WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25th September 2019

**19/31 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**Apologies: Cllrs Bray and Knight, Cllr Thorne (SCC)**

**Public: Cllr R Henley (SWaT), 2 parishioners**

**Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a minute’s silence was held in memory of Dougall Clark, a former long standing member and Chairman of the Parish Council.**

**19/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**There were no declarations of interests**

**19/33 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 11th June 2019, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**19/34 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

* **Relocation of Meare Green sign**

**A replacement smaller sign has now been erected in a more suitable location. The previous sign has been removed.**

* **Removal of hedge at Farmers Arms**

**The Enforcement Officer will visit the site but advised the Council that landowners are entitled to remove internal hedges unless it is of a certain age. It was pointed out to the Council that an outside hedge has also been removed to accommodate a commercial sign and that a mobile home has been in situ for several months, seemingly without planning permission. Both these issues will be referred to the Planning Department.**

**19/35 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**The increase in HGVs and large agricultural vehicles using Meare Green was mentioned but unfortunately, there is little that the Parish Council can do to redress this issue.**

**The Parish Council has been asked to note that new rules regarding septic tanks come into force next year. The ‘General Binding Rules’ require that property owners with a septic tank that discharges into a watercourse need to replace or upgrade their system by January 1st 2020 or before if the property is sold prior to that date.**

**19/36 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr Thorne had submitted his report prior to the meeting.**

**Matters of note included the delay in the roll-out of Phase 2 of the Rural Broadband scheme following the collapse of Gigaclear. A new procurement exercise will begin but it is unlikely that a new contractor will be appointed until late 2020. Cllr Thorne is currently looking at alternative superfast broadband delivery programmes for communities and further details will follow in due course.**

**Cllr Henley reported that he had attended the A358 Community Forum meeting and is committed to supporting the parishes in achieving the best outcome for their communities with regards to the planned new road.**

**19/37 TO DISCUSS VACANCY ON PARISH COUNCIL – NEXT STEPS**

**The Council discussed the steps that it would take to fill the vacancy that has arisen.**

**It was agreed that the Clerk would advertise the vacancy in the Parish Magazine, on the website and via the Village Network email system. The Chairman will also directly approach a couple of parishioners who may be interested.**

**19/38 TO REPORT ON the A358 COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING FOLLOWING THE PREFERRED ROUTE ANNOUNCEMENT.**

**The Preferred Route has been announced and it is a modified version of ‘The Pink Route’.**

**This route will follow the existing road as closely as possible, but a new junction will be created as Ash, with the dual carriageway leading to the existing Junction 25 of the motorway via the new Nexus 25 development. Henlade will be bypassed from Ash onwards.**

**The existing A358 between Hatch Beauchamp and Ashill will be retained as a local road but at present there is no information regarding junctions and crossing points.**

**Representatives of the Council attended a Community Forum meeting which was attended by many other Parish Councils and interest groups such as the Ramblers, NFU and Scouts.**

**Highways England confirmed that cost has been the main driver in the decision taken and that no decisions have yet been made concerning the access to and across the new route. This level of detail will not be available until the next public consultation when timescales will be tight to respond.**

**The majority of the representatives raised concerns regarding the effect upon local communities and their day to day journeys which are likely to be increased.**

**19/39 TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THE BURIAL GROUND GRANT**

The Clerk confirmed that a grant of £210 has been received from the District Council which will be paid to the Parochical Church Council.

**19/40 TO DISCUSS REPRESENTATION AT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

It was agreed that the Chairman would read the names of the fallen as in previous years and Mr John Dyer would be asked to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish.

**19/41 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £572.00
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 10.55
3. Somerset Wildlife Trust £ 30.00
4. West Hatch PCC £ 210.00

**19/42 PLANNING MATTERS**

Cllr Lodge updated the Council on the decisions made on recent planning applications:

**47/19/0004 – Change of use of land from layby to paddock at 2 Broad Close, Village Road –**

Approved.

**47/19/0006 CQ – Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling at barn adjacent to Two Trees, Meare Green -** Refused

**19/43 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Footpath Leader –** A new Footpath leader is required. The Clerk will see if there are any volunteers in the Parish who are prepared to take on this responsibility.

**Trees and Conservation –** No new issues to report

**Highways –** No new issues to report. It was noted that the lane from Bickenhall Wood to the RSPCA has been marked for repair.

**SALC –** The AGM is on October 26th and Cllr Harrison-Sleap hopes to attend.

**19/44 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OR REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

* **Civic Service**

**The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the recent Civic Service on behalf of the Council.**

* **Defibrillator**

**The defibrillator is now installed at the Farmers Arms and ready for use. Every household has received a notice confirming this and in addition the Clerk will place a notice in the Parish Magazine.**

**19/45 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 26th November 2019 at 7.30pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm**