

**DRAFT MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 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, Robin Wichard  
SCCllr Christine Lawrence, WSCllrs Martin Dewdney, Richard Lillis and Mary Coles (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 2 residents of the parish

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** No declarations of interest were made at the commencement of the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Liz Scott and Nick Mahlich

2. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Chairman:** Cllr Lintott proposed that Cllr Crothers be re-elected, seconded by Cllr Wichard, carried unanimously.

**Vice-Chairman:** Cllr Reynolds proposed that Cllr Lintott be re-elected, seconded by Robin Wichard, carried unanimously.

**Committee responsibilities:**

**Planning** – Cllr Mackie

**Highways** – Cllr Lintott

**Footpaths** – Cllr Wichard

Cllr Lintott was advised that local contacts for the Highways Department were Peter Owen and David Peake who were, at present, based at the highways depot in Minehead.

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORMS**

Cllr Crothers and Cllr Lintott signed the acceptance of office forms.

4. **REVIEW**

**SALC subscription** (£46.88) for 2018-19

**Zurich insurance** (£167.44) for 2018-19 – part of a 3 year agreement started 17-18

**Simon Passmore** churchyard maintenance quote for 2018-19 agreed

Grass: £80 per cut

Ivy: one cut @ £25

Overflow channel: 2 cuts per season @ £22.50 per cut

5. **SUMMARY REPORTS: APRIL 2016-MARCH 2017**

**Chairman's Report (MC)**

The Parish Council had held 4 regular meetings during the year. A special meeting was held in January to set the precept for 2018-19 at £2300.

**Dunster Panel and Exmoor National Park Forum meetings** have been attended when health permitting.

**Parochial Church Council and Benefice:** Restoration of the medieval effigies in Nettlecombe Church continues and the one completed figure looks very good. The other two present fresh challenges.

Lucy Devitt has succeeded Carol Warren as a church warden.

**Other Parish matters:** 'Non-dwelling thefts' have occurred in the Parish. Fly tipping in gateways has been a problem particularly as those same gateways provide valuable passing places in the lanes.

No progress has been made regarding the missing postbox in Yarde and any improvement with broadband coverage remains patchy.

Nettlecombe Parish Council was established in response to The Local Government Act, 1894. The minute book, recording the first meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1894 and those subsequent up to 14<sup>th</sup> January 1983, has been deposited at the Somerset Heritage Centre in Taunton.

**Events:** Nettlecombe Fete 2017 was held at the Court and Church as the Lintott family was unable to host the event at Huish Barton. It proved a successful event, both socially and financially.

Cllr Crothers then offered heartfelt thanks to County and District Councillors, Christine Lawrence, at Somerset; Martin Dewdney and Richard Lillis at West Somerset, for their support throughout the past year. Thanks were due to all our Parish Councillors who serve the community so loyally. Our Parish Clerk, Mary Coles, has been invaluable throughout the year and it is with some disquiet to learn that she wishes to resign before Christmas 2018. She will be a loss to the Parish Council.

### **Highways (NM)**

In the absence of Cllr Mahlich, Cllr Crothers reported on the state of the highways during the previous year. Despite Cllr Mahlich's best efforts the two 'road lakes' still appear in wet weather – one at Vempletts Cross and the other in Nettlecombe Park Road. The Chairman had brought up this problem at a Dunster Panel meeting. Bridge repairs over the stream in Woodford have proved satisfactory to date and there was no flooding during last winter. Care of the fingerposts, now in a bad state, had been halted in the Parish amid some Health and Safety concerns. Local volunteers are willing to do the work which it is hoped will be undertaken as soon as possible.

