WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 27th November 2018

**18/53 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**Public: J Williams (TDBC) One member of the public**

**Apologies: Cllrs Biccard, Bray. Cllr Thorne (SCC)**

**18/54 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interests**

**18/55 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 25th September 2018, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**18/56 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUT/ES**

* **Meare Green Name Plate – update (18/30)**

**TDBC has responded to the Council’s request to move the sign. The total cost to move the sign would be in excess of £300 as a site visit is needed and investigations carried out to check the new location for underground cables etc.**

**The sign is positioned 450mm from the verge which complies with safety standards and the location of the plate is deemed to be suitable.**

**The Parish Council is unwilling to use its reserves to move the sign and will in the first instance check that the size of the sign is in accordance with the original plans.**

* **Somerset West and Taunton Council – Result of consultation on proposed boundary changes (18/35)**

**The result of the ward consultation for the new Somerset West and Taunton Council confirms that West Hatch will form part of the new Hatch and Blackdown ward.**

* **Reimbursement for Noticeboard (18/44)**

**It was agreed that the Council would reimburse Mr Wheatley with the sum of £250 to cover the costs of repairing the Noticeboard. Mr Wheatley will arrange for the Council’s name to be placed on the header at no additional cost to the Council.**

* **Fingerpost Restoration Project (18/46)**

**A call for volunteers has resulted in one parishioner coming forward to help.**

**As a first step, volunteers will need to attend a training course but SCC has no plans to run further courses this financial year.**

**The Clerk and Cllr Biccard are investigating what grant monies may be available to finance the project.**

**18/57 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**The Council has received correspondence from a parishioner expressing concerns at the speed of traffic travelling along Village Road to and fro the A358. Whilst riding, the parishioner has experienced problems on the blind bend near Meare Green and has suggested that ‘Slow signs’ together with raised lines on the road would help to alert drivers to possible hazards.**

**The parishioner has also brought the matter to the County Councillor’s attention but apparently for ‘Horse’ warning signs, there needs to be a minimum of 12 horses per day using the road and at least 300 vehicles.**

**18/58 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**As the County Councillor was not present, his report had been circulated earlier to the Councillors.**

**The District Councillor reported that there will be a delay of approx. 18 months on the original contract for Phase 2 Braodband roll-out. It is hoped that a further 20,000 properties will be connected by 2020, and the remaining 30,000 properties by 2022.**

**It is likely that the preferred route of the A358 improvements will be announced by the end of December.**

**TDBC is carrying out renovations to Deane House which will release more space. The Police Station will be moving there in early 2019.**

**18/59 TO AGREE BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENT FOR 2019/20**

**The Parish Council discussed its budget for 2019/20. Total expenditure is estimated at £2710 which includes an allowance of £100 for uncontested Parish election costs.**

**It was agreed to increase the precept by 3% to meet this expenditure and the precept for 2019/20 will be £2640.**

**18/60 TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF BURIAL GROUND GRANT**

**The Clerk confirmed that the grant of £210 had been received from TDBC and would be passed onto West Hatch PCC as a contribution towards maintenance of the churchyard.**

**18/61 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £277.57
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 46.30
3. West Hatch PCC £210.00
4. Royal British Legion £ 20.00
5. R Wheatley £250.00

**18/62 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Planning Application 14/18/0006 - Meare Green House**

**This is still at appeal. The Planning Inspectorate has visited the site and a decision will be made shortly.**

**47/18/0013 / Erection of extensions at Stockton Cottage to form single dwelling with Ivy Cottage, Bickenhall Lane, West Hatch.**

**This was approved by the Planning Committee of TDBC.**

**47/18/0014/CQ The Barn at Meare Green**

**An application for change of use from agricultural use to residential use had been submitted but was later withdrawn by the applicant.**

**18/63 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader: No report owing to the absence of the Footpaths Leader.**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader: No new issues to report.**

**Report on Highway matters: John Horsey has agreed to clear the ditch at the bottom of West Hatch Lane to prevent flooding of the road.**

**Report from SALC representative: The AGM of SALC will take place on 18/12/2018.**

**18/64 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **Parish Paths Consultation**

**SCC is undertaking a review of Footpaths and Rights of Way, in particular the path categories and vegetation clearance schedule. The Council has been requested to confirm the category of each path within the Parish and respond by 31/01/2018**

* **Libraries Service Redesign decision**

**Following the recent Libraries Service Redesign exercise, the two local libraries- Taunton and Ilminster will remain open.**

**However, due to low usage, the mobile library will no longer stop at Slough Green. The mobile library will continue to stop at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall every four weeks.**

* **Police Staff Update**

**The Police Force is looking to increase the visibility and engagement of local PCSOs within the community and they will in future contact the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator every 2 months to share information and answer queries about local policing issues.**

**The PCSOs for West Hatch are:**

**PCSO 8412 Claire Escott – Tel No 07889 655313**

**PCSO 7625 David Rowe – Tel No 07889 655175**

**Reports of crime or suspicious activity should be reported by calling 101**

**18/65 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 29th January 2019.**

**The meeting closed at 9.05 pm**