

**DRAFT MINUTES - MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 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.

Cllr Crothers gave a warm welcome to Lisa Gregory, Somerset West Lodgings Scheme Manager, YMCA. Lisa explained the Lodgings Scheme to councillors. It was funded with Hinkley money and had been introduced to encourage homeowners with spare rooms to offer lodgings to single people who found it difficult and expensive to rent sole occupancy accommodation. These lodgers would be licensees, not tenants and would have fewer rights than tenants. However, homes had to be up to a certain standard to accommodate licensees and there were regulations in place to safeguard both parties.

The Scheme worked alongside landlords in the Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane and West Somerset areas to provide guidance and support to landlords along with a matching service to help find a suitable lodger. There was a potential for landlords to earn £7,500 per year tax free.

Lisa concluded her talk and handed round pamphlets that explained the scheme. Pamphlets were also left in the EMN hall for users of the hall to read.

Lisa Gregory was thanked by Cllr Crothers for the interesting information she had shared.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Marilyn Crothers (Chair), Iain Mackie, Robin Wichard, Oliver Reynolds and Mary Coles (Clerk), WSCllr Martin Dewdney, Carol Juffs (observer – applicant for Clerk’s vacancy)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** None

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Liz Scott, Cllr Lintott, WSCllr Richard Lillis, SCCLr Christine Lawrence, PC Sue Thompson
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 - one correction was made by Cllr Mackie, item 4 para 2 should read: “the owners had a 6 month time limited amendment which would expire on 6<sup>th</sup> February”. The minutes were then approved as a correct record.
3. **POLICE REPORT**  
PC Sue Thompson had sent apologies to the meeting and was to send in a report but none had been received.
4. **OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS**  
No residents were present.
5. **SOMERSET & WEST SOMERSET COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**  
WSCllr Dewdney reported on Somerset West Council matters. The most significant action was that the last month and a half of the old West Somerset Council’s budget will go ahead to next week’s full council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February to be agreed with the balanced budget for this year and the following three years.  
The reorganisation of staff was continuing with the objective of Case Managers helping to bring the council to the customer (the residents of West Somerset). There were to be more locality workers and as of 1<sup>st</sup> May a new website where matters could be dealt with electronically e.g. garden waste bin requests, initial planning applications etc.
6. **MATTERS OF REPORT**
  - 6.1 **Connecting Devon & Somerset**  
There was no new information on the present broadband improvements in the area.
  - 6.2 **Yarde Postbox**  
The postbox was still missing and nothing further had been heard from the Post Office or residents to date.

### 6.3 Winter Maintenance

The salting and gritting of the B3190 from Tropiquaria to Raleigh's Cross had been re-instated for this financial year.

### 6.4 Appointment of Clerk

Cllr Crothers asked Carol Juffs to leave the room while her appointment was discussed.

Cllr Mackie, who had been on the interview panel, reported that Carol Juffs had very good references and the interviewers would be pleased to appoint her. It was suggested that there should be a 3 month trial period, for both parties to evaluate the situation, with an interim review at the time of the AGM (13<sup>th</sup> May). Meantime she would work with Mary Coles (present Clerk) until then.

Cllr Reynolds proposed that Carol Juffs be appointed as the new Clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Cllr Wichard seconded and there was a unanimous vote in favour.

Carol was invited back into the meeting and offered the post of Nettlecombe Parish Clerk, which she agreed to accept.

## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been forwarded to members via email since the previous meeting:

Broadband User Survey - closed 9/12 (*emailed 27/11*)

Somerset Water Pollution (*emailed 23/1*)

Somerset Waste Partnership Monthly Briefing (*emailed 30/1*)

This information to be put up on the Parish Council noticeboard.

## REPORTS

### 8.1 Chairman's Report (MC)

Cllr Crothers had been unable to attend Dunster Panel or the Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum and to date had received no minutes. There had been previous discussion about the continuation of the Dunster Panel and she understood from those attending the meeting that it would continue.

