

**DRAFT MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Marilyn Crothers, Oliver Reynolds, Iain Mackie, Robin Wichard, Ben Lintott, SCllr Christine Lawrence, WSCllr Martin Dewdney, and Mary Coles (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Four residents were present: Steve and Andrea Allonby, Heather Bone and Tim Farney.

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Liz Scott & Nick Mahlich, WSCllr Richard Lillis, PCSO Sue Thompson
2. **MINUTES** of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> August, having previously been circulated, were agreed. The minutes were then signed as a correct record.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

Sue Thompson had emailed her report to the Clerk who read it out to the meeting.

**Armed robbery in Williton** – on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2 unknown males committed an armed robbery at the Co-op in Williton. Staff at the store were allegedly threatened with a knife but nobody sustained any injuries. A prompt response from local officers assisted by members of the public facilitated effective progress the same evening. The suspect vehicle was seized, and there are two named suspects, not local. The investigation is currently ongoing.

**Theft from motor vehicle (TFMV) patrols** have been increased in order to reduce incidents. These mainly occur at car parks in beauty spots, coastal access areas and landmarks. This type of crime is opportunistic and occurs mostly at times when there are no witnesses. The force is exploring the use of a covert capture car. This can capture offenders breaking into the vehicle. Advice to the public is to ensure all valuables within their cars are removed from sight or from vehicles.

There has been a spike in **non-dwelling burglaries**, especially in rural areas also on the Roughmoor Trading Estate. Sheds and outbuildings are the main targets with power tools particularly at risk. Storing within the home can reduce this.

Night time patrols in targeted locations have been increased. The beat team contacts victims of burglary to assess evidence and review their crime prevention measures. The bobby-van is available for victims (particularly the vulnerable and elderly) who require additional security measures but are unable to install themselves.

Victims of **hate crime** receive the highest level of service from the police, as an organisation, and the victim has a single point of contact throughout the investigation.

**General crime** is on the up year on year. This is for a multitude of reasons but likely to include the reduction in the number of front line officers, the improvement in ways in which crime can be reported and the force's commitment to ethical crime recording.

**Anti-social behaviour** is at a low level and there are no current issues highlighted to the beat team.

**LOCAL POLICE CONTACT DETAILS**

The contact details for the Neighbour Police Team in Williton and Watchet are as follows:-

**Neighbourhood Beat Manager**

**PC 4376 Jamie Munro**

**Williton Police Station**

**Mob: 07889659436**

**[Jamie.Munro@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Jamie.Munro@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)**

**PCSO 9273 Sue Thompson**

**Williton Police Station**  
**Mob: 07889655209**  
[Susan.Thompson@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Susan.Thompson@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)  
**Police Community Support Officer**  
**PCSO 7292 Peter Bolton**

**Crime Statistics** can be found by following the below link:  
<https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/AW052/crime/>  
This relates to crime covering the entire beat area.

#### **4. WEST SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Proposed new Council** - WSCllr Martin Dewdney reported that the Minister had all the information required for this but the decision had still not been made. At present the Councils were choosing a contractor for their new IT project. The **recycling upgrade** was not yet operational but progress was being made towards this. SCllr Christine Lawrence encouraged those at the meeting to visit the recently reopened Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury. It had received a complete face lift with grants and lottery money. She also mentioned Dillington House where SCC was hoping to increase the public's use of the premises. There were many festive activities taking place over the Christmas period. SCllr Lawrence spoke about the postponement of the A39 road closure which had been due to take place in November. It was to improve the road drains at Bilbrook that have caused such problems in the past. The work would be carried out in the new year. Cllr Reynolds requested that these drains be checked and cleared as they blocked so frequently due to their bad design. Because of the postponement it may be overlooked and cause problems before the work is done.

#### **5. OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS**

New Yarde resident, Heather Bone, asked about the present progress of broadband connection as she received extremely poor service, as had been highlighted in the past by Cllr Wichard. Cllr Lintott explained that an Airband mast was to be installed at Huish Barton which may help residents in the area, possibly those at Yarde. He wasn't sure when the service would go 'live'. The lack of **the Yarde postbox** was mentioned by Tim Farney and he stressed that the postbox in Woodford was extremely dangerous to access. This had been discussed at a previous meeting and had been pointed out to Royal Mail but had produced no action apart from a reassurance (?) that the box would be reinstated. The complaint is ongoing since the beginning of 2017. Ros Owen instigated it and she and Mary Coles (Clerk) continue to pursue it. Any additional letters, phone calls and emails may be useful ammunition! Steve Allonby asked if any further information about setting up Speed Watch at Torre had been ascertained. He had been advised that the parish council would establish this process. Cllr Crothers explained that it was the police who organised and trained the volunteers. The Clerk said, in the absence of a police representative at the meeting, she would contact Sue Thompson to request the possibility of setting up this procedure. She would copy Steve Allonby into the email. Steve Allonby then queried the existence of a Neighbourhood Plan for Nettlecombe. Cllr Crothers replied that this had been completed and printed about four years ago. Some of the people involved had moved away and if it was to be kept up-to-date a volunteer was required to be responsible for this. Cllr Reynolds asked the need for updating at present as so little had changed in the small Nettlecombe Parish community with its scattered population of 250 and the lowest grade for new builds.

