

**DRAFT MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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 (Chair), Ben Lintott (Vice-Chair), Nick Mahlich, Oliver Reynolds, Iain Mackie, Liz Scott, SCCLlr Christine Lawrence, WSCllrs Martin Dewdney, Richard Lillis and Mary Coles (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Robin Wichard, PCSO Sue Thompson
2. **MINUTES** of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November, having previously been circulated, were agreed unanimously. 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.

**Robbery at Spar, Williton** – 30/12/17, male suspect has been identified and arrested. Currently still under investigation.

**Rise in TFMV (thefts from motor vehicles) from work vans** as reported at previous meeting. A reminder to remove all valuables from vehicles when left overnight, including larger tools which are particularly valuable to thieves.

**Graffiti in Watchet** recently – suspect identified and admitted responsibility.

**Beat Team priorities:**

Drug intelligence

Targeting most prolific offenders

Night time patrols following a spate of break-ins to sheds/outbuildings in more rural areas. Tools/scrap metal and theft of batteries, communities need to remain vigilant and report suspicious vehicles in the area.

**One Team:** establishing itself as a vital tool in dealing with community issues. Meetings once a month represented by many agencies including police, housing, local councils, schools, GetSet services, village agents.

This relates to crime in the last 3 months and covers the entire beat area.

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

SCCLlr Christine Lawrence spoke about the recent Ofsted report at Somerset County Council and the incorrect 'facts' reported on the BBC Points West news.

Health visitors were to be back in house in 2019 with other public health services. There were to be two new special schools built for children with severe learning difficulties – one in Taunton and one in Yeovil. This would be spread over four years. A further two schools were planned for the future as numbers were increasing. There would be relevant changes in West Somerset too. The statutory function of SCC was to keep all safe and well. Cllr Lawrence concluded that the books had balanced for the 2018-19 budget but it had been a tough challenge.

WSCllr Martin Dewdney reported that the Minister will make the decision about the new council next week. There had been minor changes but no cuts made by West Somerset Council for the new financial year and the budget had balanced. WSCllr Richard Lillis spoke about the problems encountered with the recent road closures above Roadwater. Cllr Reynolds complained about the bad signage displayed with insufficient or no helpful information for road closures. Signs were also left for too long and lost their effect, eg ice signs at Bicknoller when there was no ice.

## 5. OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS

There were no residents present.

## 6. MATTERS OF REPORT

### 6.1 Woodford Culvert – Nettlecombe Park Road

The culvert was handling the rainwater well but to date there had been insufficient quantity for a fair test.

### 6.2 Highway fingerposts

The Clerk had been in contact with Charlotte Thomas, Historic Signposts Project Officer.

Charlotte had reported back that there were two local volunteers from Beggearn Huish who had attended the health and safety training in readiness to undertake signpost work.

Surveys had been done on the signposts at Fair Cross and Yarde and they would both need contractors to carry out the work because of their situation and the welding work needed.

Fair Cross sign - the whitening out of Minehead had been noted and the brown sign to Combe Sydenham Country Park was to be removed.

Yarde – a finger was missing which was to be ordered from the foundry and fixed by Exmoor Welding. This was the one that passing tractors were likely to remove – Charlotte to be advised of this.

### 6.3 Connecting Devon & Somerset

WSCllr Dewdney reported that 95% of coverage was completed. Cllr Lintott said that the Airband mast planned at Huish Barton had not been installed to date. He felt that the whole project was a shambles.

### 6.4 Yarde postbox

No information had been received about the reinstatement of the postbox, both the Clerk and Ros Owen were pursuing this lack of action.

### 6.5 Proposed New Council

See Item 4.

### 6.6 IT Transparency grant

A cheque had been received from SALC for £1172 for the purchase of IT equipment.

### 6.7 Nettlecombe Parish Council Minute Book

The old Nettlecombe Parish Council minute book was to be given to the Record Office in Taunton for interest and safekeeping.

