

**Minutes of the MEETING OF NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE EMN HALL, MONKSILVER
MONDAY 9th August 2021 at 8.00 pm**

Present:

Councillors Robin Wichard (Chair), Iain Mackie, Martin Dewdney, Liz Scott, Marilyn Crothers, Oliver Reynolds, Somerset Cllr Christine Lawrence
Caroline Moore and Carol Juffs (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ben Lintott

2. Minutes of the AGM and meeting held on May 10th 2021

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting

Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 28th June 2021

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting

3. OPEN FORUM – ALL RESIDENTS

No residents attended the meeting

4. POLICE REPORT

No report was received prior to the meeting.

5. SOMERSET AND SOMERSET WEST & TAUNTON COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Lawrence advised that the new Somerset Council commences in two weeks' time. There will be a review of Orders, Boundaries of districts etc to take to ballot next May. Local Council meetings and Somerset Council meetings are on-going. Covid lockdown has improved better working together.

Christine offered a sample letter which can be used to enforce hedge cutting regulations where residents' hedges overhang public highways and footpaths. Discussion ensued as to whether there was a limit on the height for hedges.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The new booking secretary for the EMN Hall had asked the Clerk if there should be a charge for the additional planning meeting. The Clerk had not found any additional payments made in previous years. It was assumed the ad hoc meetings fell in to the annual fee paid. Clerk to advise the EMN Hall bookings secretary, particularly as the Planning Meeting was held for the benefit of residents to attend.

Two thank you letters were received from Exmoor Search and Rescue and Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance for the generous donations of £100 sent to each recently. This donation was the equivalent of two years at £50 as there had not been a meeting last year to decide any donations.

7. MATTERS OF REPORT

We had approached SALC to establish the specific number of Councillors required on NettleCombe Parish Council, but have not received a response to date. The Chairman considered that Caroline Moore should be co-opted at the meeting. Proposed by Marilyn Crothers and seconded by Iain Mackie.

8. REPORTS – CURRENT

Chairman's report

The Chairman completed an on-line training session for new chairs held by SALC. ENPA will be meeting via Zoom on September 16th and the Chairman will attend.

Dunster Panel , ENPA

Nothing to report

Highways

Parishioner in Yarde had contacted the Chairman today very concerned about the on-road parking to either side of the highway through Yarde is causing a chicane effect and dangerous. An approach to Highways was suggested and a polite letter to residents will be sent from the Chairman, also a resident in Yarde.

Discussion about the trees overshadowing the road on the approach to Yarde – high enough to avoid damage to vehicles but makes the approach very dark. Agreed that there was probably not a lot that can be done as it does not impede traffic passing under the trees.

The standard of the upgrading to Slade Lane, from Vempletts Cross is very impressive.

Eroded banks still cause a problem – the lane from Egypt to Vempletts Cross and the Nettlecombe Park road. Marilyn Crothers to instigate report to Highways.

Footpaths

Liz Scott reported that the footpath from her property, through Nettlecombe estate, to Ben Lintott's was overgrown with ragwort and other vegetation to about six feet high or more.

Planning

'Under consideration' from Trebrough's planning application, and 'awaiting decision' is the current position on the Nettlecombe applications. All seems to have ground to a halt – very frustrating for proposed buyers of Berryman's cottage.

An Ecologist's report for the land at Beggearn Huish has only showed Bats being present, and the two applications still await a decision.

Cllr Lawrence will speak to the Enforcement Officer – Trevor Short.

EMN Hall

Marilyn Crothers spoke to Anna Thomas and when the EMN Hall gets back up and functioning she will submit a report to the next meeting. There is a new keypad number, which we had not been emailed about.

West Somerset flood Group

An email was previously circulated from Brenda Maitland- Walker about their forthcoming meeting which Oliver Reynolds is aware of – AGM in the first fortnight of September. The subscription has been waived. Brenda attended the Somerset West & Taunton Flood group meeting on June 1st and there is a new chairperson Dixie Darch. B3191 Blue Anchor to Watchet was discussed which is a big issue; Sampford Brett works are nearing completion and Donniford and Monksilver streams where the woody dams and ponds were put in - three year funding from DEFRA and Wetlands & Wildfowl Trust came to an end on March 31st 2021. The WWT has secured a new source of funding for this next year concentrating on Sampford Brett, Stogumber, Bicknoller and Elworthy. Other successful projects around Minehead, Carhampton and Dulverton reported in the press. There is long term planning for the sea level rise. Concerns for silting around the bridge at Exford.

Hopefully Ben Lintott's scheme of leaky dams will still be covered by the WWT.

Other Parish Matters

Nettlecombe Fete has moved to the Bank holiday weekend this year due to Covid – Saturday August . Also considering the possibility for the Parish supper at Nettlecombe Court.

Lucy Devitt has contacted the Clerk about the mowing contract. The Church are considering a new contract. Clerk to clarify with Derek Quartly what the situation is.

Clerk finance

8.1 Confirmation of Approval of the Accounts 2019/20 for exemption status to having an external audit was received from Somerset Auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP.

8.2 Confirmation of the change of signatories was received from Natwest Bank to add Robin Wichard as Chair and change the status of Marilyn Crothers from Chair to additional signatory.

8.3 IT Black Cat Computers retention proposal for 2021 was reviewed and it was agreed that there should not be the need for twelve x monthly charges as there were only quarterly meetings and the ad hoc work required. It was agreed to monitor the workload over the following year. Clerk to advise Black Cat Computers.

The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation including details of all payments to date, showing a reconciled bank balance of £5116.64.

8.4 Payments to be agreed:

Zurich Insurance 2021/22 premium of £167.44 was agreed retrospectively, as this was received and paid shortly after the AGM.

Auditor Debbie Dennis £20 was also agreed retrospectively as paid when the accounts were collected from audit.

SALC subscription for the year 2021/2 £51.35 received recently and was agreed to pay

E C Juffs salary £261.04 for July to September quarter was agreed to pay
(Black Cat Computers no invoice received to date but work outstanding)

All the payments were proposed by Oliver Reynolds and seconded by Martin Dewdney

9. FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION

A reminder that the postponed Nettlecombe Fete is now on the Saturday of August Bank holiday weekend - August 28th.

Responsibilities of Councillors Listed on the website – Robin Wichard will retain footpaths, and Marilyn Crothers will shadow Ben Lintott for Highways, in light of him standing down next year from the Council.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 8th November 2021 at 8.00 pm