

**DRAFT MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017**  
**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.

Izzy Sylvester, recently appointed Village Agent, introduced herself to the meeting. She gave an interesting talk on her role within the community explaining that she was available to help liaise in many difficult situations between the agencies (police, social care, councils etc) and residents, particularly the vulnerable of all ages. Despite multiple cutbacks there was funding to help people with mental health issues and other problems to get back into the job market. She would welcome assistance identifying people who required her expertise, often those who were reluctant to request this for themselves. She then gave out her contact information for circulation and display locally, concluding that all her work was undertaken in strict confidence

The Chairman then thanked Izzy for her useful and informative talk.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Marilyn Crothers, Oliver Reynolds, Iain Mackie, Liz Scott, Nick Mahlich, Robin Wichard  
WSCllrs Martin Dewdney, Richard Lillis and Mary Coles (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** PC Sue Thompson and four residents were present: Anna Thomas, Michael Ralph, Steve and Andrea Allonby.

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Ben Lintott, SCCllr Christine Lawrence.

2. **MINUTES** of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> May, having previously been circulated, were agreed.  
The minutes were then signed as a correct record.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

Sue Thompson reported the increase in thefts from parked vehicles, particularly in beauty spots eg Staple Plain, Kilve Beach. These were police patrolled by a covert camera car on a regular basis where possible.

There had also been a spike in burglaries from outhouses and sheds. Sue emphasised that owners should ensure they installed security lighting, marked their property and kept these buildings securely locked.

General crime was on the increase aided by the reduction of frontline officers to deal with the offences.

There had been no current anti-social problems, hotspots were patrolled.

There had been a call-out at Kilve very recently regarding traders tarmacking drives. They looked extremely professional with vehicles and men liveried in similar fashion to highway workers. If encountered to contact police immediately.

Cllr Crothers thanked Sue for her time in attending the evening's meeting and for her and her colleagues work within the community.

4. **WEST SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Proposed new Council** - Cllr Martin Dewdney reported that the decision would be made mid-September as mentioned at the previous meeting. There was a joint IT project for Taunton Deane and West Somerset councillors to work from home in future. The contractors were going to demonstrate to them how this would work. Increased working would be done home-based generally.

**Council budget** had been balanced for this year (17/18). Now working on the new one.

**Airband masts** for superfast broadband provision in rural areas (Connecting Devon and Somerset) – this project should be completed successfully by the end of October. Coverage would be 95% in Exmoor National Park compared to 80% Coastal. Cllr Wichard reiterated the problem that people in Yarde had encountered with BT re broadband. They had been caught between initiatives and none were helpful to them and unfortunately they were not eligible for an Airband mast. The Ombudsman had been involved in this matter.

**Recycling upgrade** not yet operational.

5. **OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS**

Anna Thomas spoke about her discomfort at being the subject of antagonistic comments with reference to the recent roadworks at Nettlecombe Park Road being attributed to her complaints to SCC re flooding etc. She was aware discussion had taken place about the problem around the bridge and culvert area at Parish Council level for some time.

Cllr Crothers added that this had been recorded in the minutes then posted on the noticeboard at Woodford and on the Nettlecombe website for parishioners to read.

There had possibly been an initial lack of communication with the residents of Woodford from the Assistant Structures engineer at SCC about these works and in retrospect a letter to individuals may have helped.

Cllr Reynolds stated the discussions about Woodford Culvert had started in 2012 (see minutes). He had kept the bridge area clear wherever possible and the Parish Council had tried to do something about the culvert but it was beyond their remit (Environment Agency quoted 'riparian rights' therefore landowners' responsibility). It was still unresolved and had been an ongoing problem.

Michael Ralph said he had spoken to Anthony Lee, Assistant Structures Engineer at SCC. An informal plan by Steve Webster (SCC) in 12/13 for a new larger culvert had been mentioned and it was suggested Michael should speak to the Parish Council. He had then been directed to Teresa Bridgeman of the West Somerset Flood Group and she had commented that a flood attenuation pond might help. He said everyone was going round in circles on this matter and with increasing rainfall in winter the EA needed to come up with a scheme.

Cllr Reynolds said that the bridge needed sorting out, he didn't think a pond would help because of the run-off. Michael added that a natural pond formed anyway.

Immediate maintenance assistance would be to clear the overflow channel of foliage etc which Simon Passmore had done for the past two years for the Parish Council. Growth had been particularly vigorous this year. The Clerk to request Simon to undertake this work.

The Clerk was also requested to contact Christine Lawrence, with a copy to David Peake, requesting clarification of the work at Nettlecombe Park Road.

## **6. MATTERS OF REPORT**

### **6.1 Woodford Culvert – Nettlecombe Park Road**

See discussion in item 5. An addition was the necessity for landowners along the leat to keep the leat and ditches cleaned and cleared regularly to avoid future flooding.

### **6.2 Highway fingerposts**

Cllr Crothers had gone to the study day at Dulverton run by ENP. The requirement was for one or two people within the Parish to take responsibility for each signpost. Some of the fingerposts were missing on the signs:

The Grove – one missing for Roadwater sign needs digging out.

Yarde – similar

Fair Cross – fingerpost needs changing re direction to Minehead, should point towards Washford Cross. Suggested paint over Minehead in white – contact Jo Sharp (Highways) to find out if this was permissible.

Cllr Wichard offered to accept responsibility for the Yarde signpost. Cllr Crothers impressed that whenever work took place high viz jackets must be worn and H&S precautions be observed.

