

**DRAFT MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**  
**at THE EMN HALL – 8.00 pm**

Correspondence and other documents were available from 7.00 pm for Councillors to read prior to the Annual Parish meeting.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Marilyn Crothers, Oliver Reynolds, Iain Mackie, Liz Scott, Nick Mahlich, WSCllr Martin Dewdney and Mary Coles (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 16 residents were present.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** No declarations of interest were made at the commencement of the meeting.

Mary Coles (Clerk) presided until the Chairman was elected.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Ben Lintott and Robin Wichard, SCCLlr Christine Lawrence.

2. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Chairman:** Cllr Reynolds proposed that Cllr Crothers be re-elected, seconded by Cllr Scott – carried unanimously.

**Vice-Chairman:** In the absence of Cllr Lintott (the previous vice-chair) it was decided to leave the position open until the next meeting.

**Other Committee responsibilities:**

**Highways** – Cllr Mahlich

**Planning** - Cllrs Lintott, Reynolds and Crothers

**Footpaths** – Cllr Wichard

3. **The Acceptance of Office form** was signed by the Chairman - Cllr Crothers.

4. **MINUTES** of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> February, having previously been circulated, were agreed with one amendment made by Cllr Crothers:

Item 9.2 para 1 – this should read “where the drain cover had been covered by earth and weeds”.

The minutes were then signed as a correct record.

5. **REVIEW**

**Subscription to SALC:** The Clerk asked if councillors wanted to continue subscribing to the Somerset Association of Local Councils. She had not received an invoice to date but it was imminent. The previous year it had been £48.35 and should be a similar amount for 17-18. It was agreed that it was a useful organisation for help and information therefore membership should continue unless there was a large increase in cost.

**Yearly donation:** Cllr Reynolds proposed that £50 be donated to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, seconded by Cllr Mahlich – carried unanimously.

6. **SUMMARY REPORTS – APRIL 2016-MARCH 2017**

**Chairman’s Report (MC)**

**Exmoor National Park/Parish Forum**

Meetings attended during the year. The adoption of Airband line of sight provision for broadband is progressing and gives some hope to poorly served areas.

Preliminary meetings to implement the restoration and upkeep of the cast iron fingerposts throughout the ENP.

Parishes will be encouraged to maintain these historic signposts. Nettlecombe has three such signposts.

The Consultation period for modifications to the ENP Local Plan 2011-2031 has come to a close.

### **Dunster Panel**

Attended meetings of the Panel which has received a report from Magna Housing to explain changes in the management following amalgamation with parts of Dorset.

Reports on the joining of West Somerset Council with Taunton Deane Council have been given to Dunster Panel and the changes in staffing levels have been noted.

The flood prevention schemes which involved so much planning and discussion have not really been put to the test during the last year.

### **Parochial Church Council**

The new Rector for the Quantock Towers Benefice, the Reverend Angela Berners-Wilson was installed on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Pathways, the monthly Benefice Magazine has a new editor, the publication appearance markedly improved.

Long serving churchwarden, Carol Warren, has moved and the two serving churchwardens are Jane Wynne and Lucy Devitt.

Old Cleeve First School has now become part of the West Somerset Academies Trust which covers all West Somerset state schools.

There had been no annual Parish Supper due to major alterations inside Nettlecombe Court.

Nettlecombe Parish precept has remained the same for 2017/18 as last year at £2,300.

The Parish council had a talk by a representative of Frackfree EQS. It was felt that we should have a talk from the pro-fracking lobby – to be arranged.

Fly tipping has continued to be an occasional problem in Nettlecombe with some very intrusive and highly visible incidents which have only been partially resolved.

Cllr Crothers thanked our County councillor Christine Lawrence and District councillor Martin Dewdney who regularly attend the Parish council meetings and give good and helpful advice. Also thanks to the parish councillors for all the work they do on behalf of the Parish of Nettlecombe and Mary Coles, Clerk, for her hard work.