### 8.2 Highways Report (BL)

Cllr Lintott had still failed to receive a reply to his email of 16<sup>th</sup> October, as reported at the previous meeting. The Clerk was to contact David Peake to reiterate these queries. She had been contacted by Cllr Scott, who had been unable to attend today's meeting, requesting action with reference to the recurring problem in Nettlecombe Park Road/Colton Lane where drainage ditches were blocked and water was ponding badly on the road after heavy rainfall. This had been mentioned in the email to Highways. There was awareness that the gullies were particularly prone to blockage with the increase of delivery vehicles and wider agricultural vehicles using the narrow lanes, which the Highways Department must also recognise and act upon.

### 8.3 Planning (IM)

**6/24/18/105 – Berryman's Cottage, Beggearn Huish** – proposed erection of a summerhouse/kennels (both designations mentioned in the planning permission)! This was **granted**.

**3/24/18/004 - Tinker's Cottage** (formerly Egypt) - proposal for a new conservatory – **granted**

**3/24/18/001 The Blade Mill, Yarde** – time extension request **granted**, planning officers indicated they will keep 'an eye' out and serve appropriate enforcement if required.

Before this request had been granted Cllr Mackie had written 2 strong emails regarding this - both against the time limit extension appeal.

Adjacent Parish (Old Cleeve)

#### **3/26/18/013 St Pancras Orchard**

Erection of a timber agricultural storage building for logs, fodder and equipment

Cllr Crothers had visited the site and was concerned about the access to the site where it had been tarmacked and there was the possibility of undermining the highway if heavy lorries pulled onto this extension. She also had concern if pigs and turkeys were kept there because of possible contamination of the river.

#### **3/26/18/014 Gracepits Farm, Lodge Rocks Cross**

Erection of 1 No. dwelling for agricultural worker

3 No. agricultural buildings (these to include a calf unit and further chicken sheds), formation of access track (retention of works already undertaken).

Cllr Crothers observed that the existing property and outbuildings impacted visually on Beggearn Huish. There had also been previous comment about the obtrusive light shining from the premises. Cllr Mackie was to speak with Old Cleeve Parish Councillors to hear their comments on the above matter and support accordingly.

#### **8.4 Footpaths (RW)**

Cllr Wichard had nothing to report.

#### **8.5 EMN Hall**

The Clerk was to report the collapse of the table to the Hall Secretary. She had thought Cllr Wichard was the new representative which he explained was not the case! Consequently, there was no report. Mary Coles would contact Anna Thomas before the next meeting.

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

Mary Coles reported to councillors. The Flood Warning Service project officers at the Environment Agency are working to improve their alert and warning service both by phone and online. They had approached the local Roadwater Flood Group to ask if people around the area would be willing to be shown some ideas for the new service and give them some feedback.

The Flood Group co-ordinators thought this was a good way to get some input into what happens next to the service. Twenty people had come forward to be interviewed at the end of January. The results from interviews around the country should make interesting reading when published.

#### **8.7 Finance (MSC)**

Current account £3794.59

includes payment to Simon Passmore in November for care of Nettlecombe churchyard (2018) as per agreement:

7 full cuts @	£595.00
2 part cuts @	£100.00
2 cuts drainage channel @	<u>£50.00</u>
Total	<u>£745.00</u>

Payments:

Clerk's Salary as agreed – October to March	£420.00
Clerks' Training 26.01.19 (Carol Juffs)	£85.00
Expenses to Somerton & return 74 @ 45p	£33.30

Cllr Crothers had suggested Carol Juffs attend the Clerk's Training Course at Somerton on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January in expectation of her appointment to the post of Clerk.

The above payments were agreed unanimously.

#### **9 UPDATING & REVISION OF PARISH PLAN**

Discussion took place about the relevance of printing a revised edition of the Parish Plan (first published in 2012). It was considered that revisions be made and the plan be edited for the website. If anyone requested a hard copy this could be printed out at a small charge.

Cllr Mackie asked where an updated website could be found, all he could discover was one with information up to 2016 only. Mary Coles explained that this was the old Parish Council website that had been administered by Bob Beard. Unfortunately, he had left the area and there was no way of contacting him, he was the only person who could close down this website. Clive Thorne had set up a new website in 2016 on behalf of the Parish Council the website address was: [www.nettlecombewestsomerset.life](http://www.nettlecombewestsomerset.life).

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

Nettlecombe Fete: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019 venue to be arranged.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

AGM & Ordinary Meeting

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 7.15pm and 8.00 pm.

CLlr Crothers thanked those present for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chair .....

Date .....