WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 31st July 2018

**18/23 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**Public: 3 parishioners Cllrs J Thorne (SCC), J Williams (TDBC)**

**Apologies: None**

**18/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interests**

**18/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 15th May 2018, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**18/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

* **Provision of defibrillator (17/66)**

**Somerset Community Fund has agreed a grant of £580 towards the cost of the defibrillator. The Parish Council will purchase the equipment and it was agreed that the Clerk should proceed with this. A Zoll AED Plus fully automatic defibrillator will be purchased from St john Ambulance.**

* **Replacement Internal Auditor (18/10)**

**The Clerk had asked a parishioner to consider becoming the Council’s new auditor but due to other work commitments was not able to undertake the duties. The Clerk will continue to look for a replacement.**

* **Confirmation of renewal of Council’s insurance (18/14)**

**The Clerk confirmed that the insurance brokers agreed to waive the proposed administration fee of £50 for this year but made it clear that the fee would be imposed in future years. It was agreed that the Council would seek alternative insurance quotes prior to renewal next year so that the premium may be reduced.**

 **18/27 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**Mr Wheatley has started to make progress with the repair of the Meare Green Noticeboard.**

**With regard to the new ‘Meare Green’ signpost, whilst it is acknowledged that the siting is not ideal, parishioners appreciate that the sign has finally been installed.**

**18/28 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**The County Councillor’s report had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.**

**The report covered the following points:**

**Electoral division name change- there was little support for this so the division name will remain as it is.**

**Care leavers – there is a shortage of ‘Stepping Stones’ carers, those who give a home and support for those young adults leaving the county council’s care. Increased payments have been approved in order to attract applicants. There is also a shortage of foster carers and adoptive parents.**

**Highways – Somerset is recognised as being one of the best counties in the country for its roads which gives access to further funding, as much as £4m by 2020.**

**Blue Badges – the process for applying for or a renewing a blue badge is now on line. It may take up to 28 days to process applications.**

**The District Councillor congratulated the Parish Council on progressing the purchase of the defibrillator. TDBC hope that in due course all the district will have access to a public defibrillator.**

**Cllr Williams is arranging a meeting of interested parishes with Gigaclear, the Phase 2 internet provider, so that up to date information can be exchanged and concerns addressed. The meeting will take place at Neroche Hall and is likely to be held in September.**

**18/29 TO CONFIRM GRANT IN RESPECT OF IMPROVEMNTS TO ST ANDREWS FIELD**

Following a meeting with all interested parties, the Parish Council agreed to provide a grant of £228.00 towards the proposed improvements to St Andrews Field.

**18/30 TO DISCUSS PARISHIONERS CONCERNS REGARDING THE MEARE GREEN NAME PLATE**

The Meare Green name plate has now been installed but concerns have been raised over its location.

The sign has been erected immediately outside the property of Two Trees and in fact the inside edge is obscured by the property’s hedge. The siting of the sign also prevents easy access to the hedge for maintenance.

The sign is larger than anticipated and the outside edge abuts into the road, which is perceived to be a hazard.

Several parishioners consider that the sign should be placed nearer to the junction of Village Road (Hatch Beauchamp) and before the first set of houses of the hamlet.

It was agreed that Cllr Bray will speak to the residents in the area and identify a more suitable location. The Clerk will then contact TDBC to requesting the sign be moved if possible.

**18/31 A358 IMPROVEMENTS – UPDATE ON PLANS TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY FORUM.**

Following pressure from local Parish Councils and County and District Councils, Highways England has agreed to establish a community forum to come into effect once the preferred route is announced. One representative from each interested party will be invited to join the forum and it is hoped that the terms of reference of the forum will be agreed prior to the route announcement to avoid unnecessary delay.

**18/32 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £272.14
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 13.50
3. Somerset Wildlife Trust £ 30.00
4. St Andrews Church £ 228.00

**18/33 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Enforcement Case E14/47/008 - Meare Green House)**

**The retrospective planning application for the insertion of a window to the garage and alterations to the rear dormer has been approved subject to the ground floor window being glazed and non-opening.**

**The Council has received notification of two further planning applications:**

**47/18/009/VSC Application to discharge Section 52 agreement at Meade Farm**

**47/18/0010 - Change of use from agricultural to domestic with erection of stable block for equestrian and agricultural use and erection of summer house at land at Meare Elm Barn,**

**18/34 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader : With regard to footpath L 31/2, the footpath is now passable but the stile is approximately 12 metres from its correct position. It is likely that the stile will be moved shortly to its correct position.**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader: No new issues to report, although many trees are feeling the effects of the dry summer**

**Report on Highway matters: Some pot holes have been marked.**

**Report from SALC representative : Cllr Harrison- Sleap attended the SALC presentation on the new electoral arrangements for Somerset West and Taunton Council.**

**18/35 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Somerset West and Taunton Council - consultation on new electoral arrangements.**

**A public consultation has been announced on the draft recommendations on new ward boundaries for Somerset West and Taunton Council.**

**Details can be found at** <http://www.lgbce.org.uk> **and the consultation closes on 27th August 2018.**

**There is little change proposed to the existing Neroche ward; it will lose Stoke St Mary parish and gain Otterford and Churchstanton parishes. The proposed new name for the ward is Hatch and Blackdown.**

* **Changes in Taunton Deane opening hours**

**Following the introduction of a new Customer Service Hub, the opening hours for TDBC have been amended to 8.30am- 5pm, Monday - Friday with the exception of Wednesday when the office opens at 9.30am.**

* **Fingerpost Restoration Project - Press release**

**Volunteers are being sought to help restore the fingerpost signposts which are a feature of Somerset. There is no longer the funding available for SCC to maintain these posts and individual parishes are being asked to take on the maintenance and care of the fingerposts.**

**It was agreed that Cllr Biccard will carry out an informal survey of the posts within the parish and the Council will discuss whether to become involved with the project at a future meeting.**

* **GDPR compliance - steps the Council has taken.**

**The Clerk outlined the steps that had ben taken to ensure that the Council meets its GDPR responsibilities. An audit of all data held has been carried out and as a result, the Council will need to approve an adopt a Privacy Policy and a Document Retention Disposal Policy.**

**It is anticipated that these policies will be approved at the next Council meeting.**

**18/36 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 25th September 2018**

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm**