WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th May 2019

**19/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**In his absence, Cllr Read was nominated to stand as Chairman by Cllr Lodge. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Middleton. There were no other nominations and Cllr Read was unanimously elected as Chairman, having indicated previously that he was happy to continue in the role**

**19/02 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: Lodge (Chair for the meeting), Harrison-Sleap, Knight,, and Middleton**

**Public: 4 parishioners, Cllr J Thorne (SCC), Cllr R Henley, (SWaT)**

**Apologies: Cllrs Read and Bray**

**19/03 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**Cllr Lodge was nominated as Vice-chairman by Cllr Harrison-Sleap. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Middleton. There were no other nominations and Cllr Lodge was unanimously elected as Vice-chairman.**

**19/04 ALLOCATION OF COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **Planning - Cllr Lodge**
2. **Conservation Cllr Harrison-Sleap**
3. **Footpaths - Cllr Bray ( to be confirmed)**
4. **Finance - Cllr Middleton**

**19/05 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL ASSOCIATIONS**

1. **Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) - Cllr Harrison-Sleap**
2. **SCC – Highways contact Cllr Knight**
3. **Village Hall Cllr Lodge**

**19/06 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 26th March 2019, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**19/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

* **Meare Green Name Plate - update**

**A site meeting has been arranged with the SCC official to discuss the possibility of relocating the name plate.**

* **Provision of defibrillator - update**

**Training is still to be arranged on the use of the equipment. The Clerk will ascertain what regular checks are required to ensure that the defibrillator remains operational and who will carry out the checks.**

**19/08 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**The use of Meare Green Lane by oversized agricultural vehicles was again mentioned with the suggestion that the County Council should work with the National Farmers Union (NFU), to agree a code of practice with regards to the use of such vehicles. The Clerk will forward this suggestion to Alyn Jones, a strategic director at SCC.**

**19/09 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr Thorne had previously submitted his report which had been circulated to the Council.**

**Points of interest included:**

**The County Council’s finances have now stabilised and there will be no further cuts to front line services in the forthcoming financial year.**

**Due to the continuing delays with the roll out of Phase 2 Broadband, the voucher scheme has been reintroduced. alternative broadband provision. Details are available** . All homes and businesses in the county with broadband speeds of less than two megabits per second (2Mbps) and without a published delivery date for superfast broadband within the next 12 months, are now eligible to apply for an interim solution under the voucher scheme. Vouchers worth up to £350 would contribute towards the cost of equipment and installation of a 4G, Fixed Wireless, or Satellite solution. Applications need to be made through registered suppliers on the approved supplier list at: <https://basicbroadbandchecker.culture.gov.uk.>

More than 200 public health nurses have been transferred from Somerset Partnership NHS Trust to the County Council at the start of the financial year. They include Health Visitors, School Nurses, Assistant Practitioners and Administrative Support. They will continue to work with local communities and families in different settings such as homes, children’s centres, GP surgeries, schools, and Early Year settings delivering the healthy child programme which offers support to all families in pregnancy up to 19-years-old to give children the best start in life.

Ross Henley introduced himself as the new District Councillor. He knows the area well as he was previously the County Councillor for the Neroche ward. He is looking forward to representing the area once again.

**19/10 TO CONFIRM THE NEW NJC SALARY SCALES wef 1/04/19**

The new NJC Salary scales were agreed and noted by the Council

**19/11 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £286.00
2. Came & Co - Insurance £218.00

**19/12 PLANNING MATTERS**

**47/199/0003/T Removal of Walnut Tree at Meare Green House (formerly Walnut Tree Cottage)**

**An application has been received to fell the walnut tree ar Meare Green House, due to its poor condition. A tree surgeon’s report and a site visit by members of the Council confirm that it is not healthy and reluctantly, the Council accepts that it should be removed.**

**The Council will submit its comments on this basis and will include a proviso that the tree should be replaced by something similar.**

**The Barn, Meare Green – A new application has been received to convert the current agricultural building to a residential dwelling. A site meeting will be arranged in due course.**

**19/13 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader : No report**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader: Although there are indications that Ash die-back is becoming prevalent again, there are no cases in the area. Symptons include a shrivelling of leaves and a discharge from cut branches.**

**Report on Highway matters: The Clerk will chase up a response with regard to badger activity disturbing the road surfaces.**

**Report from SALC representative : No issues to report.**

**19/14 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Paperless planning application notifications**

**In future paper notification of planning documents will not be issued. A weekly summary of applications received and decisions made will be emailed to the Council and details of the applications will be available to download from the SWaT website.**

* **To confirm receipt of precept**

**The Clerk confirmed receipt of the precept of £2640**

**19/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 11th June 2019**

**The meeting closed at 9.05 pm**