WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 1st October 2015

**15/40 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: K Read, M Middleton, M Nicholls, G Knight (following co-option)**

**Public: Four parishioners**

**Apologies: M Biccard, D Lodge, N Harrison-Sleap**

**15/41 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interests.**

**15/42 TO CO-OPT GEORGE KNIGHT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Council resolved to co-opt Mr George Knight to the Parish Council.**

**15/43 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 28th July 2015 and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 25th August 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**15/43 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

* **Repairs to roadside verge at Lower West Hatch Lane (15/09)**

**The Clerk confirmed that the repairs had now been completed.**

* **Request for street sign at Meare Green Lane (15/31)**

**This has been ordered and should be installed by the end of the year.**

* **A358 upgrade – update**

**The Clerk has made contact with the Project Manager of the A358 upgrade, who confirms that the scheme is at the Option Development stage. Alternative routes are being considered to determine those that are worthy of public consultation. It is anticipated that public exhibitions will be held in 2016 as part of the consultation process.**

**The Council resolved to ask the Project Manager to attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss the development in greater detail.**

**15/44 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**The issue of the street sign at Meare Green Lane was raised as it does not appear that parishioners were fully consulted by TDBC on this proposal. It was asked whether a ‘Please drive slowly’ could be incorporated into the sign and the Council agreed to pursue this possibility. The Meare Green Village sign issue was also discussed as the parishioners of Meare Green are unsure how this issue is to be progressed. The Council confirmed that the parishioner should consult with other Meare Green residents to ascertain how much they would be prepared to contribute towards the sign.**

**The issue of vehicles being driven at inappropriate speeds was again raised, as there had been recent incidents involving agricultural vehicles. It was agreed to bring this matter to the attention of Rebecca Pow, MP and ask for her assistance.**

**15/45 TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES ON WHICH THE PARISH COUNCIL SHOULD FOCUS**

**The Chairman requested that all Councillors should give some consideration as to what the aims of the present Council should be, and in particular how the Council achieves greater engagement with the parishioners. Ideas will be discussed at a future meeting.**

**15/46 TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPRESENTATIVE**

**The benefits of Neighbourhood Watch were discussed. Genista Wheatley acts as the Neighbourhood Watch representative for Meare Green and it was agreed that it would be useful for a representative to be active in Slough Green/West Hatch.**

**The Clerk will ask Mr Biccard to take on the role.**

**15/47 TO RESOLVE TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNEMNT TRANSPARENCY FUND TO PURCHASE I.T. EQUIPMENT**

**As the Parish Council does not own any IT equipment, and there are funds available from the Government Transparency Fund, the Council resolved to apply for funding to purchase a laptop and scanner/printer.**

**15/48 WEST HATCH WEBSITE – TO CONSIDER EXTENDING TO OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

**The website westhatchparish.org.uk is now up and running and the Council discussed ideas how to populate the site. Input from other parish organisations would be welcome.**

**It was agreed that the website should be publicised in the Parish Magazine and that flyers would also be produced which can be distributed at community events. It is hoped that an email list of contacts can be established so that important Parish news can be circulated directly to parishioners in addition to appearing on the website.**

**The Clerk will investigate the Data Protections issues relating to this and report back to the Council in due course.**

**15/49 COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT AND INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT**

**The Clerk confirmed that the External Audit had been completed satisfactorily and that the auditors had made no comments.**

**An interim internal audit has also recently been completed and all was deemed to be in order.**

**15/50 TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THE BURIAL GROUND GRANT**

**The Clerk confirmed receipt of the Burial Ground Grant of £210 from TDBC. This will be paid to West Hatch PCC as a contribution towards the maintenance of the graveyard.**

**15/51 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

**The following cheques were approved**

**Clerk's** salary £248.32

**Clerk's expenses £ 18.80**

**West Hatch PCC £210.00**

**SALC (Training) £ 20.00**

**15/52 PLANNING MATTERS – TO CONSIDER ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

**The Council agreed that in future details of planning applications would be published on the website and circulated via the email list of contacts. Notices of planning meetings will continue to be published on the noticeboards.**

**15/53 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader:**

**The footpaths have now been checked and there are no major issues. New marker stickers have been received and will be put in place where necessary.**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader:**

**Ash dieback is reportedly in the area but there have been no sightings to date within the Parish.**

 **Report on Highway matters**

**Nothing to report**

 **Report from SALC representative**

**The SALC AGM took place on Saturday 26th September and the Council awaits the minutes of the meeting.**

**15/54 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **CPRE AGM**

**The date for the SALC AGM is 6th October. Helena Young has offered to attend on the Council’s behalf and her offer was gladly accepted**

* **Representation at Remembrance Service**

**The Remembrance Service at Hatch Beauchamp will take place on Sunday 8th November.**

**Keith Read will read the names of the fallen and John Dyer will be asked to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council.**

**15/55 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 24th November at 7.30pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm**