

**MINUTES of the MEETING OF NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2014**  
**at THE EMN HALL – 8.00 pm**

Correspondence and other documents were available from 7.45 pm for Councillors to read prior to the meeting.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Ben Lintott (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Scott, Oliver Reynolds, Robin Wichard, SCllr Christine Lawrence, Mary Coles (Clerk).

Cllr Lintott took the Chair in Cllr Crothers' absence.

Robin Wichard was welcomed onto the Parish Council. He had been co-opted at the previous meeting but unable to attend.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** No residents were present.

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** No declaration of interests were made.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Marilyn Crothers, Nick Mahlich and Anna Thomas, Peter Bolton (PCSO), John Green, WSCllr Martin Dewdney.
2. **Police Report** – there was no police report. Apologies had been received from PCSO Peter Bolton. It was observed that there were various strange vehicles about which necessitated vigilance from residents.
3. **OPEN FORUM**  
There were no residents in attendance.
4. **MINUTES** of the AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> May, having previously been circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record apart from an amendment to Item 8 – Flood Prevention this should read “Cllr Mahlich reported .....” not Cllr Reynolds.
5. **MATTERS of REPORT from the previous meeting**
  - 5.1 **Broadband**  
A new website has been opened with more updated information, emails would be sent out with the link. Cllr Lintott commented that his broadband was extremely variable depending on the time of the day.
  - 5.2 **Dunster Panel**  
Cllr Crothers was unable to be present at the meeting. She had mentioned to the Clerk that there had been very little information of interest to Nettlecombe at the Dunster Panel meeting.
  - 5.3 **Width restriction signs for Woodadvent road from Vempletts Cross/Sticklepath**  
Cllr Mahlich was not present at the meeting and the Clerk did not know if he had spoken to Highways about the signs. SCllr Lawrence offered to pass the information on to the Highways Department. The siting of the road signs were given – on the B3190 at the entrance to the lane signposted Roadwater (opposite the Grove leading down to Nettlecombe) and at Vempletts Cross.
  - 5.4 **Flood works at Woodford and Yarde (see item 7)**
6. **CORRESPONDENCE**
  - 6.1 **SALC new draft regulations 2014**  
These had been circulated via email on 23/7/14.

**6.2 Planning Application for Mast at Golsoncott – circulated 6/7/14 (see Planning – Item 10)**

**6.3 West Somerset Flood Group Report (circulated 7/8/14)**

The Clerk had circulated the definitive Flood Group Report via email. She had a hard copy version if anyone wished to borrow it. Members may have noticed that the photograph on the back of the document was of the hanging gate at Woodford that had been erected in the latest flood works.

**6.4 Information for dog walkers (circulated via email 18/7/14)**

The information had been sent by The Somerset Access Forum and advised about Neospora and ways to combat the spread of this by educating the public. It stated that: *“Neospora abortion is now the most commonly diagnosed cause of abortion in cattle and is a serious concern for UK farmers. It can be caused by cattle ingesting the protozoan parasite **Neospora caninum** which may be carried by dogs and excreted in their faeces.”*

Cllr Scott commented that dogs were a dreadful problem on her fields. She asked the Clerk to find out how to obtain notices that she could put up for dog owners. Cllr Reynolds added that there were often problems with many dogs rather than single dogs. If owners wormed their dogs regularly this would help reduce the spread of disease. Cllr Wichard said there had been a complaint to the police about dog faeces being thrown on local fields.

**6.5 Traffic Concerns at Fair Cross**

A letter from Alex Moran of Highcroft had been passed, via the Clerk, to Nick Mahlich with reference to the speed problems on the B3190 at the egress from the private drive of the bungalows at Fair Cross. A recent accident had rekindled concern about the danger at this point. Apparently Mr Moran had discussed this with Mr Titcombe of the Highways Department, without any solution. The residents’ request for a speed limit at the junction of the B3190/B3188 (which would include the private driveway) was turned down and a further suggestion for a ‘Concealed Entrance’ sign was received with the comment that Somerset County Council did not erect such signs and the residents could not erect their own as it was against council regulations. Cllr Mahlich then met with Mr Moran regarding his concerns. He offered to speak to Gerald Coles to see if it would be possible to site a convex mirror next to his gateway at Fair Cross which would be helpful when driving out from the bungalows. Cllr Reynolds observed that vegetation growth had been particularly prolific this year and linked with the lack of regular maintenance it was causing visibility problems. Cllr Lintott questioned the need to cross the white line at this point. Cllr Reynolds added that it was not a square junction and drivers on the main road had to drive round a slight bend with poor visibility from the right sometimes necessitating crossing the white line. As Cllr Mahlich was not present it was assumed that this dialogue was continuing.

**7. FLOOD PREVENTION – FUTURE MAINTENANCE WORK AT WOODFORD AND YARDE (ONGOING)**

Woodford residents had been pleased with the results of the flood work undertaken at the end of 2013/beginning of 2014.

A discussion took place about the mill leat behind Woodford Cottages and its continuation beyond towards Yarde. Cllr Wichard advised that there was a holding pond opposite The Old Rectory which needed digging out. The Environment Agency was possibly responsible for this and it could, usefully, be put back into service. Phil Wickens had cleared the ditch down to the river about two years ago. A section under the road bridge and garage was in need of clearing and maybe someone should be asked to look at the possibilities, Phil Wickens was suggested. One of the problems with the removal of the silt etc is that it is classified as ‘Contaminated Waste’ so cannot be dumped and spread on the fields. If it was decided to work on the leat it would be necessary to write to residents informing of the Council’s intention.

**8. REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS**

In the absence of Cllr Crothers it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. The draft revised Standing Orders would be sent to councillors before the next meeting in November.

**9. FIELD ON THE MINERAL LINE OPPOSITE CRYSTAL GLEN**

The Clerk had been contacted by Paul Richards, Old Cleeve Parish Councillor, and other residents of the Mineral Line and Roadwater about the recent problem with the dumping of rubble and removal of shrubs etc alongside the field abutting the Mineral Line opposite Crystal Glen. This field is owned by Bridget Gilpin of Washford who

had given no warning to her neighbours that work would be going on opposite their home. There was also concern that maybe planning permission might be required for this. Mary Coles told members that she had contacted the Exmoor National Park Authority to query the situation. She was awaiting their reply. Since then Mrs Asbridge had spoken with Cllr Crothers and then with Bridget Gilpin. Ms Gilpin gave an assurance that:

- Only two ponies were to be resident in the field (not a possible 6)
- The hardcore that had been 'laid' was to accommodate a water tank on wheels for sheep (not for stabling)
- The hedges would be made good in the autumn
- The public footpath would be fenced on one side so that walkers and any accompanying dogs were separated from the horses.

Mrs Asbridge had asked the Clerk if she would write to Ms Gilpin, on behalf of Nettlecombe Parish Council, and request a written assurance that the above would be adhered to. Mary Coles requested permission from members for this and it was agreed. Cllr Reynolds added that he hoped the matter would soon be .

## **10. REPORTS**

### **10.1 Chairman (MC)**

**Dunster Panel** – (see item 5.2)

### **10.2 Highways (NM)**

There was no report from Cllr Mahlich who was unable to attend the meeting.

### **10.3 Planning Applications (BL)**

Cllr Lintott reported the following planning application and decision.

6/26/14/106 (ENPA) Mast at Golsoncott (adj Parish) The scheme will involve the development of a shared electronic communication base station comprising a 20m lattice mast, six antennas and other equipment. Cllr Reynolds was very strongly in favour of the siting and installation of this proposed government funded mast which would improve reception over an area including Beggearn Huish. He had already voiced his individual opinion at a meeting in Roadwater. Members agreed with Cllr Reynolds observation. There is to be a meeting at Exmoor House, Dulverton at 2pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September for any final representation to be made.

3/24/14/002 (WSC) Porch enclosure at Lower Berrymans, Beggearn Huish – approved.

Land at Aller Farm, East of Woodford – this had gone to appeal and the inspector was going to look at the site next week.

### **10.4 EMN Hall (AT)**

In the absence of Cllr Thomas the Clerk had circulated the EMN Hall report via email on 13/8/14. The main fundraising event was the tabletop sale to be held in Minehead on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### **10.5 Footpaths**

John Green was not present at the meeting. Cllr Lintott informed members that the footpath signs had been removed as requested previously.

The responsibility for footpath clearing was with the ENPA (Park area) and SCC (non-park area).

ENPA - Adam Vasey was no longer the Ranger for Nettlecombe Area, they would be informed of the new ranger shortly.

SCC – Glen Martin was the contact.

Cllr Wichard reported that the footpath opposite The Mill House following along the lower end of the top field was permanently overgrown. Fly tipping was a problem to be aware of in the area and any instances discovered contact him.

### **10.6 Finance (Mary Coles, Clerk)**

The Clerk reported that the accounts had been successfully audited by Grant Thornton and returned with no queries.

Clerk's salary already agreed - £70 per month.

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

SCCllr Christine Lawrence handed out Forum 21 notices to be displayed on the Council noticeboards. She also gave the Clerk some Health and Wellbeing Budget Scheme Application forms 2014-15 for anyone who wished to apply for this grant.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 8 pm at the ENM Hall, Monksilver.

The Vice-Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chair .....

Date .....