

MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 8th AUGUST 2016 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, Elizabeth Scott, SCCLr Christine Lawrence, WSCllr Martin Dewdney and Mary Coles (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: No residents were present.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Lintott, Mahlich and Wichard; WS Cllr Richard Lillis

2. **MINUTES** of the meeting on 9th May 2016, having previously been circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Sue Thompson was present at the meeting and gave her report. She said it was extremely difficult to distinguish one village from another with reference to crime statistics as the whole area (Stogursey to Carhampton) was now classed as one beat. However, overall crime was not large. There were ongoing non-dwelling burglaries - shed break-ins with tool thefts and livestock thefts from outlying fields. Residents were urged to report strange vehicle sightings late at night. Another possible concern was isolated troubled families needing help in this rural district.

Questions were prompted from councillors and WSCllr Dewdney asked where the taxes went as this area received very little police support compared to North Somerset and Bristol. He accepted there were fewer issues to contend with here but we still all paid the same amount of Council Tax. Sue agreed more staff was definitely required. She carried out her duty alone whereas there had been two PCSOs until quite recently. All present agreed this was not acceptable. Cllr Reynolds said that this staff shortage could pose future problems with badger culling etc. Sue did acknowledge the presence in Williton of three excellent police specials. She advised councillors to contact the Chief Constable about these worries.

The Chairman thanked Sue for taking the time to be present at the parish council meeting and hoped she would attend in the future when possible.

Leaflets had been received recently from Avon and Somerset Police and were available to read with other correspondence brought to the meeting.

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

SCCLr Lawrence reported that the recent full meeting of Somerset County Council had been the shortest ever. Finances were satisfactory but the pressure was on as to how to support older people with the continuing rise in numbers and also children's care. These two services were particularly vulnerable and £20 million needed to be saved. It was felt that a rates rise for Listening and Learning was acceptable if services were kept to a good standard. There was the possibility of a new town/business development/university for Somerset. The university was the most popular conception so as to keep our young people in the county.

The Hinkley Point situation was a quandary and people needed to know what was happening in the future.

Cllr Reynolds said that about 100 firms had spent time and energy applying for contracts etc and he wondered if they would get any recompense for this. WSCllr Dewdney replied that he would ask the question. Cllr Mackie thought that it would be at the firms' risk. The unproven technology did raise definite doubts about the project.

WSCllr Dewdney then reported on West Somerset Council's present position. The first democratic decision was to have been made by 7th September 2016. The options were:

1 – to continue with colleagues at WS Council and Taunton Deane liaising;

2 – a new council with a new structure 12-16 councillors, more IT, more access to information thereby saving time;

3 – breaking away and becoming a commissioning council – barebones of an operation with shrinking income.

5. **OPEN FORUM FOR ALL RESIDENTS**

There were no matters discussed.

6. MATTERS OF REPORT

Woodford Culvert (0360104) on Nettlecombe Park Road

Information received from Cllr Mahlich was that the residents at Woodford House were worried about the risk of flooding to their property from the stream at Woodford. He was trying to get someone to look at the bridge and was in ongoing consultation with Highways and the Environment Agency. The overflow ditch needed clearing, it had been done last year but needed urgent attention. Mary Coles was to contact Simon Passmore to request he carry out the work.

Farm Light

Cllr Crothers had investigated the extremely bright security light that caused residents at Egypt some disturbance at night. This light had been adjusted and no longer constituted a nuisance.

Doctor's surgery sign at Torre had been removed by SCC.

Nettlecombe Court was to be closed from October and throughout the winter for refurbishment of the buildings. There would be limited access in front of the Court because of the storage of the building materials. The Parish Supper, which took place annually in January at the Court, could not be held there, therefore it was suggested to postpone it and possibly have a spring event instead.

Highway fingerposts

No further developments.

IT grant

The Clerk was in the process of applying for suitable equipment.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The SID report had been circulated by email on 29th July. Yarde – approach from Woodford, taken between the 11th July 2016 and the 25th July 2016. The median speed was calculated at 35mph which is 5mph above the posted speed limit of 30mph. The 85thile speed was calculated as 42mph which is 6mph above the intervention limit of 36mph.

