WEST HATCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the West Hatch Parish held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 15th May 2018

**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Public: 9 parishioners, G Midworth (Clerk to the Council)**

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

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

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Chairman gave the following report**

1. Thanks must go to :

Councillors - particularly for the work and time expended on the A358 consulation

David Lodge, Vice Chair – for planning matters
Clerk, Gillian Midworth

Robert Wheatley for the ever improving WH Parish Website & repair of notice boards.

County and District Councillors -John Thorne and John Williams

2. Finance

The Parish Council considered its budget for the forthcoming year. The
budget was set at £2710 which will be funded by a precept of £2563, an
increase of £233 on last year, the balance coming from reserves which, at the beginning of the year, stood at £3143. The majority of the items of
expenditure are expected to be in line with previous years, the budget
includes a figure of £200 to be used to support community initiatives such as funding a defibrillator and erection of road safety measures.

The 10% increase in the precept equates to a monetary increase of less than £2p.a. per Band D property. In setting the precept the Council is conscious that it has remained static for several years despite the reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant over the past three years. It is worth noting that no further Council Tax Support Grant will be paid by TDBC.

3. Principle issues during the year

1. A358 - Responded to the consultation in July 17, with an interim and final letter. Also a joint parishes’ response with 5 other parishes.Following a PC Councillors' meeting with Highways England and a further public meeting with parishioners, we responded strongly supporting the PINK route option.

Await the revised proposal by HE in the autumn following which there will be joint consultations by HE with the interested parties ie parishes. Will keep you informed on progress.

1. Village name plates - The Council has agreed to fund signs for Meare Green Lane.
2. Defibrillator - Following discussions with the Farmers Arms it is intended to
install a village defibrillator at the Farmers - funding to be agreed at the WHPC meeting following this meeting.
3. Planning matters- The usual steady trickle of uncontentious planning
applications have been dealt with. The only exception being Meare Green House where the approved application has not been strictly adhered to - this has been raised with the Planning Authorities who we understand will carry out a further inspection.

The only other point to note is that we raised concerns with TDBC about the manner in which parishioners and the Parish Council's views on planning applications were treated by the Planning Committee particularly concerning treatment when attending in person. Our TDBC Councillor John Williams has taken this up on our behalf.

 We hope for an improvement in attitude.

1. Citizenship Award -Just remains for me to congratulate, on your behalf, Vera Cottey-Williams for her very much deserved TDBC Citizenship Award that was presented to her on the 25th April 18.

That concludes my Report.

**MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS**

**Disappointment was expressed that the Parish Council had discontinued its membership of the Somerset wildlife Trust and the Parish Council was asked to reconsider the decision.**

**This issued was discussed by the Parish Council at the meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting at which it was agreed to rejoin.**

**The Parish Councillors were thanked by a parishioner for all the time and energy that Councillors had put into the response to the A358 consultation.**

**The Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the Meare Green area will be stepping down and a replacement will be required.**

**TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE VILLAGE HALL**

**The latest accounts for the Village Hall were presented to the meeting. The accounts show income from lettings of £1524, and general expenses of £1112. The reserves stand at £5757**

**Maintenance work carried out in the previous year included the installation of new heating.**

**The meeting closed at 7.15pm**