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 March 2015

**14/61 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: P Day (Chairman), D Lodge, N Harrison-Sleap, M Nicholls**

**Public: G Midworth (Clerk), 3 parishioners**

**Apologies: D Clark, K Read, H Young**

**14/62 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interests.**

**14/63 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 25th November 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**The meeting scheduled for 27/01/2015 did not take place due to insufficient members of the Council attending.**

**14/64 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**14/26 Clearance of drainage ditches and pipes within the Parish**

**A meeting was held in December 2014 between concerned parishioners and D Lebrun, Flood Management Engineer (SCC), in which it was clarified that SCC does accept responsibility for clearance of drainage ditches, but will maintain and repair roadside verges if they collapse into the watercourse. Mr Lebrun offered to write to the landowners to remind them of their responsibilities but to date, no clearance has been carried out.**

**It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Mr Lebrun asking him to confirm that he has written to the landowners and asking what progress has been made.**

**14/54 To consider erection of village signs within the Parish**

**Mr Wheatley advised the Council that further monitoring of traffic numbers had taken place in Meare Green Lane, which indicates that there are traffic movements in excess of 4000 vehicles per week, travelling through the hamlet. In view of these figures, he considers that it is important that a village name sign is erected, so that drivers are aware of the hamlet and the possibility of encountering pedestrians.**

**Before agreeing to such a request, the Parish Council needs to be convinced that the rest of the hamlet are in favour of such a move, and Mr Wheatley was asked to obtain evidence of support from other members of the community.**

**14/65 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**There were no issues raised**

**14/66 TO CONFIRM FINAL PRECEPT FIGURE FOR 2015/2016**

**It was agreed that the provisional precept figure of £2330, as discussed at the November meeting, be confirmed as the final figure.**

**14/67 TO RESOLVE TO ESTABLISH A PARISH WEBSITE**

**To enable the Parish Council to comply with the Code of Transparency for Smaller Councils, it was resolved that the Parish Council would establish its own website.**

**Mr Wheatley has offered to design a website and maintain it without charge for a period of 1-2 years and the Council gratefully accepted this offer.**

**A domain name has been purchased for £5.40 and an agreement entered into with a hosting company at a cost of £30.60 for two years. The Parish Council agreed to reimburse Mr Wheatley for these costs.**

**14/68 IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW NJC SALARY SCALES**

**The Clerk advised the Council that new NJC Salary scales had been agreed with effect from 1/01/15 and that her salary payment for March reflected this increase. The Parish Council approved the new salary scales.**

**14/69 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

**The following cheques were approved:**

**Clerk's** salary (Dec-Jan) £251.08

**Clerk's expenses (Dec-Jan) £ 13.59**

**Clerk’s salary (Feb-Mar) £248.32**

**Clerk’s expenses (Feb-Mar) £14.03**

**Somerset Wildlife Trust £30.00**

**14/70 TO APPOINT NEW SIGNATORIES TO THE BANK ACCOUNT**

**The Clerk advised the meeting that new signatories to the bank account would be needed with effect from May. It was agreed that Cllrs Lodge, Harrison-Sleap, and Nicholls (all of whom confirmed their intention to stand again as Councillors) would become signatories to the bank accounts with Santander.**

**14/71 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – PROCEDURES AND TIMESCALES**

**The Clerk advised the Council that nominations for the Parish Council elections in May needed to be submitted by 4pm on 10th April 2015. If there were fewer than seven nominations, the Parish Council would need to co-opt new members as soon as possible after May 7th.**

**14/72 ROLL-OUT OF RURAL SUPERFAST BROADBAND – UPDATE**

**John Williams, District Councillor, had recently attended a meeting with Connecting Devon and Somerset officials to discuss the progress of superfast broadband roll-out.**

**The cabinet serving most of West Hatch, and situated at Meare Elm Bridge, is due to be enabled by the end of April 2015.**

**14/73 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Planning Application 47/15/0001 has been received in respect of a single storey extension at Hazledene, Prey Lane.**

**The Parish Council has no objections to the proposal.**

**14/74 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader :**

**Nothing to report**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader:**

**There are no signs of Ash dieback in the vicinity.**

**Report on Highway matters**

**Nothing to report**

**Report from SALC representative**

**Nothing to report**

**14/75 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Distribution of agenda by email**

**The Clerk advised the Council that the distribution of agenda by email became lawful with effect from 30/01/15.**

* **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2014**

**This report is available to view until 29/02/16 at**   
 <http://consultldf.tauntondeane.gov.uk/portal/shlaa/shlaa2014>

* **Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

**This is available to view at** [www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway)

* **New number to contact Somerset County Council**

**SCC has introduced a new telephone number for all enquiries.**

**The new number is 0300 123 2224**

**14/76 DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 19th May 2015.**