### **6.3 Connecting Devon & Somerset**

See Cllr Dewdney's comments in item 4.

### **6.4 Yarde postbox**

The Clerk to persevere with this matter as no reply been received to date.

### **6.5 Proposed New Council**

See Item 4.

### **6.6 Fly tipping**

Cllr Mahlich observed that plasterboard was a big problem, registration to tip such materials needed internet access, not available easily to everyone. Unscrupulous people then dumped items in gateways. Asbestos was a tricky material and required identifying. WSCllr Dewdney said there had been no change in procedure.

### **6.7 Torre – Nettlecombe Parish noticeboard steps**

Thanks were extended to Cllr Reynolds who had dug out the steps so they were accessible again.

### **6.8 Insurance 17-18**

Insurance for 17-18 with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £167.44 – as agreed online. Documents circulated and compared with Came & Company (£280 quotation).

## 6.9 Annual Return and Intermediate Review 16-17 to auditors Grant Thornton

The Clerk had sent the documentation to the auditors duly signed and agreed at the previous meeting.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

**SID Information** for Nettlecombe Parish 26<sup>th</sup> June -10<sup>th</sup> July had been circulated. It was noted that the median speed had been calculated at 29 mph. A car had been parked continually on the B3188 at Yarde, this may have caused a slowing of traffic but it was in a dangerous position. Cllr Wichard was to investigate as to the owner of the car.

**Problem with traffic along Torre Rocks road** – an email had been received from Steve Allonby, who was present at the meeting and requested that it be noted, regarding the setting up of a Community Speed Watch along this stretch of road. He had been referred to the Parish Council although not their brief as explained to him. The Clerk was to contact Dave Grabham who deals with SID for his comments and would then report back.

There had also been an email from Mr Allonby about **casual vacancies on the Parish Council**. The Clerk had replied that there were no vacancies at present but there will be Parish Council elections next May and anyone was welcome to stand.

**Temporary Road Closure from Fair Cross to Torre (11/9 for 5 days)** from Highways. This email had been circulated to councillors. The closure was to enable installation and removal of poles and any necessary tree trimming works to be carried out in this road.

**Parish Supper 2018** – to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

## 8. TRANSPARENCY FUND IT GRANT

The Clerk asked that Councillors approve her request to NALC for a grant of £947 from the government Transparency Fund for IT equipment etc for Nettlecombe Parish Council. Cllr Crothers proposed that this request be agreed, seconded Cllr Mackie and carried unanimously.

## 9. REPORTS

### 9.1 Chairman's Report (MC)

The Church Fete, held at Nettlecombe Church in May, had made an excellent profit of £3,316 for church repairs and maintenance.

Cllr Crothers had attended a road sign training day, see item 6.2. Some of the H&S issues were not viable in Nettlecombe, however the availability of spare parts and method of repair information was useful.

Not able to attend ENP Parish Forum meetings since May.

Attended WS Council Planning meeting to hear the outcome of Torre Cider Farm planning application, it had been passed with no votes against or abstentions.

The Dunster Panel meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July had been poorly attended. Much disquiet was expressed about the closure of the beach access of Blue Anchor Beach at the eastern end. No solution seemed to be on the horizon.

WSCllr Dewdney intervened to say that this was a Health & Safety issue.

Cllr Crothers then commented about the lack of a resident Parish Councillor where problems had arisen recently – Torre and Woodford. Efforts in the recent past to recruit had not been successful. It was hoped, from Mr Allonby's remarks, that this may change at the May elections.

### 9.2 Highways (NM)

Cllr Mahlich reported that the gully work in Slade Lane was not completed and closure of the lane had been extended.

Cllr Reynolds observed that maintenance was a problem with these gullies. In the past someone walked the lanes and kept the drains clear now when material washed in after heavy rain this would remain until the next time the lorry schedule dictated the visit. He commented that the work ceased above Slade House and he hoped the new gullies would 'plug in' to the old system.

The present working practices where work took so long because of the short days worked could be discussed with David Peake, SCC County Roads.

### 9.3 Planning

Resubmission of 3/24/16/001 Torre Cider Farm – consent granted

GDO 17/12 – Land at Mineral Line (field no. 0668) Roadwater – refused

An application for a proposed installation of a telecommunications pole and ancillary equipment at Huish Barton, Vempletts Cross to Huish Barton Farm (6/24/17/103) had been received since the Agenda had been published.

There were no objections raised to this application.

### 9.4 Footpaths (RW)

Public footpath diversion WL 16/13 Lower Hayne to Woodadvent Farm - Cllr Wichard reported that he had walked this path and it was a sensible diversion.

Two footpaths required attention:

Footpath above Cllr Scott, which she had mentioned previously, was still not cleared.  
Vempletts Cross to Wood Advent – walk through copse but impassable down to Huish Barton  
Cllr Wichard was to inform the Footpaths Officer.

**9.5 EMN Hall**

Anna Thomas sent the following report:

The Monksilver Church Fete was held in June

The hall was used for a wedding in July and another booked for later this month.

A new Dance Class has booked the hall on Fridays and seems to be going well.

A break-in to the garage at the hall - ransacked but nothing of value taken.

Need to raise £650 to repair a collapsed drain outside the hall.

**9.6 Finance**

The Clerk reported a total of £3,2077.39 in the current account.

Clive Thorne – website fee paid - £7.18 agreed

Clerk's salary as agreed £210 (April-June)

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

There was none.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 8pm at the EMN Hall, Monksilver.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chair .....

Date .....