

**DRAFT MINUTES - MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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.

An interesting and informative talk was given by Carina Gaertner, Working Wetland Catchment Project Manager at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT). Her particular focus was the Monksilver and Doniford Natural Flood Management Scheme. She outlined her work which was mainly to reduce flood risk to people. Methods such as 'leaky dams' up in the hills, planting more trees and hedgerows to absorb the water, creating ponds etc. She worked with many organisations to improve flood risk, wildlife habitat, provide clean drinking water and reduce soil loss from the fields. These organisations included FWAG, Combe Sydenham, Nettlecombe Court, Orchard Wyndham, however her aim was to increase the number of people she liaised with, such as farmers and landowners. She also worked with schools and the local community. A resident of Yarde showed particular interest in the creation of an attenuation pond on her land and was to pass on her contact details.

Carina Gaertner was thanked by Cllr Crothers for her instructive and helpful talk.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Marilyn Crothers (Chair), Ben Lintott (Vice-Chair), Iain Mackie, Robin Wichard and Mary Coles (Clerk), WSCllr Martin Dewdney

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 8 residents were present

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Liz Scott, Oliver Reynolds and Nick Mahlich

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018. These were approved as a correct record.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

No report had been received for the meeting.

4. **OPEN FORUM FOR RESIDENTS**

8 residents were present.

The ongoing problem with the missing Yarde postbox was brought up by Mr Perry and it was requested that a further letter be written to the Royal Mail complaining about the disappearance and non-replacement of this important postbox. It was reiterated that this box had been situated in a much safer place for people to post their letters plus it took larger mail items than the one available at present. If it was not possible to replace it in the same position there were householders prepared to offer a suitable site on their land. It was suggested that complaints should be made by as many people as possible to hasten the return of the postbox.

Liz Mayes, Yarde, spoke about the planning enforcement at The Blade Mill. She had been advised by Tim Burton (WSC Planning) that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council and residents to monitor planning enforcements which was a surprise to her as she had understood that it was the Planning Department's responsibility. She was hoping the Parish Council had been monitoring the works at the Blade Mill. Cllr Mackie then spoke and said that the plans had been amended and the owners had a 6 month time limited amendment which would expire on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Liz Mayes expressed concern that the request for an extension of this time limit was expected, apparently one of the carpenters was unable to undertake the work as planned.

Cllr Mackie informed the meeting that if there was any flouting of the enforcement order or request for a time extension, he would write to West Somerset Council Planning immediately. Vigilance in this matter was extremely important.

Tim Farmer and Heather Bone were concerned about the recent publicity re cutting back on the winter salting of the local roads. Liz Mayes had particular concern about the B3190 and B3188 roads. Cllr Crothers reassured residents that the B road salting would continue for this winter. The 1 tonne dumpy bags of salt will be placed on the roadside by SCC as in previous years. This operation will be funded by SCC for the winter of 2018/2019. The bags and any remaining salt will be collected by SCC at the end of the winter and, again, this operation will be funded by SCC. Torre/Fair Cross and Colton Lane were suggested as places to deposit the dumpy bags and people

could then take the salt themselves and use on the icy areas of the lanes. Small salt bags had been offered to parish councils and Cllr Lintott would collect and store, those who wanted one to contact him.

## 5. **SOMERSET & WEST SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

WSCllr Dewdney reported briefly on Somerset West Council matters. Reorganisation was progressing and was on Phase 2 – recruitment stage. The present Chief Executive was not taking over a new role, however a newly recruited Chief Executive was joining the Council in the New Year.

## 6. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

### 6.1 **Highway Finger Posts**

This project was completed as far as was possible. The money had now run out, however the signposts on Exmoor had been refurbished and many of those in West Somerset too. It had been a highly successful scheme and much appreciated by residents.

### 6.2 **Connecting Devon & Somerset**

The new Airband mast at Huish Barton was operational but did not offer improved broadband coverage to Yarde and Nettlecombe. WSCllr Dewdney reported that the coverage on Exmoor was highest in West Somerset at 91%, overall it was approximately 80%. BT's coastal strip project had been augmented by Gigaclear which should improve progress. He was asked when Yarde would receive coverage to which he replied that he was not privy to this information. WSCllr Dewdney was then questioned by Mr Perry (resident) as to how Monksilver residents got their hub, he answered that Nettlecombe Parish appeared to be 'betwixt and between' initiatives and no-one appeared to know the answer.

### 6.3 **Yarde Postbox**

See Open Forum (Item 4)

### 6.4 **IT grant – purchase of IT equipment and maintenance**

The Clerk reported that she had purchased a suitable printer/scanner. At a cost of £118.

