

WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 27th March 2018

17/72 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors: Read (Chairman), Biccard, Bray, Harrison-Sleep, Knight, and Lodge

Public: 2 parishioners

Apologies: Cllr Middleton, Cllr J Thorne (SCC), Cllr J Williams (TDBC)

17/73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

17/74 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 29th January 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17/75 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Provision of dog waste bin (17/62)

Following a comment by a parishioner regarding the lack of dog waste bins, the Clerk contacted TDBC. The installation of a bin would cost £385 and collection of waste would cost £3.85 per visit.

There have been no complaints made regarding dog fouling and the Council do not consider it to be a problem. In view of this and the installation costs involved, it was agreed not to take the matter further.

b. Village Name Plate signs (17/65)

TDBC has acknowledged receipt of the Council's payment and hope to install the signs after the end of March.

c. TDBC 2018 Citizenship Awards (17/70)

Following the Council's nomination, Vera Cottey-Williams has been awarded a 2018 Citizenship Award from TDBC. The award ceremony will be held on April 25th.

d. Provision of defibrillator (17/66)

The Chairman has agreed to contact the landlady at the Farmers Arms to ascertain whether the pub would be prepared to contribute towards the defibrillator.

17/76 PARISHIONERS FORUM

A group of parishioners have arranged for matting to be laid in St Andrew's field to assist with parking. Funds have been collected locally and sufficient has been raised to cover the cost of materials. It has been suggested that the Parish Council may be able to reclaim the VAT on behalf of the parishioners. The Clerk advised the Council that this would not be possible but that the Council could give a donation if it wished.

Cllr Harrison-Sleap advised that during the recent snowfalls, 19 bags of de-icing material were used, and a further 12 bags remain. It was agreed that in the autumn, parishioners would be reminded that salt was available for collection from Cllr Harrison-Sleap should the need arise.

It was reported that the farmer at Ashe Farm was responsible for clearing several of the West Hatch lanes and it was agreed that the Council should write and thank him for his efforts. The Clerk will also ask County Highways if they maintain a list of local farmers who have snow ploughs available.

Mr Wheatley advised the Council that he is still minded to repair the Meare Green Noticeboard but other commitments have taken priority at present.

The broken fingerpost at the Meare Green junction of the A378 was discussed and it was acknowledged that the fingerpost was unlikely to be repaired. It was agreed, however, that the Clerk would contact Highways to establish whether a new sign could be installed. Failing that, it is proposed that the Meare Green Lane sign should be moved so that traffic coming from Taunton could identify the road. There is holiday accommodation at Meare Green and the hamlet needs to be easily identified.

17/77 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Thorne's report covered the following points:

A358 – SCC formal's response indicated that it favoured a mix of elements from 2 proposed options but did not specify which options.

Nexus 25 – Planning permission has been granted for the scheme.

Road Safety – Driver awareness courses for the over 60s are available

Ultrafast Broadband – CDS Broadband voucher scheme will be restarted in the Spring.

Further funding is available to connect those hard to reach properties.

Phase 2 programme appears to be behind schedule and unlikely to finish on time.

Potholes – Somerset has received extra funding from the Government to repair potholes.

17/78 A358 CONSULTATION – TO CONFIRM SUBMISSION OF COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

The Parish Council submitted its response to the A358 consultation and this is published on the Parish website. The preferred route should be announced in early autumn.

Highways England has agreed that a community forum may be established to allow affected communities to be kept up to date with progress during the year.

17/79 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL

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

a) Clerk's Salary	£272.14
b) Clerk's Expenses	£ 13.52

17/80 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)

Following the notification to TDBC of non-compliance to the plans with regard to installing a window in the garage, TDBC has confirmed that this proposed alteration will be subject to a new planning application to which the Parish Council will be asked to respond in the normal way.

17/81 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

Report from Footpaths leader: There is a stile missing on Footpath L31/21. The Clerk will report this to the Rights of Way team.

Report from Trees/Conservation leader: No issues to report

Report on Highway matters: Following the winter bad weather, many pot holes have appeared. Highways will be asked to carry out an inspection of the Parish. The gully and ditches at the bottom of Lower West Hatch Lane need clearing as the road now floods easily.

Report from SALC representative: No items to report.

17/82 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- **Library Services Consultation - extension**

The Library Services Consultation has been extended until 10th June. Further information regarding community partnership libraries and outreach services are available on the website.

Details can be found at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation>

- **Road Closure – Frost Street**

The road leading to Slough Hill junction from the RSPCA centre will be closed for a distance of 30 metres to enable Wessex Water to carry out repairs. The road will be closed for 6 days from 9th April.

- **Proposal to change electoral division name.**

It is proposed to change the name of the County Council ward of Blackdown and Neroche to Neroche and Wellington East. The name change will more accurately reflect where the constituents live. The Parish Council had no objections to the change.

- **New Council Warding Pattern**

The Secretary of State has approved the formation of a new Council to incorporate TDBC and West Somerset District Council. The new Council will have 58 Councillors and there will be some changes to the current ward pattern. It is likely that a consultation will take place in July/August outlining the proposed ward boundaries.

17/83 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15th May 2018.

The Annual Parish Council meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm