fields Association for annual subscription - £15.00.
 - 2) Vita Play Limited for safety matting in playground - £924.60.

009/21 PLAYGROUND

- a) The trimming back of the hedge in the playground which runs alongside some of the properties in Lintern Close – CE will look at the situation further and talk with the relevant owners of the properties who maybe affected by the cutting back of the hedge/trees.
Action: CE.
- b) Any matters of report – CE reported that the paving slabs in the gateway will be re-laid/replaced when the weather improves. HC reported that the large rubbish bin had been removed and that all litter was now being placed in the litter bin in the fenced off area.

010/21 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported: The problem of water flowing down the road from Higher Farm down towards Lower Farm in Sutton – despite further investigation by Bristol Water this has become a hazard due to the very cold weather with the water freezing causing treacherous driving conditions; The sign indicating that road unsuitable for HGVs by Moff Motors on the A371; The potholes in Back Lane, Ditcheat; The large pothole on Ditcheat Hill on the left going from the Toll House towards Ditcheat village. Still awaiting repair- **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) New matters for report to the Highways authority - none.

011/21 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Update on matters previously reported: Stile on bridge on footpath SM 6/31; Post on kissing gate on footpath SM 6/14; Stone stile on footpath SM 6/8. These matters are still outstanding - the Clerk will report them again. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Any new matters for report - none.

012/21 HEALTH & SAFETY – No matters of report.

013/21 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence – the Clerk will circulate the ‘RR’ folder of correspondence received.
- b) Reports/items for information:
- 1) The dates of the meetings for 2021/2022 were noted. All Councillors were reminded to advise the Clerk as soon as possible if they were unable to attend any of the meetings.
Action: All Councillors.

014/21 ITEMS OF REPORT.

- a) Chairman.
- b) Members.

015/21 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING -None.

Signed: Chairman, Ditchheat Parish Council.

Dated: 18th February 2021.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 18th February 2021, 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 28th January 2021 7.30 pm.

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

DRAFT