WEST HATCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the West Hatch Parish held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th May 2016

**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Public: 9 parishioners, G Midworth (Clerk to the Council)**

**Apologies: R Wheatley**

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting, held on 15th May 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.**

**PRESENTATION BY AUDREY MANSFIELD, VILLAGE AGENT**

**Audrey Mansfield, the new Village agent for the Parish introduced herself and outlined her role and responsibilities.**

**Her main responsibility is to help people (mainly elderly) to access the services and support that they require making an improvement to their lives.**

**She can assist parishioners to make sure that they are receiving all the benefits to which they are entitled and to access other funding that may be available.**

**Audrey can be contacted on 07870 577925 or at Audrey@somersetrcc.org.uk.**

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Chairman gave a summary of the main issues that the Parish Council has considered during the past 12 months.**

**Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, Mike Biccard, George Knight and Martin Middleton have been co-opted onto the Parish Council.**

**The Parish Council has focussed on 5 main issues:-**

**Website**

**The Council’s website** [www.westhatchparish.org.uk](http://www.westhatchparish.org.uk) **is now established and all Parish Council documents such as agendas and minutes are published on it.**

**The Chairman wished to place on record the sterling work that Robert Wheatley has carried out on the website. He has been responsible for the design and content of the site and acts as Webmaster on a voluntary basis.**

**Neighbourhood Watch**

**The Parish Council is endeavouring to re-invigorate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the parish. There are currently two co-ordinators, Peter Baverstock who looks after the higher end of the parish and Genista Wheatley, who is responsible for Meare Green. The Clerk also circulates email alerts via the Village email network.**

**The Parish Council is still looking for volunteers to cover the area of the parish around the RSPCA.**

**Planning Matters**

**Planning permission for the refurbishment of Slough Green Chapel and the erection of a new scout hut on the site was granted despite the Parish Council’s objections.**

**Traffic issues**

**Vehicles travelling at inappropriate speeds for the surroundings continues to be an issue and the Parish Council has involved the local MP, Rebecca Pow in support.**

**Unfortunately, no road in the Parish meets the criteria for a restricted speed limit and this situation is unlikely to change in the near future.**

**Broadband Issues**

**The cabinet at Meare Green has gone live, which has enabled nearby properties to obtain superfast broadband. It is hoped that the extension of the programme to achieve 95% coverage will encompass the remaining properties.**

**Community Engagement**

**The Parish Council has made robust attempts to engage with the community.**

**All household received a newsletter introducing the members of the Council and requesting feedback from parishioners as to what issues are important to them.**

**An email circulation list has been produced which enables the Parish Council to circulate matters of interest and importance to parishioners.**

**The Parish Council will continue to improve communication within the Parish.**

**MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS**

**A parishioner raised the matter of large scale tree felling that had recently taken place in Griffin Lane and enquired whether planning permission was required, as the work has altered the visual impact of the area.**

**The Clerk to the Council will make enquiries and report back to the Parish Council in due course.**

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**The meeting closed at 7.40pm**