WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th January 2020

**19/60 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**Apologies: Cllr Henley (SWaT), Cllrs Bray, Knight**

**Public: Mr Douglas Kerr, Cllr Thorne (SCC)**

**19/61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**There were no declarations of interests**

**19/62 TO CO-OPT MR DOUGLAS KERR TO THE COUNCIL**

**It was resolved unanimously to co-opt Mr Douglas Kerr to the Council.**

**19/63 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 26th November 2019, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**19/64 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

* **Damage to Meare Green Name Plate (19/53)**

**SWaT has confirmed that the Council will be responsible for the costs of re-erecting the sign, which will be in the region of £120 provided the existing sign and poles can be used. Cllr Bray has offered the services of her son to straighten the sign. The Clerk has written again requesting a meeting to discuss relocating the sign.**

* **VE Day Celebrations (19/58)**

**A planning meeting to discuss the event is arranged and parishioners have been invited to attend. Any request to the Parish Council for a contribution towards the event will be considered at a future date.**

* **Memorial to Dougal Clark (19/58)**

**The PCC has given permission for the tree to be planted in St Andrews Field and a Service tree is currently being sourced so that it can be planted in this year’s planting season.**

**19/65 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**There were no issues raised.**

**19/66 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**The County Councillor submitted his report:**

**The main points included:**

**One Somerset - the announcement that SCC wish to pursue the possibility of an unitary authority in Somerset. This issue was discussed and concerns were raised regarding the ability of the County Council and District Authorities to successfully implement such a project.**

**Connecting Devon and Somerset – As a new contractor may not be announced until Deceember 2020, many parishes are investigating their own schemes. The County Councillor will be producing a paper outlining the alternatives which will be available to Councils in due course.**

**Improving Lives Grant scheme – West Hatch Scout Group has been awarded a grant of £1000 towards the renovation costs of the Chapel at Slough Green.**

**The District Councillor was not present.**

**19/67 REPORT ON MEETING WITH NEIGHBOURING PARISHES CONCERNING THE A358 IMPROVEMENTS.**

**Two members attended the meeting held at Hatch Beauchamp to discuss the A358 improvements and the issues concerning local connectivity. The idea is that the neighbouring parishes reach a consensus so that all local parishes speak with ‘one voice’ in future representations with Highways England.**

**As a result of this meeting it was agreed that West Hatch PC would support the view of Hatch Beauchamp PC that there is no benefit in dualling the section of the A358 from Thornfalcon to Southfield roundabout and that an informal meeting would be arranged with Neroche PC and Hatch Beauchamp PC to discuss preferred local access points.**

**19/68 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

1. Clerk’s Salary £286.00
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 12.50

**19/69 PLANNING MATTERS**

Two planning applications have been received since the last meeting:

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| 47/20/0001 Erection of single storey extension and construction of dormer window at Abbeywood, West Hatch  47/20/0002 Erection of single storey extension on east elevation, pitched roofs over garage to the west and utility room to the east, erection of fence and gates to front boundary at Briars, Meare Green, West Hatch  The Parish Council will be considering these applications and submitting comments in due course. |
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**19/70 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Footpath Leader –** Mr Kerr agreed to become the Footpath Leader and Parish Path Liasion Officer.

**Trees and Conservation –** No new issues to report

**Highways –** As a result of excessive rain this winter, there have been issues with excess mud on the roads. Farmers have a duty to ensure that as much mud as possible is removed and if this is not the case, the matter should be reported to the police, although those responsible would need to be identified.

The damage caused by badger activity on the road leading to Slough Green has worsened and will be reported to Highways again.

**SALC –** Nothing to report

**19/71 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OR REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

* **2020 Taunton Deane Citizenship Award**

**The closing date for nominations is the 12/05/20.**

**19/72 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 31st March 2020 at 7.30pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm**