WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 29th March 2016

**15/80 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: K Read (Chairman), N, Harrison-Sleap, G Knight, D Lodge, M Middleton, M Nicholls**

**Public: Cllr J Williams (TDBC), 3 members of the public**

**Apologies: M Biccard**

**15/81 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interest.**

**15/82 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 26th January 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**15/83 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

**Mr Baverstock, the NW Representative for part of West Hatch was present. He is prepared to continue in the role and will also cover the properties in Slough Green. Mrs Wheatley is the representative for Meare Green. There is currently no representative for the area from the Farmers Arms to Bickenhall Woods and the Council has received no response from its request for additional volunteers.**

**The clerk will continue to circulate email alerts on the Village Network site and will also post the alerts on the website.**

1. **Contact from new Village Agent (15/78)**

**Audrey Mansfield has confirmed that she will attend the Council meeting to be held in May and give a short presentation on her role and responsibilities.**

1. **Replacement /repair of finger posts (15/77)**

**SCC has confirmed that it no longer has a budget to repair or replace finger posts although damaged ones will be removed. SCC Cllr Fothergill, the Highways Portfolio Holder, is endeavouring to have the finger posts declared as a heritage asset so that funds may be available from a different budget.**

**It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact Ross Henley, its ward SCC member to protest at the lack of funding for fingerpost maintenance and offer support to the proposal to list the signs as a heritage asset.**

**15/84 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

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

1. **The latest Somerset Rivers Authority newsletter detailed schemes that had been introduced to slow down the flow of water across land. The Parish Council was asked to consider bringing such schemes to the attention of local landowners.**
2. **The new BT cabinet at Higher West Hatch Lane has again been was affected by flooding. Cllr Williams will contact BT to request that a solution is found to this recurring problem.**
3. **The verge at Creechfield has been damaged by agricultural vehicles entering the adjacent field. The parishioner was advised that this is a private matter between the resident and farmer but the Parish Council will endeavour to ascertain who farms the field in question.**

**15/85 QUEEN’S 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY – TO AGREE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM COUNCIL**

**The organising committee of the Queen’s 90th Birthday party will make a formal request for funding at the next meeting. A sum up to £150 is likely to be requested.**

**15/86 TRANSPARENCY FUND GRANT – TO CONFIRM RECEIPT AND AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE**

**The Clerk confirmed that the sum of £561.75 had been received as a grant from the Transparency Fund, and the money has been used to purchase a laptop and printer/scanner which will be assets belonging to the Council. The shortfall between the grant and expenditure is the amount of VAT that the Council can reclaim.**

**15/87 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

**The following cheques were approved**

**Clerk's** salary £248.32

**Clerk's expenses £ 62.10**

**Computer/scanner costs £635.74**

**Somerset Wildlife Trust £ 30.00**

**Domain name purchase £ 17.40**

**15/88 PLANNING MATTERS**

**The following applications have been received for consideration:**

**47/16/0001 Change of use of agricultural barn to holiday/tourist accommodation at Meare Court Farm. (Retention of works already undertaken)**

**47/16/0002 Erection of single storey extension at Fairacre.**

**15/89 REPORT ON PRESENTATION OF A358 IMPROVEMENTS**

**The Clerk reported on the presentation that she attended on the proposed improvements to the A358.**

**It is intended to create an ‘Expressway’ between the Southfields Roundabout at Ilminster and Junction 25 of the M5. This will be a fast speed dual carriageway between the two points with limited access points.**

**The scheme is in the early stages of planning and it is envisaged that public consultation will start in late 2016, with a short list of route options being considered.**

**Further public consultation will occur in mid 2017 when the preferred option has been identified.**

**It is hoped that the scheme will receive approval from the Secretary of State in 2018 and that work will commence in 2020.**

**The Clerk has made contact with the project manager and communications manager who will keep the Parish Council informed of progress.**

**15/90 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader :**

**The annual report has been submitted to the ROW team.**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader:**

**It is predicted that ash trees will eventually become extinct due to Ash dieback.**

**Report on Highway matters**

**No issues raised.**

**Report from SALC representative**

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

**15/91 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Changes in the Police Beat team.**

**PCSO Lynsey Gamblin has now left the police and the new beat manager is PC Dean Chedzoy. PCSO Claire Escott has also joined the team.**

* **Electoral Review of TDBC**

**An electoral review of TDBC is to be carried out with a view to reducing the number of councillors. This will lead to some boundary changes. Public consultation will take place in 2017, and the new boundaries will be implemented in 2019.**

**15/92 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 17th May 2016**

**The Annual Parish Council meeting will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm**