

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – there were three members of the public in attendance who all expressed their opinions about the planning application item 028/21 a)1).

020/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence from Councillor Clark (HC) were received and approved. County Councillor Hewitt Cooper, District Councillor Greenhalgh (JG) and PCSO Dury had sent apologies for absence.

021/21 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.
- 2020 highways Magazine Awards.
- Older Age Domestic Abuse.
- Investing in Communities
- Census 2021.
- One Somerset Pledges.

022/21 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY – the Clerk informed the Council that reports would now be provided on a three monthly basis; the next report will be available in or at the end of March.

023/21 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

- a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda - None. However, for the sake of transparency HH informed the Council that she had had two telephone conversations with a parishioner about item 028/21 a) 1).
- b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests - None.

024/21 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved. It was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date.

025/21 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

- a) Update on dog waste bins – The bins have been ordered.
- b) Ditchheat Community Orchard and Climate fund application – it was noted that the application for a grant has been withdrawn.
- c) The trimming back of the hedge in the playground which runs alongside some of the properties in Lintern Close – CE reported that he had spoken with the property owner, who does not have a solid fence alongside the playground and explained in general terms what the Parish Council was considering doing about trimming back

the vegetation along the boundary. It was agreed that all councillors available would meet on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February at the playground to finalise the details of what need to be done. The Clerk will then get quotes for the work. **Action: All Councillors and the Clerk.**

026/21 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved. It was resolved that the minutes will be signed at a later date.

027/21 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

a) Water flowing across the road at Back Lane, Ditcheat – it was noted that the water had stopped running across the road, but it was not clear if this was due to less rainfall or due to action by the Highways Department. Agreed to monitor the situation.

028/21 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. (Re-consultation). **Outcome:** Unanimous 'recommend that the decision is left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses' with the following comments:

➤ Ditcheat Parish Council has nothing further to add following on from the points given in our previous response.

➤ Ditcheat Parish Council believes that the first 4 of the 5 points as detailed below still apply:

1. Proposal indicates Lye Lane widening on land not in applicant's ownership.

2. Certificate B has not been served on owner of land in 1 (above).

3. Proposed visibility splays are on land not in applicant's ownership.

4. Proposal includes removal of trees not in applicant's ownership.

5. Questionable information in proposal regarding visibility sizes

➤ The issue of land ownership and /or use of said land to create suitable visibility splays which are acceptable to the Highways Department are a matter for others to determine.

b) It was noted that the examination hearings of the Mendip Local Plan Part II: Sites and Policies has been completed and that the Inspector is Consulting on the Additional Main Modifications to the Local Plan.

c) The Planning Service Bulletin which gives an update on the situation in the Planning Department at Mendip District Council was noted.

d) It was resolved to agree the response to the PC2-21 | MODEL DESIGN CODE Consultation at the Planning meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021. In addition, the response to the consultation PC1-21 | RIGHT TO REGENERATE will also be confirmed.

029/21 FINANCE

a) Balance of accounts of accounts as of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – the Clerk reported that the balance of all the accounts including the earmarked reserves is £20,252.77. The allocated budget of £11,390.00 was showing an expenditure of £7,976.13 leaving £3,413.87 in the budget.

b) The payments to the following were noted:

1) First Image Signs for additional signs for the playground - £96.00.

2) SALC for Councillor training - £25.00.

030/21 PLAYGROUND

a) It was noted that the new signs confirming that the equipment is not sanitised, and responsibility remains with the users and/or the users guardians for the use of the equipment had been installed.

- b) Any matters of report – CE reported that the playground appeared to be well used at present.

031/21 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; The sign indicating that road unsuitable for HGVs by Moff Motors on the A371; The potholes in Back Lane, Ditcheat; all still outstanding. The Clerk will follow up with Highways regarding the progress of these issues. It was noted that the large pothole on Ditcheat Hill on the left going from the Toll House towards Ditcheat village had been repaired. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) The temporary Road Closures: - Wyke Road, Ansford, the works are expected to commence on 23rd February 2021 and last for 4 days to enable Wales & West Utilities to carry out new gas connection works and West Lane, Ditcheat, the works are expected to commence on 2nd March 2021 and last for 1 day (09:30 - 15:30hrs) to enable HSC Worcester Ltd to renew a decaying telegraph pole on behalf of BT were noted.
- c) New matters for report to the Highways authority – the surface of the road from Alhampton to Ditcheat had deteriorated and large potholes were appearing in parts. The road off Kite Lane going left towards the back of the cheese factory has a large pothole. In West Lane, Alhampton the branch of a tree was resting on the telephone cable. LH will send photographs to the Clerk. The Clerk will report the above. It was noted that the potholes on Moor Lane which RH reported were repaired within two days. **Action: LH and the Clerk.**

032/21 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.

033/21 HEALTH & SAFETY – No matters of report.

034/21 POLICY ON REQUESTS FOR CHARITABLE OR OTHER FINANCIAL DONATIONS - the amended policy was considered. Resolved to accept the amendments. The Clerk will circulate the amended version. **Action: The Clerk.**

035/21 LITTER PICK – it was confirmed that the annual litter pick has been postponed and will be re-arranged for later in the year, possibly September. Date to be confirmed.

036/21 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence – the Clerk will circulate the 'RR' folder of correspondence received.
- b) Reports/items for information:
- 1) Update on holding face to face meetings - the Clerk reported that the current advice is that the legislation allowing remote/virtual meetings will cease effective from 7<sup>th</sup> May so unless further legislation is introduced all meetings from and including the 7<sup>th</sup> May will need to be face to face. It will be necessary to do a risk assessment of the meeting venue, provide hand sanitiser and make other necessary arrangements.

037/21 ITEMS OF REPORT.

- a) Chairman – nothing to report.
- b) Members – RH reported that the broadband system that Voneus had installed in Wraxall, Ditcheat and Sutton appeared to be working well. Voneus had now

accepted that they had left Alhampton isolated and were committed to working to find a solution.

038/21 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING - None.

Signed: Chairman, Ditchat Parish Council.

Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING –1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, or sooner if urgent business necessitates, at 7.30 pm to be held remotely due to COVID-19 unless otherwise advised.

If necessary, a Planning meeting will be held remotely due to COVID-19 unless otherwise advised on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 7.30 pm.

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

DRAFT