### 6.8 Precept Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 *(see Appendix 1 to these minutes)*

Cllr Lintott had proposed that the Nettlecombe precept remain the same for 2018-19 (£2,300), seconded by Cllr Mackie, no dissent.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

### Claiming Rights of Way (emailed to members 26/01/18)

An email had been received from Exmoor Local Access Forum detailing the necessity of applying (either as a Parish Council or an individual) to modify the Definitive Map and Statement if any public rights of way are incorrectly recorded. Application can be made to have rights of way either added (including upgrading for example footpath to bridleway) or deleted. Any application must be supported by good user or historical evidence and would be investigated by the Highway Authority. The deadline for submitting applications is 2026. Cllr Crothers was not aware of any specific cases in Nettlecombe Parish but this was to be referred to Cllr Wichard for his comments.

### Housing need survey (emailed to members 26/01/18)

Cllr Crothers observed that Nettlecombe Parish was restricted by what was allowed re building in 'open country'. She was not aware of any needs within the parish. However she had suggested that if Sue Southwell, co-ordinator of Exmoor Rural Housing Network was going to talk to Old Cleeve PC at any stage that might be of interest especially if there were any Roadwater housing needs.

**Exmoor Young Voices** (emailed to members 31/01/18)

A network of young adults living or working across the Moor, advising the Park and other authorities on housing and planning, communications, employment, transport and more. The next meeting was to take place at The Rest and Be Thankful, Wheddon Cross at 7.30 for 8 pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Somerset Waste Partnership February briefing** (emailed 04/02/18)

Information re Easter collections and general recycling information, a copy to be put on the Woodford noticeboard.

**Flood Network Technology** (emailed 04/02/18)

Possible uses for new technologies to be used locally to give early warnings of possible flooding etc.

**8. FUTURE OF SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) FOR NETTLECOMBE** (emailed 25/01/18)

A lengthy email had been received from Dave Grabham about the termination of the current SID programme with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The reasons for the termination of the programme was that the current county council stock of SIDs was rapidly reaching the end of its serviceable life and a substantial investment would be required to replace it. The county council was not currently in a position financially to provide such a large financial injection.

Three scenarios were offered to parish and town councils involving financial support from them. Councillors felt it could be prohibitively expensive for a small council to undertake. Steve Allonby's suggestion in his email, received the day of this meeting, was a possible local sponsorship of SIDs. This could be considered and he could possibly assist in this. Apparently these SID proposals had now gone back for review at Somerset Highways.

**9. REPORTS**

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

Cllr Crothers said her report for this meeting was short.

**Dunster Panel** - attendees had been much occupied with unhelpful and misleading road closure notices in the area.

**Magna Housing** – a good comprehensive report had been received for the West Somerset area.

**The Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum** had been held – agenda and minutes on the table.

**Quantock Towers Benefice** - Jon Rose had retired as rural dean for the benefice, Ben Flenley had taken over.

**Parish Supper** – unfortunately the Chairman had been unable to attend the supper due to her recent illness but she had heard from all those who had been there what an excellent evening it had been. Councillors and the Clerk, who had attended, agreed wholeheartedly. A letter of thanks to be sent to Lucy Devitt from the Parish.

**9.2 Highways Report (NM)**

Cllr Scott explained the problems encountered up the hill towards Colton Lane where water was running down a dip in the road and the whole road surface was eroding. She reported that she quite often saw the road sweeper travelling from the bottom of her drive to the entrance of Nettlecombe Court lane. The sweeping needed to go further on up to Combe House as that unswept stretch was causing a problem. Cllr Crothers said that the Parish Councillors could request a change in the route however the total swept length had to remain the same. The lack of maintenance on the verges from Nettlecombe Park Road to Colton Farm was causing the blockage of the outlets for water off the road. Cllr Mahlich said it was at least 3 years since this had been done. He would contact Peter Owen at Somerset Highways to report these matters. Apparently lower down, on the Monksilver side of the road, there was no problem.

Cllr Reynolds had noted that the drains had been cleared quickly at Dragons Cross and Fair Cross to Yarde was in the process of being cleared.

