WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th March 2017

**16/76 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: Lodge, Biccard, Harrison-Sleep, and Knight,**

**Public: 3 members of the public**

**Apologies: Cllrs Read, Bray and Middleton (all absent from the Parish)**

**In the absence of Cllr Read, Cllr Lodge chaired the meeting**

**16/77 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interests.**

**16/78 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 31st January 2017, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**16/79 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. **Road Safety issues (16/25)**

**The Clerk confirmed that an application to the Road Safety fund had been submitted. A decision would be made at the next meeting of the Trustees to be held in April.**

**16/80 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**Mr John Thorne, Conservative candidate in the forthcoming county elections introduced himself to the meeting. He advised the meeting that there have been instances within Taunton Deane where developers have been submitting planning applications for areas outside the development area on the basis that TDBC cannot evidence a 5 year housing supply. As West Hatch is in an area of open countryside , this issue should not affect the parish.**

**The public consultation in respect of the proposed A358 improvements was raised and it was confirmed that the Parish Council would hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss its response and that parishioners would be encouraged to attend and air their views.**

**16/81 TO AGREE RENEWAL TERMS OF WEBSITE HOSTING AND AUTHORISE REIMBURSEMENT TO MR WHEATLEY**

**It was agreed to renew the website hosting arrangements for a further 5 years at a cost of £104.95 and reimburse Mr Wheatley for this expenditure.**

**16/82 TO CONSIDER RENEWAL OF ANTIVIRUS PROTECTION**

**The anti-virus protection on the Council’s computer is due for renewal in April. The clerk has been quoted a renewal figure of £59.99 which appears overpriced. It was agreed to renew the protection but that it should be available elsewhere at a lower rate. The clerk will investigate the possibilities.**

**16/83 CLERK’S SALARY: TO CONFIRM NEW NALC RATE EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1ST 2017**

**New NALC salary scales come into effect on 01/04/17 and it was noted that the Clerk’s salary would increase to £10.467 per hour.**

**16/84 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

**The following cheques were approved**

**Clerk's** salary £259.97

**Clerk's expenses £ 13.44**

**R Wheatley (16/81) £104.95**

**16/84 PLANNING MATTERS**

**To advise the Planning Officer’s decision to Planning Application 47/16/0015 – Walnut Tree Cottage, Meare Green**

**TDBC has issued conditional approval for the above planning application despite objections from the Parish Council and several parishioners.**

**Cllr Lodge attended the District Council meeting at which the application was decided and expressed concerns that the views of the parishioners and Parish Council were not taken into account and that some Councillors present were not fully acquainted with all the facts. The Council appeared to accept the Planning Officer’s recommendation without challenge or discussion.**

**16/85 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader : No problems to report**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader: It appears that ash die back is not as bad as feared in the area.**

**Report on Highway matters: Nothing to report**

**Report from SALC representative: No matters to report**

**16/86 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Public consultation on Nexus 25 employment site**

**TDBC has launched a public consultation on the proposed employment site near Junction 25 of the motorway. The consultation closes at the end of March.**

* **Announcement of Phase 2 Rural broadband provider**

**Gigaclear has been appointed the provider for the roll-out of Phase 2 rural broadband. No further details are available to date with regards to anticipated roll-out dates.**

**16/87 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.30pm**

**The Parish Council meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish meeting which commences at 7pm.**

**A speaker from Somerset Wildlife Trust will be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.**

**The meeting closed at 9.00 pm**