WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 26th March 2019

**18/77 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**Public: J Thorne (SCC) J Williams (TDBC), one member of the public**

**Apologies: Cllr Biccard**

**18/78 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interests**

**18/79 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 29th January 2019, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**18/80 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

* **Meare Green Name Plate – update (18/30)**

**TDBC has agreed to replace the name plate with one of smaller dimensions at no cost to the Council.**

**The Council discussed the re-siting of the name plate and concerns were expressed that the sign may lose its impact if it were to be moved to the end of the road. The main objection to the name plate was its size and as this is to be reduced, the existing site is considered to be suitable.**

**It was therefore agreed that the name plate should remain where it is**

* **Fingerpost Restoration Project (18/46)**

**The Clerk has been advised that there is a training event on 18th April 2019 for interested volunteers and she has arranged for places to be available to the Council.**

* **Request to support Somerset Wood (18/75)**

**It has been established that there were 3 casualties from West Hatch in the First World War and therefore, the Council’s commitment to the Somerset Wood would be £75. It was agreed that the Council would be prepared to make a one-off contribution to the wood of £75.00. Payment will be made in the next financial year.**

* **Defibrillator (19/69)**

**A suitable cabinet has been purchased, and the Parish Council’s contribution is £218.50.**

**A training session has been arranged, run by St John’s Ambulance, following which the equipment should be ready for use.**

* **Damage to Meare Green Lane Street sign (18/70)**

**The damage to the street sign has been reported to TDBC and it is hoped that the damage will be repaired shortly.**

**18/81 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**A parishioner reported that dog waste bags were being regularly left in Thurlbear Woods which were not only unsightly but environmentally unfriendly.**

**It was agreed to contact the Forestry Commission and request that they erect a ‘Stick and Flick’ sign encouraging dog walkers to dispose of the waste by alternative means.**

**18/82 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**The County Councillor’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be displayed on the Parish website.**

**The District Councillor’s report covered the following points:**

* **Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWAT), comes into effect from 01/04/2019. Resources have been reduced but digital technology has been upgraded and there should be no adverse effect on customer service.**
* **Nexus 25 – work will start at the end of March and the first commercial units will be marketed within 6 months with a view to occupation within 2 years.**
* Leisure Centres – A ten-year contract has been signed with Sports Management Leisure who will be responsible for managing the Council’s leisure facilities.

**18/83 REPORT ON MEETING OF A358 FORUM**

Members of the Council had been invited to attend the inaugural meeting of the A358 Improvement Forum. However, no new information was forthcoming. The Preferred Route Announcement will be made by the end of June and it is unlikely that any construction will commence for another 3/4 years.

**18/84 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – PROCEDURES AND TIMETABLE**

The Clerk outlined the procedures and timetable with regard to the Parish Elections due to take place on 02/05/2019. Nomination forms need to be submitted by 03/04/2019.

Every member present indicated their willingness to restand.

**18/85 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £277.57
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 14.35
3. Defibrillator Cabinet £ 218.50

**18/86 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Planning Application 47/19/0002 – Bath House Farm**

**An application to erect entrance gates and fencing has been received. The Council has no comments to make.**

**18/87 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader: No report owing to the absence of the Footpaths Leader.**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader: There has been reports of further Ash die back in Devon.**

**There has been reports of unauthorised chain saw activity and theft of wood from local Forestry Commission land.**

**Report on Highway matters: Various defects have been noted and reported to SCC Highways for action**

**Report from SALC representative: Nothing to report**

**18/88 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Changes to membership of Community Council of Somerset (CCS)**

**Due to changes being proposed for Parish Council memberships, there will be no membership fee payable in 2019/20.**

* **Retirement of Police Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator**

**Lindsey Stone, the Police NW Co-ordinator has recently retired and a replacement is being sought. As a result, there may be less information being disseminated in the interim period.**

**18/89 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 14th May 2019.**

**This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting of West Hatch Parish at 7pm**

**The meeting closed at 8.55 pm**