WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall Tuesday 26th July 2022

The meeting commenced with a period of silence to reflect upon the death of John Dyer, previously Chairman of the Parish Council.

**22/26 Attendance and apologies**

**Councillors: Read,, Kerr, Knight, Middleton and Walters**

**Public: Two parishioners**

**Apologies: Cllr Harrison-Sleap**

It was resolved that the absence of this Councillor be recognised as approved absences for the purposes of s.185 Local Government Act 1972.

**22/27 To co-opt Mr L Finlayson to the Council**

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Finlayson to the Council. He completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests.

**22/28 Declarations of Interest**

**There were no declarations of interest made in relation to the items to be discussed**

**22/29 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12th May 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**22/30 Matters arising from the minutes**

* **Update on meeting with Rebecca Pow (21/82)**

The Chairman held an online meeting with Rebecca Pow, and representatives from Highways England. Rebecca Pow has met with the Secretary of State for Transport and will be writing to the Council and to the Community of Parishes setting out the reasons why the A358 need to be at expressway standards and other issues raised at the meeting.

* **Update on meetings with local Parishes to discuss formation of Local Community Networks**

A further meeting with interested parishes has been arranged in August and Sara Skirton, the lead for LCNs, will be attending, together with the District and County Councillors, Ross Henley and Sarah Wakefield. Beercrocombe PC, Curry Mallet PC, Hatch Beauchamp PC, Neroche PC, and Stoke St Mary PC, Pitminster PC and Corfe PC have confirmed their interest.

**22/31 Parishioners Forum**

A parishioner raised the issue of the Parish website as they did not consider it to be very user friendly. The Village Hall committee are keen to make more use of the site to publicise events and it was suggested that a working party should be established to review the website and consider ways in which it could be improved.

**22/32 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor**

Unfortunately, the County Councillor and District Councillor was unable to be present and no report had been submitted.

**22/33 To adopt new Code of Conduct**

A new model Code of Conduct has been developed by The Local Government Association which is appropriate for all tiers of Local Government.

The Council unanimously agreed to adopt the new Code which will replace the Code of Conduct adopted in July 2012.

**22/34 A358 Consultation - Parish Council’s response**

The response from West Hatch Parish Council has been submitted and is available to view on the Parish website.

The next step will be the application to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO), and the Community of Parishes (COP)will be working together to develop a joint submission to the Planning Inspectorate. Parish Councils in the Sparkford area have experience in this area with regards to the Sparkford dualling and have agreed to meet with the COP to discuss strategy.

**22/35 Formal Expenditure Approval**

It was resolved to make the following payment:

1. Clerk’s Salary £299.00
2. Clerk’s Expenses £ 8.06
3. Village Hall - grant for toys £184.77

**22/36 Planning – to consider any planning matters arising**

One new planning application has been received - 47/22/004 - Erection of extension at Fairacre, West Hatch and a meeting will be held on site to discuss the application.

**22/37 Reports of Parish Council Working Parties**

* 1. Report from Footpath leader – The issue on Footpath T31/26 still remains outstanding and one solution would be to divert the footpath through St Andrews Field. This would require the permission of the PCC and the landowners would be responsible for the costs of doing this.
  2. Report from Trees/Conservation leader – Nothing to report.

Report on Highway matters – Following the resurfacing of the A358, there is confusion as to whether the road markings have been satisfactorily reinstated. The Clerk will contact Highways to express the concern that may drivers feel unsafe when making a right turn into West Hatch Lane.

* 1. Report from SALC representative – The Clerk will forward details of the latest training courses available to Councillors.

**22/38 Correspondence and matters of report.**

* **Notification of new Airband Community Liaison Officer**

Airband has appointed a new Community Liaison Officer and it was agreed to invite him to the September Council Meeting.

* **Slough Green Noticeboard**

A new backing is available and the existing Noticeboard will be repaired shortly.

* **Village Hall accounts**

These are available and will be presented to the Council at the next meeting.

**22/39 To agree date of next meeting**

To enable as many Councillors as possible to attend meetings, it was agreed that in future, meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of every other month.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th September.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm