

MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 10th AUGUST 2015
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, Ben Lintott, Oliver Reynolds, Robin Wichard, Ian Mackie, SCCllr Christine Lawrence, WSCllr Martin Dewdney, Mary Coles (Clerk),

IN ATTENDANCE: No residents were present.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Lintott declared an interest in the planning resubmission for Aller Farm.

1. **APOLOGIES:** No apologies had been received.

2. **OPEN FORUM FOR ALL RESIDENTS**

No matters were discussed.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

No police were present nor report received.

4. **MINUTES** of the Annual Meeting on 18th May 2015, having previously been circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

5.1 **Broadband**

WSCllr Dewdney reported that Phase 1 of the Connecting Devon and Somerset project for superfast broadband was running about 6 months behind schedule. It should be signed off and moving forward in a few weeks. Phase 2 of the project – Dartmoor and Exmoor, covering the isolated areas - was to be delivered by Airband.

5.2 **HGV signage on B3190 at The Grove and Fair Cross**

No problems with HGV vehicles using the back lanes had been reported since the last meeting.

5.3 **Flood concerns at Nettlecombe**

The Clerk was to liaise with Cllr Reynolds about the state of the channel on the south east side of Nettlecombe Park Road. She would then contact Simon Passmore to request him to trim the vegetation depending on its present state.

Cllr Reynolds had not inspected the stone bridge but would do so as soon as he had the time.

5.4 **New Mast at Golsoncott**

This was now completely operational and a good mobile signal was available to those in the area covered.

5.5 **Sandstore – S106 money**

The object had been to use the S106 money for the sandstore, but as it was not recommended for this purpose the situation was back to 'square one'.

5.7 **B3188 Guernsey Cottage**

Cllr Mahlich was not present at the meeting. The clerk would contact him to find out if he had been able to speak to Peter Owen, of SCC Highways, about the problem with the debris washing down from the track.

5.8 **Huish Barton, Clitsome and Slade Lanes**

Cllr Lintott reported that part of Slade Lane, between Vempletts Cross and Huish Barton, had been patched.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Exmoor Moorland Units Review (including the original 2010 report) – this had been circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Crothers said she had taken part in the 2010 consultation and given her views.

SALC AGM – The clerk offered to attend this meeting on Saturday 26th September. She asked if she could claim travelling expenses for this as it was to be held at Somerton. Councillors agreed to this request.

SCC Adopt-a-path scheme information had been circulated via email. It was a request to local residents to adopt a footpath or a section of path that they would be prepared to maintain. There was a form to complete and send to Somerset County Council for those who wished to participate. Cllr Crothers said she was going to adopt a footpath at Egypt near to her house. Cllr Wichard was also proposing to take part in the scheme.

SID Reports for Nettlecombe and Yarde had been sent to councillors at the beginning of July. It was agreed that the speed of the traffic along the B3188 was generally too fast. This was borne out by the median speed calculation of 36 mph during the SID installation from 18th May to 8th June.

Exmoor National Park Authority Representatives - The clerk read out the names of the recently elected representatives.

Brendon Hills Surgery – A letter had been received from NHS England regarding the relocation of dispensing etc from Brendon Hills to Dunster Surgery as from 1st October 2015. This was due to the retirement of Drs Philip and Maggie Wilson. SCCLawrence commented that the relocation to the Dunster practice may not be what some people wanted. However a new doctor had been appointed to cope with this. The new surgery would be better equipped and able to deal with incidents which in some instances would save patients the inconvenience of going to hospital. Cllr Reynolds had spoken to people who were worried about travelling through Dunster to get to the new premises, particularly during the summer when traffic congestion was prevalent. It was agreed that a vote of thanks be extended to Dr Maggie and Dr Philip Wilson for their service to the community during their time at Torre.

7. CONSULTATION ON OUR COUNCIL TAX REBATE SCHEME 2016/17 (document emailed prior to meeting)

Due to the reduction in West Somerset Council's funding, it would be necessary for some decrease in next year's Council Tax rebate scheme. After discussion, Councillors supported Option 3 of the five choices given. It was considered to be the most viable option.