#### **6. MATTERS OF REPORT**

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

SCC Highways had completed the Woodford culvert work. Cllr Scott had asked the Clerk to mention that the turning to Monksilver on the left-hand side of the lane drains were blocking and required attention so as to allow rainwater to drain through the field. Cllr Reynolds agreed that it needed digging out.

##### **6.2 Highway fingerposts**

Cllr Crothers gave a follow up to last meeting's information. She was hoping for someone – a resident or councillor - to take responsibility for the signpost at Fair Cross. There had been no progress to date on cleaning, maintenance and painting of these cast iron finger posts. Jo Sharp to be contacted to find out if it was permissible to paint out Minehead as it was probably not possible to change the present direction of the 'finger'. The Chairman felt this sign was an embarrassment; it was in such a bad state as had been mentioned before. She impressed on anyone offering to help with the signposts they needed to attend a training course at ENP, Dulverton. Charlotte Thomas was the **Historic Signpost Project Officer** at Exmoor National Park Authority Tel: 01398 323665. It was mentioned that the Yarde

signpost had a finger missing and it was observed that the passing tractors were likely to remove any replacement. Cllr Crothers reiterated that whenever work took place high viz jackets must be worn and H&S precautions observed.

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

Cllr Dewdney commented that 90% of the Exmoor National Park area should have a useful broadband connection on the completion of the Airband project at the end of 2017.

### **6.4 Yarde postbox**

This was discussed under item 5.

### **6.5 Proposed New Council**

See Item 4.

### **6.6 Fly tipping**

Cllr Lintott & Reynolds reported that there had been no major problems with fly tipping since the last meeting.

### **6.7 IT Transparency grant** had been submitted to NALC for consideration.

### **6.8 Parish Supper date** at Nettlecombe Court: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**ENP Partnership Plan** had been circulated to members via email (19/9/17). Comments had been requested from the Park and were still being accepted despite the closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Reynolds considered the report included much of the usual jargon regarding moorland management, swaling etc but there was difficulty finding people who were competent to deal with these issues long-term. The practices were now taken over by outside organisations that hadn't got the necessary expertise. He felt the report was running behind the times. WSCllr Dewdney explained that aerial photography had been done over time which was helping address this. Cllr Reynolds added that many of the schemes suggested only worked in certain places and were not universally successful. He asked WSCllr Dewdney to voice these concerns to the ENPA.

**Hinkley Point C Consultation Plan** (emailed to members 18/10/17). SCCllr Lawrence urged councillors to consider visiting the Hinkley C site as she had done. There were organised tours and it was well worth a visit perhaps as a parish council or with a group of other parish councils. She said the site was massive and there would be over 5,000 people working there by the end of the year.

**SCC Salt Bag Collection** – emailed 1/11/17. If required this was to be collected on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**Highways Winter Services 17-18** – emailed 4/11/17.

A short course on **Woody Materials in Exmoor Rivers and Streams** was to take place at Wheddon Cross on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 1.30 pm The Clerk offered to email out this information again for anyone who may be interested in attending.

The **Somerset Waste Partnership** October briefing had been emailed out 6/11/17 and put on the Nettlecombe noticeboard.

## **8. AUDITORS REPORT 16-17**

This will be published on the website as stipulated by Grant Thornton.

## **9. POSSIBLE CO-OPTED MEMBER**

It was established that the next Council elections will be held in May 2019. At present there were no vacancies on Nettlecombe PC however there was a possibility that there could be resignations. If this were to occur the correct procedure for co-opting a member would be put in place.

## **10. LONG-TERM STORAGE OF NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL'S ORIGINAL MINUTE BOOK**

The minute book was currently in the possession of Cllr Crothers. She suggested that it should be held at the Somerset Heritage Centre, Norton Fitzwarren. This was proposed by Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Wichard and agreed unanimously.

