WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 25th July 2017

**17/20 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**Public: 7 parishioners, Cllr Thorne (SCC)**

**Apologies: Cllr Bray, Cllr Williams (TDBC)**

**17/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Cllr Middleton declared that he had a Right of Way over the Scout site.**

**17/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting, held on 16th May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**17/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

**A decision on the Council’s application to the Avon & Somerset PCC Road Safety Fund has been deferred until the Council has made contact with the Road Safety Liaison Officer. The Clerk has left a message but has not received a response yet.**

**It was agreed that the Clerk would make further attempts to establish contact but that failing that, the Council would look at the budget and consider what options were available to fund the signs itself.**

**17/22 Introduction by Cllr Thorne (SCC)**

**Cllr John Thorne introduced himself to the Council as the newly elected County Councillor.**

**In his short time in office, at least 75% of his caseload consists of highway matters and he promised to relay the concerns of West Hatch Parish regarding the problems in instigating restricted speed limits to the Highways Department of the County Council.**

**17/23 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**The Clerk had received two emails and one telephone call following the use of the Scout site by a group of scouts from a nearby troop who camped there overnight. The group’s behaviour was rather loud and disturbed some nearby residents.**

**Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had spoken to the Chairman of West Hatch Scout Group who apologised for the disturbance and it was noted that since that incident, a further group had used the site for overnight camping, causing no disturbance whatsoever.**

**17/24 TO CONFIRM THE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO THE A358 CONSULTATION**

It was confirmed that during the consultation exercise which ended on the 16/07/17, the Council had submitted two responses to Highways England objecting to the proposed route. The final response was submitted following the presentation made to the Parish by representatives of Highways England.

In addition, West Hatch Parish Council were signatories to a joint letter submitted by 5 other affected parishes to the Minister for Transport objecting to how the consultation was carried out as only one route was proposed for consultation.

The responses by the Parish Council are published on the Council’s website: [www.westhatchparish.org.uk](http://www.westhatchparish.org.uk)

**17/25 TO CONSIDER REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR OF PARISH NOTICEBOARDS**

Robert Wheatley has kindly offered to replace the Meare Green Noticeboard for the cost of materials only. This offer was gratefully accepted by the Council.

It was **agreed** to obtain an estimate for the replacement of the noticeboard at Slough Green

**17/26 TO CONSIDER MOST APPROPRIATE METHOD OF CONTACT WITH THE COUNCIL AND COUNCILLORS**.

It was **agreed** that the first point of contact for the Council and individual Councillors should be through the Clerk by either email or telephone. Any issues raised will be brought to the attention of all Councillors.

**17/27 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £272.14
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 23.85

**17/28 PLANNING MATTERS**

**The Council has received the following planning applications and will submit comments in due course:**

**47/17/0005 Conversion of and extension to outbuildings to form annex at Ash Lodge**

**47/17/0006 Erection of boundary wall, fence and gates, installation of dormer windows over garage and canopies over patio doors and garage at Meare Green House (formerly Walnut Tree Cottage)**

**Furthermore, the Council has objected to the following application on the grounds that it did not wish to see further development in an area of open countryside;**

**47/17/0007CQ Prior approval for property change of use from agricultural building to two houses at land adjacent to Two Trees, Meare Green**

**17/29 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader : There are some broken stiles awaiting repair.**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader: There has been some remedial clearance work recently carried out at Ben’s Copse**

**Report on Highway matters: No new issues to report.**

**Report from SALC representative : No issues to report.**

**17/30 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Chairman’s Award for service to the community**

**The Council has been asked to nominate a member of the community for the Chairman’s Award for Service. A parishioner has suggested one member of the community for consideration and it was agreed to publish details of the award on the website to see if any other nominations come forward. The closing date for nominations is 01/09/17**

**17/31 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 26th September 2017**

**The meeting closed at 8.50 pm**