### **Planning (BL)**

**6/24/17/101** Windwhistle Barn – approved subject to 12 conditions.  
**6/24/17/102** Highcroft, Fair Cross (amended plans) – approved  
**3/24/16/001** Torre Cider Farm resubmission – approved subject to full council scrutiny  
**3/26/14/012** White Horse Inn, Hungerford (neighbouring parish) gone to appeal  
**6/24/17/103** Installation of telecommunications pole and ancillary equipment at Huish Barton - approved  
**GDO 17/12** Land at Mineral Line (field no 0668) Roadwater, refused  
**WL 16/13** Public footpath diversion Lower Hayne to Woodadvent Farm, confirmation of adoption

### **Footpaths (RW)**

Realignment of footpath from Lower Hayne to Woodadvent Farm (see above).  
Erridge Wood felling had caused an accumulation of brash which had not been moved and was impeding easy access of the footpath.  
Cllr Crothers made a plea to make obvious the presence of the footpath at Egypt to Huish Barton.

### **EMN Hall**

A good year for the hall with various successful events – Harvest Supper, Quiz, a wedding.  
The kitchen had been 'deep cleaned'.  
A drain had collapsed outside the hall and had been rebuilt and repaired at a cost of £650.  
A break-in to the hall garage had occurred but nothing of value taken.

## **6. DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2018-19**

It was agreed to keep meetings on the second Monday of the month quarterly:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May

## **7. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE ABOVE**

There were none.

## **8. MINUTES of the meeting 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 having previously been circulated were agreed. The minutes were then signed as a correct record.**

## **9. POLICE REPORT**

No report had been received for the meeting.

## 10. OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS

No residents requested to speak.

## 11. SOMERSET & WEST SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

SCC Cllr Christine Lawrence reported on an invitation extended to SCC partners including District Councils to enter into a conversation looking at options for introducing a **Unitary model of local government into Somerset**. This was a start to discussions which could see the abolition of the six current councils including the County Council and the establishment of one, two or some other configuration of single tier authorities.

**Primary School places for September 2018** – 93.8% of children starting school in 2018 have been allocated places at their first choice of primary school, a slight increase on previous years.

**Regional adoption agency:** Somerset currently has over 500 Children in Care. The government now requires wider regional arrangements to be set up. Later this year Devon, Plymouth Torbay and Somerset's adoption services will join together to become a single service to be called Adopt South West. Working with partners in the new regional agency will give SCC the opportunity to make further improvements to the process, and it will make it easier and quicker to match children who need adoptive families with the people ready to adopt them.

**Fit for the Future:** Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (the organisation that plans and buys healthcare for Somerset residents) and SCC have agreed to work closer together than ever before and deliver a joint Somerset Health and Social Care Strategy called 'Fit for the Future'. The aim is to remove inequalities so that everyone can get equal access to the services they need.

**Somerset Waste Partnership:** Following initial setbacks with the current contractor Somerset Waste Partnership has now submitted an official notice to procure a new contractor for the Recycle More programme starting in 2020. This invites potential bidders to register their interest ahead of the full procurement process.

WSC Cllr Martin Dewdney informed councillors that legislation should take place in the next few weeks to amalgamate Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils. The new council would initiate ward changes and a proposed reduction in councillors – West Somerset 28 to 14 and Taunton Deane 58 to 42. There was a huge amount of work to be done ready for the council elections in May 2019. WSC Cllrs Martin Dewdney and Richard Lillis would keep our councillors regularly updated on this matter.

## 12. MATTERS OF REPORT

### 12.1 Highway Finger Posts

This matter had been mentioned in the Chairman's Report. Mary Coles added that she had recently emailed Charlotte Thomas for an update on progress.

### 12.2 Connecting Devon & Somerset

Cllr Lintott informed councillors that the Airband mast erected at Huish Barton should be on air in a fortnight.

### 12.3 Yarde Postbox

The Clerk was to speak to Ros Owen at Yarde, who had been dealing with the problem of the vanished postbox, to ascertain if there had been any recent contact with Royal Mail.

### 12.4 IT grant – purchase of IT equipment and maintenance

The Clerk asked if members would agree to her choosing and ordering the necessary IT equipment she was to source from the internet. She would also purchase a Microsoft Office package to load onto the laptop. She was planning to ask Steve Kidd to maintain this equipment for the Parish Council. Councillors agreed.

### 12.5 Termination of Speed Indicator Device programme (SID)

A new arrangement had been offered to parish councils to pay for use of the SID on a regular or one off basis - or purchase their own apparatus. Members had been emailed this information and agreed that it would be too costly to operate in Nettlecombe. This could be re-visited if the need arose.