### 6.5 **Vacancy for Clerk**

Cllr Crothers and Mary Coles were to compile a suitable advertisement for the vacancy and Mary would forward to local organisations and place posters on appropriate noticeboards. It was hoped there would be a few applicants, possibly one of the new parish residents.

## 7 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Local Policing (*circulated 27/8*)

Call for information for Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum on 15/11 (*circulated 17/10*)

The Future of Local Government in Somerset (*circulated 17/10*)

Final recommendation for new council ward boundaries Somerset West & Taunton (*circulated 23/10*)

Somerset Waste Partnership information (*circulated 2/11*)

Threat to West Somerset Advice Bureau (*circulated 2/11*)

Somerset Waste Partnership (*circulated 6/11*) – this informed of changes due in April 2019.

## 8 **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.

She then reported that the Clerk had received notice of the resignation of Nick Mahlich who was unable to be present tonight to tender it in person. Grateful thanks were extended to him for the 6 years he had served on Nettlecombe Parish Council.

### 8.2 **Highways Report (BL)**

Cllr Lintott reported that he had emailed David Peake on 16<sup>th</sup> October but, to date, had not received a reply to his highway queries:

The recurring problem along Colton Lane just to the north of the entrance to Coombe House, where a drainage ditch alongside the lane appears to be blocked, as a result a large pond gathered on the road which caused a danger to road users. If cleared, the drainage ditch at the rear of the grass verge would alleviate the problem.

Stormy weather in October had dislodged covers from the drains and were a hazard not only to cars, but also walkers and cyclists. There was a similar problem at the Woodford end of Colton Lane and in some places down the lanes in Beggearn Huish.

Many of the drains and culverts on the B3190 from Fair Cross towards Raleghs Cross were blocked with debris, some of it underground, causing runoff onto the roads.

An on-going issue in Nettlecombe - water in large quantities running down the lane from Vempletts Cross to Huish Barton. The water tends to come from above, near Woodadvent, running down the lane to Vempletts Cross pooling there and then running on down the lane to Huish Barton. In the past this has contributed to flooding at Huish Barton, most notably in November 2012 and clearly is in danger of destroying the new road surface on this lane which was laid last year. There used to be a drain into the fields at Vempletts Cross which let the water into the fields to the North of the Egypt Road. Oliver Reynolds had told Cllr Lintott that at one time there had been a plan to drain this water via an underground pipe across the field in question and into the drains of Slade Lane. What chance was there of these works being undertaken?

Cllr Scott, who was unable to attend the meeting, had informed the Clerk that she had contacted the Highways Office in Minehead regarding the Colton Lane problem but there had been no action. She had also reported the drain covers and some had been dealt with.

It had been noticed that during hedge cutting various road signs had been damaged by the machinery used. It was suggested that SCCllr Christine Lawrence could pass this information on to Highways.

### **8.3 Planning (IM)**

**3/34/18/001 - The Blade Mill, Yarde**

**3/26/18/004 - Riverside Barn, White Horse** (adj Parish) – conversion to 2-bed holiday unit - **refused**

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

**6/24/18/105 – Berryman's Cottage, Beggearn Huish** – proposed erection of a summerhouse. It was not considered well sited and Cllr Mackie was to deal with this.

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

The Clerk reported that the collapsed gatepost on the gate leading from Harpers Lane onto the footpath to Erridge Wood was in the same state since she had last mentioned it. She wasn't sure if it was the responsibility of the landowner or ENPA. Cllr Wichard said he would follow up this matter.

### **8.5 EMN Hall**

During the meeting one of the heavy wooden tables used had partially collapsed due to an insecure catch. It was to be reported to the EMN Hall committee as it could have caused an accident to one of the members and possibly would in the future if not dealt with.

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

WSCllr Martin Dewdney informed members that Teresa Bridgeman had been elected as the new Chair of the Flood Group.

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

Current account £4867.79

Payments:

Clerk's Salary as agreed – July to September £210

Mary Coles' purchase of Parish Council printer - £118.52

The above payments were agreed unanimously.

## **9 SCC WINTER MAINTENANCE**

**(see item 4)**

## **10 PRECEPT 2019-20**

Cllr Wichard proposed that the 2019-20 Precept should remain the same as the previous year at £2,300. This was seconded by Cllr Mackie and carried unanimously.

**11 UPDATING & REVISION OF PARISH PLAN**  
It was agreed to take to the next meeting.

**12 FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION**  
Parish Supper - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 8.00 pm EMN Hall

Cllr Crothers thanked those present for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chair .....

Date .....