The Chairman's Award Nomination, previously circulated, was discussed and it was decided to send in a nomination from Nettlecombe. Cllr Crothers and the Clerk to fill in the appropriate form with the necessary details.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for vulnerable children and young people 2016 was summarised by SCCllr Lawrence and the documentation was available for councillors to read.

An online housing survey from SALC had been circulated and it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should complete and return it before the deadline.

8. TORRE CIDER FARM MEETING 13/6/16

Cllr Mackie summarised the meeting held at Torre Cider Farm regarding the contentious planning application that had been submitted. Councillors agreed that the owners' intention was much less controversial and substantially different to what had been envisaged by some local residents. Councillors advised the owners that the application be thoughtfully re-submitted. Cllr Reynolds had added that there was a need to talk to local people to allay their worries. A further application had been received today and was passed to councillors for their comments (see Planning).

9. WEST SOMERSET FLOOD GROUP UPDATE

The Clerk told the meeting that the Flood Group, which consisted of representatives of towns and villages in West Somerset, had won the Prince's Award of £1000 and a vase. This was for their work in encouraging local people to share their knowledge and awareness of flood problems and practically assisting in prevention. WSCllr Dewdney particularly commended the efforts of Teresa Bridgeman for her overall organisation of the group. Improved liaison with the relevant authorities, Highways, Environment Agency and FWAG, was also a significant advance.

10. SCC LISTENING LEARNING CHANGING QUESTIONNAIRE (circulated)

Cllr Reynolds commented that it was necessary 'to create the cake before you can share it'. Business was desperately needed in the area, housing was a nightmare and these problems should be considered before progressing with the possibility of a University in Somerset.

There were possible alternatives to nuclear energy – solar, tidal and wind which could generate plenty of power. The investigation of these was ongoing.

11. REPORTS

11.1 Chairman's Report (MC)

Nettlecombe Fete had been held on 28th May at Huish Barton by kind invitation of the Lintott family. £3,648 had been raised.

The new Rector of Bicknoller, Crowcombe, Monksilver, Elworthy, Nettlecombe, Sampford Brett and Stogumber, Angela Berners-Wilson, had been installed on 25th July. She and her husband, Andrew, were to live in the Bicknoller rectory.

The Trevelyan effigies in Nettlecombe Church are in the process of being restored and conserved with funds of £33,880 received from various charities including the Heritage Lottery fund, the Church Buildings' Council and the Effigy Fund.

The death had occurred during the last couple of months of former Parish Councillor, Richard Whiteman. He had served the council during the 1980s.

11.2 Highways

In Cllr Mahlich's absence Cllr Crothers informed the meeting that a stretch of road from Fair Cross towards Egypt had just been resurfaced. However the state of the Vemplett's Cross to Huish Barton lane was extremely bad, as was the road passing through the wood to Wood Advent.

11.3 Planning

GDO/02 Mineral Line – Mrs D Smith. This had been refused.

3/24/16/002 Torre Cider Farm – erection of agricultural building and alterations to existing building – to comment

6/24/16/101 Chidgley Hill Farm - installation of telecommunications pole – no objections

6/26/16/102 Traphole Cottage (Old Cleeve adjacent parish) – no objections

11.4 Footpaths

Cllr Scott reported that the path from her farm to Huish Barton was impassable. ENP to be informed and Cllr Wichard and John Green to be copied in to any correspondence.

11.5 EMN Hall

Anna Thomas had emailed that redecoration of the Hall had commenced on 1st August when the main hall and the committee room would be painted in a more neutral shade. New curtains to replace the dark old-fashioned ones had been bought and will be fitted after the decorating was complete.

11.6 Finance (MSC)

The Clerk reported that there was £2,611.01 in the current account. This had taken into account her salary to the end of June.

12. FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION

SALC AGM at Somerton to be held on 17th September.

Details were given of SCC 1 day Hedge Laying Course on 24th September and 8th October.

The Clerk mentioned the state of the noticeboard at Yarde, Cllr Reynolds offered to check this when he was next passing and see if it could be repaired satisfactorily.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th November 8 pm at the EMN Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chair

Date