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 September 2017

**17/32 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: Read (Chairman), Knight, Lodge, and Middleton**

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

**Apologies: Cllrs Biccard, Bray, and Harrison-Sleap**

**17/33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**There were no declarations of interests.**

**17/34 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting, held on 25th July 2017 were, after an amendment to Minute 17/23, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**17/35 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

**The Clerk has received up to date costings for a village name plate of £268.02 excluding VAT.**

**It was suggested that an advisory speed limit warning sign may be more effective and before committing to the village name sign, it was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries with regard to installing advisory warning signs both in Meare Green and at other locations in the parish.**

* **Replacement and Repair of Village Noticeboards**

**Mr Wheatley advised the meeting that he hoped to repair the noticeboard in Meare Green by the end of the year. The council thanked Mr Wheatley for agreeing to undertake this task.**

**17/36 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr Thorne SCC updated the Council on various issues including the A358 improvements and Phase 2 Rural Broadband roll-out. It is hoped that Gigaclear, the broadband provider will be publishing its roll-out timetable shortly.**

**The Park & Ride will continue to run on Saturdays until at least the New Year.**

**Cllr Williams (TDBC) advised the meeting that TDBC have carried out an indepth survey into traffic flows in the district and some interesting facts have emerged. 60% of all journeys are for distances less than 5km and that the Toneway carries as much traffic at certain times as the M5. There are 60 sets of traffic lights in the town and surrounding areas.**

**In an effort to improve traffic flow and congestion, certain streets of the town centre will become pedestrianised in the first quarter of 2018 and car parking signs will be installed alerting drivers to what car parks have available spaces.**

**17/37 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**Several parishioners present raised their concerns over Planning Application 47/17/0006, as it is felt that this further application, so soon after a previous application, will lead to over development of the site. Particular concerns were raised at the lack of privacy by neighbouring properties if the installation of dormer windows over the garage is approved.**

**The Council confirmed that it has objected to the installation of dormer windows and that members of the Council would attend the TDBC Planning Committee on 11/10/17 to reinforce its objections.**

**17/38 UPDATE ON A358 CONSULTATION**

The Council has been advised that a supplementary consultation covering the section between West Hatch Lane and the M5 will take place shortly. It is understood that West Hatch Village hall will host a public exhibition, showing two further options for consideration. The Council had no further information at present.

West Hatch Parish Council has agreed to support a request that the original complaint against Highways England and the deficiencies of the earlier consultation be referred to the parliamentary ombudsman for review.

**17/39 CONFIRMATION OF CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT**

The external audit has been completed by Grant Thornton with no additional comments.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been duly displayed.

**17/40 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £272.14
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 47.05

**17/41 PLANNING MATTERS**

**As mentioned in Minute 17/37 (above), The Parish Council has commented on the application below:**

**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)**

**The Council has objected to the installation of the dormer windows on privacy issues and has requested that the height of the boundary wall be reduced to be more in keeping with the surroundings.**

**The Council had no objection to the installation of the canopies.**

**17/42 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader : No report.**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader: No report**

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

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

**17/43 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Invitation to CPRE AGM**

**The AGM of the Somerset Branch of CPRE will take place on Thursday 12th October. It will include an open discussion on the major road building proposals for the county.**

* **Remembrance Service**

**The Chairman agreed to read the names of the West Hatch fallen at the Benefice Remembrance Service. John Dyer will lay the wreath.**

**17/44 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 28th November 2017**

**There will be a meeting of the Finance Working Party on 22/11/17 to discuss the budget for 2018/19**

**The meeting closed at 8.50 pm**