### **6.2 Highways (NM)**

The resurfacing of the section of Slade Lane between Vemplett's Cross and Huish Barton has been completed after many years of complaint and frustration.

The work at Yarde to enhance road drainage has been effective according to local residents, if not yet tested in extremis. Some matters are still ongoing see Item 14.2.

### **6.3 Planning (MC on behalf of BL)**

There have been planning applications involving Fair Cross, Yarde, Torre and Windwhistle Lane. There have also been requests for comment on planning applications in Old Cleeve as a neighbouring parish.

### **6.4 Footpaths (RW)**

In the absence of Cllr Wichard, Cllr Crothers reported that the path diversion order at Yarde had taken place. There had been no major problems with footpaths during the year.

### **6.5 EMN Hall**

The hall at been 'revamped' during the year and as could be seen was in excellent order.

### **7. ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2016-17**

The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting (balance in hand to carry forward = £2431). The Clerk asked if there were any queries relating to them, none were forthcoming. Cllr Reynolds proposed that the accounts for 2016-17 be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Scott and carried unanimously.

### **8. DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS FROM MAY 2017 TO MAY 2018**

The following meeting time and dates were agreed:

Mondays at 8pm 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (AGM).

### **9. POLICE REPORT**

Apologies for absence had been received from Jamie Munro (Avon & Somerset Police). There was no report.

## 10. OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS

Vicky Roe spoke about bees from the Cider Farm that had been a nuisance when walking along the bridleway that ran alongside the Cider Farm. She was reminded by Cllr Crothers that it was difficult to control bees when swarming and it was advisable to call a beekeeper in those instances.

Steve Allonby then voiced his disappointment at councillors for their response to the recent Torre Cider Farm application. There had been a meeting in June with the owners and councillors and it had been hoped there would be a further meeting with residents that had not happened. Cllr Crothers replied that those plans had then been withdrawn before a meeting could take place. The plans had recently been resubmitted and there had been comment sent appropriate to planning. Enforcement was another issue. Cllr Reynolds was aware that a lot of people were afraid of the future possible consequences of granting this application. **WSCllr Dewdney advised that Old Cleeve Parish Council had formally requested call in for this application which meant that it would go to the planning committee. This should also ensure there is not a delegated Officer decision.\*** Steve Allonby said he felt that the residents had been ignored by the Parish Council. Cllr Mackie said that enforcement issues were normally dealt with by the District Council and the Parish was not necessarily the correct conduit to pass on valid objections. Vicky Roe of Linhay Cottage (closest to the Cider Farm) replied that she and others had reported instances of noncompliance of existing licence restrictions but this had not been addressed by WSC. WSCllr Dewdney said he would talk to Steve Darbin.

## 11. MATTERS OF REPORT

### 11.1 Woodford Culvert – Nettlecombe Park Road

Cllr Machlich reported that Highways' engineers proposed to attend to the problems with the culvert under the road at Woodford in August. The date of the works and thus the road closure has been agreed after consultation with Nettlecombe Court. There is not plan to alter the course of the flow, but simply to resolve the scouring issues and repair the bridge parapet

### 11.2 Highway fingerposts

Charlotte Thomas, (ENPA Historic Signposts Project Officer) had given a talk at the Annual Parish Meeting previous to this AGM. The Chairman and Clerk hoped to attend the training on 19<sup>th</sup> May so they could help with the restoration or classification of the posts. Anyone was welcome to help with this venture and could let Charlotte know via email if they were able to be present. Cllr Scott asked if there could be an alteration to the post at Faircross (this was one of the three in Nettlecombe Parish) when it was restored. The finger pointing in the direction of Minehead should point to the A39 not the lane to Torre.

### 11.3 Connecting Devon & Somerset

County Hall's update stated that completion should be between October and November this year. There were no exact figures but WSCllr Dewdney said he would find out for the August meeting. He added that Torre has a good connection but the signal starts to deteriorate for any premises over 400m from a box.

