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 January 2016

**15/68 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: K Read (Chairman), M Biccard, G Knight, D Lodge, M Middleton, M Nicholls**

**Public: PCSO Gamblin, 6 members of the public**

**Apologies: N Harrison-Sleap**

**15/69 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**Cllr Middleton declared a personal interest in respect of the Planning Application 47/15/0002, Erection of Scout Hut at Slough Green.**

**15/70 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 24th November 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**15/71 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. **Traffic Issues (15/44)**

**The Chairman has received a reply from Rebecca Pow (MP), who is supporting a ‘10 minute rule bill’ which calls for local people to set their own speed limits.**

**She has made representations to SCC on behalf of the Parish Council but the response received indicates that there is little the SCC can do to prevent vehicles driving at inappropriate speeds.**

**With reference to the problems caused by agricultural vehicles, the Clerk has ascertained that North Curry PC has written to the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner bringing her attention to this matter. The Clerk will continue to liaise with North Curry PC.**

**With regard to the suggestion of ‘SLOW’ markings on the highway, SCC has confirmed that these are only appropriate where there are already warning signs in place.**

1. **Neighbourhood Watch representative(15/46)**

**PCSO Gamblin gave a short presentation outlining the roles and responsibilities of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Ideally there would be one co-ordinator per 10-15 properties, whose role would be to disseminate information and report any undue incidents. Where there is a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in place, signage advertising this fact is installed and this has been shown to be effective in preventing opportunist break ins. A reduction in insurance premiums may also be possible.**

**It was agreed that as a first step the Parish Council would call for volunteers to act as co-ordinators.**

1. **West Hatch website (15/48)**

**The new website has been advertised in the Parish Magazine and information relating to the site will be included in the circular which will be delivered to all properties in the Parish.**

1. **Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebrations (15/61)**

**It is proposed to organise a lunch on Sunday 12th June to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday. All parishioners are to be invited and the event will be organised jointly by the Village Hall and PCC.**

**15/72 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**The following matters were raised by the parishioners present:-**

1. **The Council was asked to confirm that the cost of providing the Village sign included the erection and other associated expenses.**
2. **The new BT cabinet at Higher West Hatch Lane was affected by flooding and was out of action for almost two weeks.**
3. **The ditches in Meare Green Lane have been cleared by the landowner.**
4. **The Council were asked to contact Highways to request that a ‘Queue in both lanes’ sign be erected on the dual carriageway at Henlade to ease congestion.**

 **15/73 PARISH COMMUNICATION – TO APPROVE WORDING OF CIRCULAR AND DISCUSS DISTRIBUTION**

**The Parish Council agreed the content of the information sheet which will be delivered to all households in the Parish.**

**15/74 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

**The following cheques were approved**

**Clerk's** salary £248.32

**Clerk's expenses £ 62.10**

**15/75 PLANNING MATTERS**

1. **Application 47/15/0002 –Erection of scout hut at Slough Green – Planning Committee’s decision.**

**Cllr Lodge advised the Council that permission had been granted for the above application.**

**He confirmed that following the previous Parish Council meeting a further submission was sent to TDBC which included the following:**

***The Council wishes to re-iterate its previous recommendations that:- If TDBC, against the present advice, approves the application, this Council asks that two conditions be imposed:- i) a legally binding clause that, should the proposed new hall be surplus to requirements in the future, the site be returned to agricultural use, and ii) “Please Drive Carefully through our Village” signs be placed at access points along the road into Slough Green.***

***Further because of the continued deterioration of the Wesleyan Chapel, the Council recommends that, if the application is approved, a further condition be imposed:- iii) the repairs and re-development of the Chapel be commenced and completed as an integral part* *of the project.***

**Cllr Lodge attended the District Council meeting at which the application was discussed and considered that the Parish Council’s objections were disregarded without due consideration, although a representative of West Hatch confirmed that it was their intention that repairs to the Chapel would be an integral part of the proposed development.**

**15/76 TO APPROVE CLERK’S ATTENDANCE ON TWO TRAINING EVENTS**

**The Council agreed that the Clerk should attend the following training events:**

**Code of Transparency Training – cost to be covered by the Transparency Funding grant**

**Digital Training Event – Free to attend.**

**15/77 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader :**

**Cllr Nicholls is compiling a report on stiles etc that need replacing.**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader:**

**No new areas of concern.**

**Report on Highway matters**

**It was agreed that the Council would seek clarification from highways with regard to replacing/repair of finger post signs.**

**Report from SALC representative**

**The minutes of the AGM are still awaited.**

**15/78 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Contact from new Village agent.**

**The new Village Agent, Audrey Mansfield, has contacted the Council to introduce herself. She has been invited to attend the Council meeting in March.**

* **Introduction of charges for property naming/renaming**

**TDBC will now be charging for some aspects of the street naming and numbering service. For example, naming/renaming a property will cost £50.00, £100 if it is a new dwelling.**

* **Library Services Consultation**

**The Council has received details of the latest consultation relating to library services. It is the intention that all libraries will remain open but smaller libraries may see a reduction in their opening hours.**

**15/79 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 29th March 2016**

**The meeting dosed at 9.00 pm**