### 12.6 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

This EU directive was to come into force on 26<sup>th</sup> May. The Chairman and Clerk were hoping to attend SALC training at Somerton on 22<sup>nd</sup> May for a fee of £25 per person. A request for mileage allowance was included in this. Members agreed to pay the necessary fees and journey cost.

## 13 CORRESPONDENCE

### Washford River Multiple Benefits Project – hills to levels (emailed 4/5)

This was information and progress about an Environment Agency/FWAG scheme that had been initiated in the autumn of 2016. It had been noted by Cllr Wichard that bamboo had been planted near new drains at the back of

Turnpike Cottage, Yarde. He offered to follow-up this possible future problem.

**Conservation Area reappraisal (Exmoor National Park) – Colton Farm** (emailed 4/5)

The Conservation Area reappraisal will be going to ENP members for adoption this summer. The owners of Colton Farm had been informed.

**Unauthorised development and encampments** (emailed 16/4)

The Clerk offered to send this SALC/NALC email out again. The consultation document needed to be replied to by 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Project Proposal to Support Rural Communities in West Somerset - Electric car points** (emailed 8/5)

A meeting was to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May at Bicknoller Village Hall to discuss the installation of Electric-Car Charge Points in a number of villages, for use by residents, visitors and local communities and to investigate the potential for a community-owned Electric Car Club. Councillors felt it was too early to discuss the installation of car points in villages.

**14 REPORTS**

**14.1 Chairman's Report (MC)**

Cllr Crothers reported that there was little to add to her summary report for the previous financial year (see Item 5 above).

**14.2 Highways Report**

See also summary report (Item 5 above). Clitsome Lane and Slade Lane were both heavily potholed and needed attention. Clitsome Lane was part of the route for Macmillan Way walkers.

**14.3 Planning**

3/34/18/001 The Blade Mill retrospective – a report had been sent in from Nettlecombe PC reiterating some of the objections made by the Yarde residents.

6/24/18/101 – Forge Cottage, Yarde there had been no objection to this planning request for replacement of window with bi-folding doors and balcony.

Land at Mineral Line – further appeal.

White Horse appeal (adjacent Parish)

3/26/18/004 Riverside Barn, White Horse (adj Parish) – this was for a 2 bed 2 family let in a corner of the White Horse garden. Cllr Mackie would inspect this development and speak to Phil Gannon at Old Cleeve PC about this.

**14.4 Footpaths (RW)**

The Clerk had not yet walked along from Erridge Wood to the Coach path to check the brash situation but would definitely try to do this shortly. Cllr Reynolds said the brash was still there.

See also Item 5 above

**14.5 EMN Hall**

See Item 5 above

**14.6 Finance (MSC)**

The Clerk had circulated the accounts for April 17-March 18. The figure brought forward to 18-19 = £3769.56

**Yearly charity donations (2018-19):**

Cllr Wichard proposed that each charity Air Ambulance and CLOWNS should receive £50 each, seconded by Cllr Reynolds, agreed unanimously.

Zurich Insurance 18-19 £167.44 (second year of 3 year agreement)

SALC 18-19 £46.88

123Reg (Clive Thorne) website domain renewal £29.99

EMN Hall invoice for hire of hall £38.00

Clerk's salary to continue at £840 per annum and would be reviewed when a new clerk was appointed.

**The above payments were agreed unanimously.**

**15 APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

This had been circulated to councillors. Cllr Lintott commented that nothing contentious was in the statement and he proposed that it be signed by the Clerk and Chairman on the members' behalf. Seconded by Cllr Wichard and agreed unanimously.

**16 ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2017-18**

The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and Cllr Mackie proposed that they be adopted, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and carried unanimously.

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

Nettlecombe Fete is to be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2.30 pm at Nettlecombe Court and Church, in aid of church funds.

Roadwater Players production of Alan Ayckbourn's Neighbourhood Watch was to be staged at Roadwater Village Hall from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 8.00 pm EMN Hall

Cllr Crothers thanked those present for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chair .....

Date .....