REPORTS

Chairman (MC)

8.1 Dunster Panel

Cllr Crothers reported that she had attended the Dunster Panel meeting on 27th July.

"There had been no reports from the Fire and Rescue Service and only a brief report from the Police who had said that most crime rates were down in the area at present. There was a useful account from Somerset Highways detailing the progress at Washford Cross. I questioned the diameter of the drainage pipes used as they were much larger than the pipes further down the system." This had been queried at a recent Parish Council meeting.

Exmoor National Park and Parish Forum meeting – Cllr Crothers was unable to attend this. The main report was on the management of the Mires project.

Parochial Church Council

Churchyard works may require the felling of two dead trees in the closed churchyard. Nettlecombe PCC had been informed that the Parish Council, although not liable, would consider financial assistance if estimates for the work were submitted to a meeting. Dave Greenslade had been approached for an estimate.

Revd Ben Flenley and his wife Kathryn will be moving to the benefice in September. He will be a House for Duty priest – a post that is not full-time. He and his wife (also ordained) will be licensed on Monday 5th October at

7.30 pm. The process of looking for a new full-time Rector will continue.
A copy of the St Mary's Nettlecombe Newsletter Summer 2015 was handed to members.

Events

A very successful Fete was held at Huish Barton on 23rd May when a sum of £3492.27 was raised.

8.2 Highways (NM)

Cllr Mahlich was not present at the meeting.

Cllr Reynolds remarked on the preponderance of ragwort growing along the roadsides that needed attention quickly before it seeded. SCCllr Lawrence advised any sighting along the verges to be reported to David Peake of Somerset Highways. His telephone number: 01643 700778.

Cllr Crothers described the increase of rubbish dropped in the lanes and verges by motorists, cyclists and walkers. The matter needed constant attention. Cllr Mackie added that he had rubbish thrown over his wall and WSCllr Dewdney commented that there was rubbish on his verge all the time. It was suggested that this problem could possibly be addressed at the Dunster Panel.

8.3 Planning Applications (BL)

Cllr Lintott reported the following planning applications:

6/24/15/101 Land at Higher Clitsome, Slade Lane – proposed agricultural shed for livestock had been withdrawn. Cllr Reynolds requested that a letter be sent to ENPA instructing the reinstatement of land as planning had been withdrawn - a copy to be sent to the Clerk at Old Cleeve Parish Council.

Applications in adjacent Parishes

6/26/15/101 (circulated 23/07/15) **Ham Lane Reservoir, Ham Lane, Roadwater** – proposed erection of two holiday bunk houses. This had been dealt with by Old Cleeve Parish Council, members had voted against this application. It was agreed no comment would be made to Exmoor National Park Authority.

PV farm at Aller Farm – Cllr Lintott had declared an interest.

Councillors had already sent in their opinions to the Clerk – 3 against the proposal (reasons as before with the added problems encountered with the PV site at Old Cleeve), 1 for the proposal, 2 abstentions and 1 declaration of interest. The Clerk was requested to inform West Somerset Council of the decision against the proposal, as before.

8.4 EMN Hall

There was no report from Anna Thomas.

8.5 Footpaths (RW)

Cllr Wichard had been in contact with John Green who was happy to continue with his current role. He would assist Cllr Wichard with the responsibility of walking the footpaths and reporting issues arising.

The Adopt a Footpath Scheme had already been discussed.

8.6 Finance (Mary Coles, Clerk)

The Clerk put forward one account to be paid:

£100 to West Somerset Council for the uncontested council elections in May 2015.

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds that this charge be approved, seconded by Cllr Wichard and carried unanimously.

9. FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION

Members were informed that Mandy Southern had been appointed as the new Clerk for Old Cleeve Parish.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 9th November at the ENM Hall, Monksilver

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chair

Date