

**DRAFT MINUTES - MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2018 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), Oliver Reynolds, Iain Mackie, Liz Scott, Robin Wichard and Mary Coles (Clerk)  
WSCllr Martin Dewdney and SCCLlr Christine Lawrence arrived during the proceedings having been at other Parish Council meetings.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** No residents present

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Nick Mahlich, WSCllr Richard Lillis,

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018. These were approved as a correct record.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

No report had been received for the meeting.

4. **OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS**

No residents were present.

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

SCCLlr Lawrence reported that the County Council were still looking at finances for next year's budget. There were over 500 children in care, many elderly people equally in need of care and it was difficult to sustain the work that was done at present. Reserves were very low and money was required to replace schools, 106 money was not sufficient for this. There was to be a big financial meeting shortly to try to sort problems out. There was a new finance consultant working with the council for 6 months showing better ways of operating and organising matters. The Health and Well Being had been kept within budget.

WSCllr Dewdney then reported on West Somerset matters. He asked if the Council Tax support Consultation document be completed; it was relatively easy to fill in and would help with decisions to be made. Cllr Crothers offered to complete the form.

Somerset West was to have 59 members when amalgamation took place. Deane House, Taunton had been rebuilt with 'hot' desks for slick and efficient working. Williton would not be remodelled, staff would be based in the most appropriate place. There were many changes for the better and all staff were involved in this. Feedback was needed as the amalgamation went forward.

6. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

6.1 **Highway Finger Posts**

In July the Clerk had received an email from Charlotte Thomas, ENP Historic Signpost Project Officer, reporting on the signpost situation in Monksilver and Nettlecombe. The work had started and Exmoor Welding were working on the Fair Cross signpost. A couple from Beggearnhuish (Peter Ell and Pauline Denley) had started painting the ones in Yarde, Woodford and Elworthy Cross. Unfortunately, funds were running low and there was insufficient money to replace any of the broken fingers at present. There may be an opportunity to get funding from a Hinkley fund as CPRE have recently been successful with a bid to restore signposts within a 10 mile radius of Hinkley Point and both parishes fell under this category. Since this report the Fair Cross signpost has been completed. Councillors expressed their gratitude for the improvements achieved by the volunteer and paid workforce.

6.2 **Connecting Devon & Somerset**

The Airband mast erected at Huish Barton was now on air.

6.3 **Yarde Postbox**

Ros Owen had no further news about the postbox nor had received any communication from Royal Mail. The Clerk to continue investigating this. Cllr Scott reiterated the dangerous siting of the other postbox in Nettlecombe and the small aperture for letters.

#### **6.4 IT grant – purchase of IT equipment and maintenance**

The Clerk said she had ordered a new laptop for Council business. It was a Lenovo and the cost was £399 + mouse £4.46 (inc VAT). She was still searching for a suitable printer/scanner.

#### **6.5 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – Training at Somerton**

The Chairman and Clerk had booked to attend SALC training at Somerton on 25<sup>th</sup> July but unfortunately had missed the date for which both apologised for the oversight. They had received a pack of the presentation for perusal and information.

#### **6.6 Accounts 2017-18 to Auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP**

The Clerk reported that she had sent the Nettlecombe Parish Council accounts 2017-18 to the auditors for their inspection.

#### **6.7 Co-option of new member to the council**

In the light of a possible resignation in the next few months it was decided to defer discussion about this until the November meeting. Meanwhile the Clerk was to check the procedures for co-option.

### **7 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Consultation By Laws – SSSIs (emailed 27/7)**

Cllr Lintott thought that the Nettlecombe Estate was an SSSI. Cllr Crothers offered to check this on the DEFRA website and comment accordingly. On the subject of the Estate Cllr Reynolds observed that it was not in good order at the moment, Cllr Crothers said she had been clearing one of their roadside ditches.

#### **Rural Economy Evidence (emailed 30/7)**

There was no comment from members to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy which had recently issued a call for evidence.

#### **Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023 document**

This was to be circulated for councillors to read.

#### **Western Power Distribution (South West)**

##### **Undergrounding of Power Lines through Protected Landscapes programme**

The Chairman had received a copy of an email with reference to the above that had been discussed at the June Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum meeting. It identified some lines that had been considered for this project and councillors were asked if there were any in Nettlecombe Parish that may qualify. None sprang to mind. The Clerk to scan the email and send round in case any were thought eligible.

**The LGA green paper for Adult Social Care and Well-being** had been emailed to councillors from SALC/NALC today. Response required by 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### **8 REPORTS**

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

**Events** – Nettlecombe Fete held in May at the Church and Court lawns had raised £3327.50 towards the Church. An enjoyable Pimms & Cream tea party, hosted by Nettlecombe PCC at the Church, had been held in August to thank parishioners who had helped during the year.