Cllr Lintott observed that the recently tarmacked lane from Vempletts Cross to Huish Barton was collecting water badly and would soon erode unless a drain was installed there. Cllr Crothers replied that she would take this to the next Dunster Panel meeting.

**9.3 Planning (BL)**

Cllr Lintott reported that there had been no planning applications received since the previous meeting. A query was raised about the work going on at the Blade Mill, Yarde. The building under construction was not as the plans

had been approved. Cllr Lintott to query this with West Somerset/Taunton Deane planning department, it was noted that the Mill was officially in Williton Parish although part of Yarde.

**9.4 Footpaths (RW)**

In Cllr Wichard's absence it was mentioned that there had been an immense amount of felling last Autumn in Erridge Wood and along the path above the Mineral Line. The brash was still piled up waiting to be moved or burned and had caused some difficulty for walkers. The Clerk offered to check the situation, weather permitting, and report back to Cllr Wichard.

**9.5 EMN Hall (AT)**

No report had been received.

**9.6 West Somerset Flood Group (MSC)**

The Clerk had received an email (12/02/18) from Teresa Bridgeman, Secretary of WSFG addressed to parishes in the Monksilver and Doniford upper catchments. It read: following the WSFG meeting in October with Niels McCartney of the Environment Agency Teresa had received an update from him on the Natural Flood Management Multibenefits project in these two catchments. The project had begun life as part of a much larger scheme to protect Williton, but it has now been realised that this scheme can have multiple benefits right through the two catchments. £400,000 has been provisionally allocated by National Government to this scheme for three years. The project is still at a preliminary planning stage but as Parish Councils you may wish to start discussing among yourselves whether you could bring together a small group of councillors and /or members of your communities who would like to be involved in helping to co-ordinate local contributions to the project. There will be a dedicated project manager who will provide guidance for all involved. The EA hope to get the business case approved by April and, if this is successful, will be able to appoint a full-time project manager.

**9.7 Finance**

The Clerk reported a total of £2,857.39 in the current account. The £1172 cheque from the IT grant had been received that day but had not been paid into the bank.

Clerk's Salary: January – March 2018 = £210

SALC subscription April 2017-March 2018 = £49.83

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds that these charges be approved, seconded by Cllr Scott and carried unanimously.

The Clerk had received a quotation from Simon Passmore for charges for care of the Church grounds and associated work. This to cover 2018-2020. She was expecting quotes from James Parker and Roger Grellier.

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

Cllr Mahlich explained that he was having difficulty attending Parish Council meetings regularly and would possibly not be able to carry on until 2019 when Parish Council elections were to be held. Members present persuaded him to continue for as long as possible.

The Clerk mentioned that the new Data Protection Regulations were coming into effect in May 2018. This would affect all organisations holding personal information. She had been sent a simple guide to these regulations from Take Art which outlined the basic principles. There would be further information from SALC in due course.

**11. DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.15 pm

**AGM & MEETING**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 8 pm

Cllr Crothers thanked those present for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chair .....

Date .....

**NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL  
NOTES FROM THE PRECEPT MEETING AT EMN HALL  
MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 6.30PM**

Present: Cllrs Crothers, Lintott, Reynolds, Mackie and Wichard; WSCllr Martin Dewdney

- Balance at bank to date = £2857.39
- Total known costs to date for 2017-2018 = £2083
- SALC fees invoice not yet received (approx. £50)

**Precept for 2018-19 £2,300**

Do we want to keep the precept the same, reduce or increase the amount?

- 1 Cllr Reynolds pointed out that there had been no extreme conditions to test the Nettlecombe Park Road work etc. He suggested that provision should be made for the possibility of heightening the wall. It is quite low and water spills over if heavy rainfall.
- 2 Possibility of an election at Nettlecombe before 2019 if any of the councillors stand down – costs high for this.
- 3 Inflation
- 4 Need for new noticeboard at Woodford

Cllr Lintott proposed that the Nettlecombe precept remain the same for 2018-19 (£2,300), seconded by Cllr Mackie – no dissent.