### 11.4 Yarde postbox

Mary Coles had contacted Royal Mail about the postbox but had received no further news she had also spoken to Ros Owen who had heard nothing more either. Cllr Crothers said it was important for the box to be put back in its original position as it was much safer to use than the alternative option. Liz Scott added that the mouth of the box in Yarde used to take larger envelopes than the one in Woodford as well as being much less dangerous to use as far as traffic is concerned. The Clerk to write again.

### 11.5 Proposed New Council

WSCllr Dewdney informed the meeting of the present situation. The submission was sent in April re the amalgamation of West Somerset and Taunton Deane councils. It had been accepted and was with the civil servants to ask questions. We should hear in the Autumn.

### 11.6 Fly tipping

The remains of a bathroom had been tipped within the parish. It was hoped that a possible lowering of charges might encourage people to take things to the tip instead of dumping in the countryside. WSCllr Dewdney said that the present charges were the lowest in the county.

### 11.7 Transparency fund IT grant

The Clerk had been waiting to find out if it would be necessary to claim on this grant to set up a new website. She would now progress with this.

Clive Thorne had been endeavouring to administer the existing one but because the people originally involved were no

longer in the area he had decided to start again. There was a website domain fee of £33.

**12. ANNUAL RETURN AND INTERMEDIATE REVIEW OF AUDIT 16-17**

Mary Coles had received an intermediate assertion from Grant Thornton (external auditors) that needed consideration and return to the auditors. It was agreed that there were no events that had occurred during the financial year (or after the year-end) to have consequences, or potential consequences, on the authority's finances. The annual governance statement was approved.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

Torre residents' correspondence had been circulated and discussed previously see Item 10.

A letter had been received from the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset - Somerset Remembers (2018 marks the centenary of the end of the first World War). It suggested that the County should hold a commemorative event to mark the enormous contribution of the people of Somerset, at home and abroad, during what was then known as the Great War. There would be a County event in Wells on the evening of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**14. REPORTS**

**14.1 Chairman's Report (MC)**

This had been covered in Item 6.

**14.2 Highways**

Cllr Mahlich reported that Highways had suggested that they will be doing work this year to improve access to the inspection chamber in the storm water culver at Beggearnhuish. They also intend to do a refinement to the recent work on the culvert under Clitsome Lane, and some further work to road gullies on Slade Lane. Potholes are being repaired as reported but only with any urgency if the exceed 100mm in depth.

**14.3 Planning**

6/24/17/101 Windwhistle Barn, Windwhistle Lane – approved subject to 12 conditions.

6/24/17/102 Highcroft, Fair Cross, Washford – this had been approved.

Resubmission of 3/24/16/001 Torre Cider Farm – now subject to full council scrutiny.

3/26/14/012 The White Horse Inn, Hungerford (Old Cleeve) discussed as neighbouring parish. Recommendation the application be refused and that compliance with the approved scheme be enforced. Now subject to enforcement and with the officer at WSC.

**14.4 Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

**14.5 EMN Hall**

see Item 6.5

**14.6 Finance**

The clerk's salary £840 17-18 paid in four three monthly blocks. This was proposed by Cllr Reynolds, seconded Cllr Scott and carried unanimously.

Donation to chosen charity Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance £50 to be donated as agreed in Item 5.

£33 to Clive Thorne for payment to Fasthosts for website hosting - payment agreed

Rental to EMN Hall for year Aug 16 – May 17 inc this meeting (approx £36 total) - payment agreed

**15. FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION**

Nettlecombe Fete to be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May either at Huish Barton or Nettlecombe Court. The decision to be made a week beforehand.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 8pm at the EMN Hall, Monksilver.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chair .....

Date .....

\* Correction from original sent out to councillors on 2<sup>nd</sup> June - advised by Martin Dewdney and Oliver Reynolds.