##### **Meetings attended**

**13<sup>th</sup> June – Solar Panel consultative proposal** at Danesfield School by Elgin Energy. Uninformative as the photographs of the area did not have the solar panels superimposed on them. There was no information about retention of hedgerows etc in the planned area which stretched from Danesfield School to Washford recreation ground, leaving Tropiquaria surrounded. Other councillors had seen the proposed plans and considered them most unsatisfactory. No planning application had been received so it was assumed the project had been shelved.

**14<sup>th</sup> June – ENP Parish Forum at Brendon.** The main item covered was affordable housing including self-build, this and other matters were put forward by Young Voices.

**25<sup>th</sup> June - SALC meeting at West Somerset Council** offices to update and advise on the consultation progress. There was paperwork on the table that had a timetable for various stages in the review/consultation. Also web mail addresses for any comments which councillors wished to make.

**27<sup>th</sup> June – SALC Planning Application Process** Training held at Somerton and attended by the Chairman, the Clerk and Cllr Mackie. It did not deal with the ENPA Planning process. Cllr Mackie to report on the evening.

Dunster Panel – Cllr Crothers was unable to attend the meeting in July.

**Signposts** - further observations on the Fair Cross post, Yarde now appears and the brown sign to Combe Sydenham has been removed (see also Item 6.1).

**New ENP Planning Officer**, Dean Kinsella, had been appointed and should be taking up post this month.

Cllr Mackie gave a report on the Planning Training he had attended with the Chairman and Clerk during June. He explained some of the complexities of planning decisions and the objectivity required of Councillors when considering planning applications. Applications should all be brought to a public meeting of the Parish Council so residents can be present. There were certain criteria to adhere to and some that were not relevant. Councillors should declare an interest if appropriate.

## **8.2 Highways Report (BL)**

The gullies on the B3190 were being cleared and repaired.

Clitsome Lane was still in a terrible state as was Slade Lane.

Nettlecombe Park Road – the ‘lake’ near the entrance to Cllr Scott’s lane had not been rectified and was still forming when rain fell.

Cllr Lintott was to contact David Peake about these highway problems, Mary Coles to email him the contact details.

Cllr Wichard told members that the stone wall alongside the B3188 at The Old Mill (his property) had collapsed into the road. It had been in a bad state for a long time and he had reported the problem to Somerset County Council but nothing had been done. Contractors for the Council were now repairing the wall causing some disruption in the process.

## **8.3 Planning**

Cllr Reynolds declared an interest with reference to the Planning consent for Tinker’s Cottage, Egypt.

3/34/18/001 The Blade Mill – consent for the latest plan had been sought, this was virtually the original 2011 permission. A reduction of the roof height by 1.8m was required and a 6 month limit on development. There had now been 3 different sets of plans presented all dated the same. There needed to be added drainage and no external lighting, unless further consent was given.

6/24/18/102LB & 103LB Cider Barn & Stable Block, Nettlecombe Estate approved by ENP.

Land at Mineral Line - Appeal by Debbie Smith, this application had been refused by the Inspectorate in January 2017.

White Horse Inn Appeal (adj Parish) – Philip Gannon from Old Cleeve Parish had sent a letter against the appeal.

3/26/18/004 Riverside Barn, White Horse (adj Parish) – this was another application on the pub land for the replacement of a recently built, modern storage unit to be converted into a 2-bedroom dwelling. Councillors questioned what would happen to the contents of the unit if this was to be granted. Phil Gannon from Old Cleeve Parish to comment on this.

6/24/18/101 – Forge Cottage, Yarde - there had been a non-material amendment to the original plans.

3/24/18/004 - Tinker’s Cottage (formerly Egypt) - proposal for a new conservatory. There were no obvious concerns however Cllrs Mackie and Crothers would meet on site and comment to West Somerset Council Planners.

## **8.4 Footpaths (RW)**

Cllr Wichard considered that the identification of the local footpaths could be improved. The Clerk reported that the gatepost was collapsing on the gate leading from Harpers Lane onto the footpath to Erridge Wood. The Footpaths Officer to be informed.

## **8.5 EMN Hall**

There was no report.

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

Mary Coles informed members that at a recent Flood Group meeting Didier Lebrun (SCC Engineer) had presented a new SWIM platform to enable everybody (public, community groups, councils etc) to record and report flooding incidents. A Powerpoint presentation had been written by Didier to show how to use this platform. It had been suggested that perhaps it could be shown at a future Parish Council meeting so that interested residents could attend. A copy of the presentation had been emailed out to Councillors.

One simple self-help task to help prevent flash flooding was to check drains regularly.

**8.7 Finance (MSC)**

Current account £4471.25

Payments:

Clerk's Salary as agreed - April to June £210

To be agreed:

SALC planning training 27/6/18 x 3 members - £90

SALC GDPR training 25/7/18 x 2 members - £60

Mary Coles' purchase of Parish Council laptop and mouse - £403.46

The above payments were agreed unanimously.

**9 APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK**

It was agreed that, during September, notices be posted advertising this position.

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

There was none.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00 pm EMN Hall

Cllr Crothers thanked those present for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Chair .....

Date .....