## **11. PRECEPT MEETING 18-19**

The Clerk had not yet received the precept information for the next financial year. She suggested that a meeting should be held before the deadline date which was usually mid-January as members would not be meeting until February. It

was agreed on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30 pm in the EMN Hall.**

## **12. REPORTS**

### **12.1 Chairman's Report (MC)**

Cllr Crothers advised members that since the previous meeting her husband, John, had become disabled and confined to the house. This had meant she had been unable to respond to Parish affairs in her normal way as it had taken a few weeks to establish a routine. She now felt able to remain in post but may have to retire from her chairmanship by May 2018.

August had been a quiet month. On 14th September **the Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum** had been held – Agenda and minutes on the table. The ENP Partnership plan (as discussed in Item 7) had been made available to the parishes. The next meeting, which Cllr Crothers hoped to attend, was on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. WSCllr Dewdney advised he would be attending this meeting if there were any points to be raised and she could not be present.

**Dunster Panel** met on 30<sup>th</sup> October, minutes not yet available. The new Police Officer, Sgt Williams, introduced himself and discussed up-to-date crime figures which he felt to be under reported. The Police offices were to be moved to WS Council Offices by the end of January.

Comments were made about the inadequate number of litter bins at Blue Anchor and frequency of emptying same.

Ongoing discussions took place about the eastern slipway and lack of access to the beach.

SCC Highways reported on the rescheduling of the Dragons Cross roadworks and updated the Panel on local works. No work has yet been undertaken in Beggearn Huish on the drainage culvert covers.

The progress re caste iron fingerposts – see item 6.2.

The light at the chicken farm has been on continuously causing a nuisance to some householders in Beggearn Huish.

There have been no changes in the Ecclesiastic Parish since the previous meeting.

### **12.2 Highways Report (NM)**

Cllr Mahlich had advised that the drain covers at Beggearn Huish, which were too heavy for volunteers to lift, needed attention. He had reported this to SCC Highways but no action to date. SCCllr Lawrence said she would chase this with David Peake. This information to be passed on to Cllr Mahlich in his absence.

### **12.3 Planning (BL)**

Confirmation of the adoption of public footpath diversion WL 16/13 Lower Hayne to Woodadvent Farm had been received.

### **12.4 Footpaths (RW)**

Cllr Wichard reported that mud had been a distinct problem on the paths when walked recently.

### **12.5 EMN Hall (AT)**

Anna Thomas sent the following report:

The drain mentioned in the last report had been rebuilt and repaired.

The kitchen has had a 'deep clean'.

The hall committee had held a very successful Harvest Supper.

Another quiz night was to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Support needed from everyone in the three parishes (with particular help from the councillors) to keep the Hall running well, vital that fund-raising events are well attended.

### **12.6 West Somerset Flood Group (MSC)**

The Clerk, Mary Coles, had attended the Flood Group meeting on 18th October at the EMN Hall. Niels McCartney from the Environment Agency had been present and the main item was the Doniford and Monksilver Catchments Natural Flood Management project. The EA had been successful in gaining a provisional allocation of funding (£400,000) which will run until 2021. This would benefit not only Williton but all the villages along the 2 watercourses – the Monksilver and Doniford Streams. It was important for the success of the project that communities should be involved from an early stage. Anyone wishing to attend workshops, offer knowledgeable advice or be involved in any way to speak to Mary Coles or contact the Secretary of the WSFG, Teresa Bridgeman.

### **12.7 Finance**

The Clerk reported a total of £4,227.39 in the current account.

Simon Passmore's invoice had been received for the year's maintenance of the churchyard and the overflow channel maintenance at Woodford.

There had been an increase in cuts due to excessive growth this year x 11 @ £75

Ivy control on the wall next to the Study Centre £80

It had also been necessary for 2 cuts around the overflow channel (£45). Simon considered one cut had been a bit optimistic.

The total charge came to £950.00.

Cllr Wichard proposed, Cllr Lintott seconded that the above extra costs be approved, this was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Reynolds suggested possible removal of the ivy. Cllr Crothers replied that she thought it was probably holding up the wall. The ownership of the wall was unknown and there was no mention of ownership in either deeds.

The grass cutting contract to be renewed in 2018. Contractors to approach: Simon Passmore, James Parker, Roger Grellier (Garden Care & Creation). The Clerk to stress the need for the site to be left clear and tidy after every cut.

Clerk's salary as agreed £420 (April-June, July-December).

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

There was none.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 8pm at the EMN Hall, Monksilver.

Cllr Crothers thanked those present for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Chair .....

Date .....