WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 29th January 2019

**18/66 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**Public: J Thorne (SCC) One member of the public**

**Apologies: Cllrs, Bray, Harrison-Sleap, Cllr Williams (TDBC)**

**18/67 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interests**

**18/68 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 27th November 2018, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**18/69 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

**Following TDBC’s response with regard to the measurements of the sign which complies with the safety standards, Cllr Bray has carried out further measurements. Whilst the metal posts holding the sign are 450mm from the road, the edge of the sign is only 100mm from the road.**

**The sign has since been further damaged and the Clerk has written again to TDBC with the new measurements. A response is still awaited.**

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

**The Clerk is still waiting to hear from SCC with regards to arranging a training event as until some volunteers are trained, there is little that can be done.**

* **Defibrillator**

**Following the purchase of the defibrillator, it has been decided that it should be placed on an outside wall of the Farmers Arms. A suitable box will be needed at a cost of approx. £500. The landlord will be prepared to contribute £250 towards the cost and It was agreed that the Parish Council would cover the remainder.**

**Once the defibrillator is installed, the Council will arrange for the equipment to be registered with The South West Ambulance Trust and arrange suitable publicity advertising the facility.**

**18/70 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**A parishioner reported that the Meare Green Lane name plate has been severely damaged and the lettering has been ripped off. The Clerk will report this to TDBC who are responsible for street name plates.**

**18/71 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**The County Councillor’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting.**

**Points of interest were:**

* **Junction 25 improvements – A contractor has been appointed and work is due to start in March.**
* Highways capital grant – SCC has received a £9.98 million highways grant as a result of the Budget. It can only be spent on capital projects and has to be used before the end of the financial year. In addition, a further sum has been received for pot hole repairs.
* Winter road gritting – A review will be held in May/June time to learn any lessons from this winter in time to implement them for the 2019-20 winter season. The review will also consider whether Parish Councils will be allowed to fund their own gritting.

**There was no report from the District Councillor who was unable to attend due to illness.**

**18/72 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £277.57
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 12.65
3. West Hatch Village Hall £ 67.92

**18/73 PLANNING MATTERS**

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

**The Planning Inspectorate has upheld the appeal and therefore the conditions set by TDBC have been removed. As a result, there is no requirement for obscured glass to be used in the garage window and the restrictions on the use of the garage no longer apply.**

**The Parish Council expressed its disappointment at the decision.**

**18/74 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: There are several large pot holes on Church Lane. Damage caused by badger excavation on Higher West Hatch Lane has been reported to Highways but no action has yet been taken.**

**The Clerk will write to Highways requesting that a general survey of the Parish is carried out so that defects can be identified and remedied.**

**Report from SALC representative: Nothing to report**

**18/75 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **2019 Taunton Deane Citizenship Awards**

**The Council has been invited to submit nominations for the Taunton Deane Citizenship Awards. The Council submitted a successful nomination last year but is unable to identify a suitable candidate for nomination this year.**

* **To consider request to support Somerset Wood**

**To commemorate the county’s fallen of World War 1, TDBC and SCC are creating a Somerset Wood and will plant 11281 trees which matches the number of Somerset men and women killed in the First World War. The wood will cover 23 acres and will provide a haven of tranquillity and peace for people, flora and fauna.**

**The initial costs of planting the trees has been covered but financial support is required for the future ongoing maintenance of the wood. It has been suggested that each parish contribute £25 per tree for every loss in the Parish.**

**It was agreed that the Council will consider this request at a future meeting once any future financial commitment has been established.**

* **Delay in announcement of A358 Preferred Route Option**

**Highways England has postponed the announcement of its preferred route until the Spring.**

**18/76 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 26th March 2019.**

**The meeting closed at 8.35 pm**