

WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch
Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th
November 2017

17/45 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Read (Chairman), Biccard, Harrison-Sleap, Knight, and Middleton

Public: 2 parishioners,) Cllr Williams (TDBC)

Apologies: Cllrs Bray and Lodge

17/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

17/47 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 26th September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17/48 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Update on A358 Consultation (17/38)**

The supplementary consultation will now cover the whole of the A358 from Southfields Roundabout to the M5 and will take place in January.

The Council discussed the importance of submitting a response which reflects the opinions of the whole parish and intend to request a public meeting with Highways England once the consultation dates have been announced.

17/49 PARISHIONERS FORUM

Cllr Read reported to the Council that a parishioner had advised him that the PCC were looking to make improvements to St Andrews Field to make parking easier when the ground is wet. It is intended to lay tarmac at a cost of £1600.00. The Parish Council has not received a direct request for financial assistance yet and will consider the matter at a future meeting.

The Parish Council was reminded by a parishioner that not everyone in the Parish had access to the internet and that traditional methods of communication such as the noticeboards and the Parish Magazine, should also be considered when publicising events and activities.

17/50 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Thorne SCC was absent but had forwarded a report to the Clerk. Matters of interest included notification that SCC are trying to find a replacement bus service for Hatch Beauchamp following the cessation of the Nippy Bus Service. SCC can run a service but it would require a minimum level of income to be guaranteed, possibly from Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council. There may be scope for a joint venture between parishes if sufficient interest was shown.

Cllr Williams (TDBC) advised the meeting that the Local Development Order relating to the Nexus development will be put to the full Council in December and is likely to be approved subject to the improvement to Junction 25 going ahead. He confirmed that the Nexus development is not dependent on any A358 improvements.

It is also likely that a revised plan for the Firepool area will be finalised in the early part of 2018.

17/51 TO AGREE BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENT FOR 2018/19

The Parish Council considered its budget for the forthcoming year. Whilst the majority of the items of expenditure are expected to be in line with previous years, it is proposed to include a figure of £200 to be used to support community initiatives such as funding a defibrillator and erection of road safety measures. The proposed spending will be £2710 which will be funded by a precept of £2563, an increase of £233, the balance coming from reserves.

The Council is aware that a 10% increase in the precept is proposed but this equates to a monetary increase of less than £2p.a. per Band D property. The Council is also mindful of the fact that the precept has remained static for several years, despite the reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant over the past three years. No further Council Tax Support Grant will be paid by TDBC.

It was **agreed** unanimously to accept the proposed budget and levy a precept of £2563.

17/51 TO AGREE THE INSTALLATION AND PAYMENT OF VILLAGE NAME PLATE SIGNS AT MEARE GREEN LANE

Following the Clerk's approach, SCC will not consider funding warning signs in Meare Green Lane as traffic conditions and number of accidents do not meet the county's criteria.

As the Council is prepared to fund the installation of these signs itself, it was **agreed** that the Council will approach SCC on this basis and defer the decision relating to the Village Name Plate signs until a definite response has been received.

17/52 TO CONSIDER RESPONSE REGARDING GRANT REQUEST FROM THE FARMERS ARMS FOR A DEFIBRILLATOR

Somerset Community Foundation has received a request from the Farmers Arms for a grant to purchase a defibrillator at a cost of £1100 approx. SCF is prepared to give a grant of 50% of the cost directly to the Parish Council with the balance coming from either fundraising or

the precept. The Council has agreed to contribute £200 towards the cost and will liaise with the Farmers Arms regarding the remaining amount.

The Council raised concerns with regards to the ownership of the equipment and responsibilities in relation to maintenance. The Clerk will seek clarification from the SCF on these points.

17/52 RECEIPT OF BURIAL GROUND GRANT

The Clerk confirmed receipt from TDBC of the burial ground grant of £210.00 which will be passed to the PCC.

17/53 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

a)	Clerk's Salary	£272.14
b)	Clerk's Expenses	£ 14.60
c)	West Hatch Village Hall	£ 90.83
d)	West Hatch PCC	£210.00
e)	Royal British Legion	£ 20.00

17/54 PLANNING MATTERS

47/17/0006 Erection of boundary wall, fence and gates, installation of dormer windows over garage and canopies over patio doors and garage at Meare Green House (formerly Walnut Tree Cottage)

Cllr Read attended the planning committee meeting on behalf of the Council, following which he wrote to the Chairman of the Planning Committee expressing concerns that no account appeared to be taken of the views and concerns expressed by the parishioners who attended and made representations.

Conditional approval has been given to the application.

47/17/0013 Erection of agricultural building for storage at Abbey Wood

47/17/0011 Erection of 2 stables and tack room at Abbey Wood

Members of the Council visited the site and the Council confirmed that it supported the application for the stables and tack room but was unable to support the application for the agricultural building as it considered the footprint and height of the building to be too large for the size of the plot.

17/55 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

Report from Footpaths leader: Most of the paths had recently been walked and there are no issues arising.

Report from Trees/Conservation leader: Most of the oak trees in the area are now subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). There have been instances of unauthorised felling of oaks in the vicinity and parishioners are asked to report any

concerns relating to work being carried out on oak trees to David Galley, Tree Officer (planning), TDBC.

Report on Highway matters: No new issues to report.

Report from SALC representative: No items to report. The minutes of the SALC AGM are still awaited.

17/56 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- **Winter Service 2017/18**

The Council has 15 bags of desalting material available which can be dropped at strategic locations should the need arise. Additionally SCC Highways have dropped further materials at points within the Parish for use by motorists if necessary.

- **Notification of external auditor.**

PKF Littlejohn LLP has been appointed as the external auditor for the Council for the next 5 years, replacing Grant Thornton.

17/57 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be confirmed once the dates of the additional A358 consultation have been announced.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm