

DRAFT MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2017 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.

A fracking presentation was given by Kevin Ogilvie-White of Frack Free Exmoor-Quantocks-Sedgemoor. He explained that some parishes within West Somerset had declared their areas frack free zones these included Watchet, Minehead without and Selworthy, and possibly Old Cleeve. Nettlecombe councillors were invited to consider this also. There then followed questions and an exchange of views for and against Mr Ogilvie-White's conclusions from the presentation. It was suggested that a vote on this could be taken at a later meeting. Cllr Reynolds advised that someone should be invited to speak for the fracking proposals.

Mr Ogilvie-White was thanked for his thought provoking talk.

The meeting commenced at 8.40 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Marilyn Crothers, Oliver Reynolds, Iain Mackie, Robin Wichard, Liz Scott, WSCllr Martin Dewdney and Mary Coles (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr & Mrs Shandley were present as observers.

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Ben Lintott, Nick Mahlich and SCllr Christine Lawrence,
2. **MINUTES** of the meeting on 14th November 2016, having previously been circulated, were agreed with two amendments made by Cllr Reynolds as follows:
Item 5 – the bridge over the leat had collapsed (not the leat) and was rebuilt in a different way
Item 12.3 – Planning: opening on the corner opposite The Mill House. “Cllrs Lintott, Mahlich, Reynolds and Wichard expressed disquiet”, Cllr Reynolds did not express disquiet but thought we should keep an eye on the development. He also commented that the visibility had been improved when coming from Williton and turning left onto the B3188.
The minutes were then signed as a correct record.
3. **SOMERSET AND WEST SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**
There was no report from SCllr Lawrence, who was unable to attend the meeting due to her commitments at other Parish councils.
WSCllr Dewdney gave his report.
Balancing the Council's 2017-18 budget would take place on 22nd February at 4.30 pm.
Final consultation on creating a new council would be concluded in early March the information collected would then go to the Secretary of State.
A new lorry fleet is being purchased so that recycling can increase and many more items be included in the recycling collection. It would mean that half the present contents of the black bins should be recyclable. Depots on the other side of the county would deal with this extra material. Bin collections every three weeks (instead of two) will then be in operation. In certain circumstances some bins may be emptied more regularly. Training sessions would be offered with information packs etc so householders understood the new regime.
4. **OPEN FORUM FOR ALL RESIDENTS**
There were no matters for discussion.
5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**
 - 5.1 **Woodford Culvert** – the flooding issues brought up at the previous meeting in the Open Forum by Michael Ralph and Anna Thomas had been referred to Teresa Bridgeman, secretary of the West Somerset Flood Group. The clerk had spoken with Dr Bridgeman and given her the couple's report. She subsequently had made contact with Anna and Michael who appeared satisfied with the knowledgeable advice and support they had received

from her and the group.

It had been noted that most of the poplars at the road end and another large tree had been felled on the old market garden site in Nettlecombe Park Road near the culvert.

- 5.2 Highway fingerposts** – the Chairman reported that the organisation of training by Somerset County Council had not yet been finalised. SCC was in the process of finding and appointing someone to run the programme now that a grant had been awarded. There were three qualifying posts (possibly more?) in the parish – Fair Cross, Yarde and one opposite the Grove.
- 5.3 Connecting Devon and Somerset update** – Martin Dewdney reported that 70% of the network had now been installed but not all connected. It was scheduled for completion by the end of September this year. It included the work across Exmoor National Park.
Cllr Wichard voiced his concern about problems with BT and the lack of broadband in Yarde which was not being resolved. At present some residents were in a legal dispute with the company concerning the £500 grant offered to those without connection.
- 5.4 IT grant - Transparency Code** Mary Coles said she had completed the paperwork for the IT grant which could include money to set up a website if one was not already in existence. At present the Nettlecombe website hosted all the Parish Council matters but she was aware that there had been no postings since August 2016. The clerk had been in correspondence with Clive Thorne who input copy onto the website but had been unable, since November, to upload the agenda, minutes etc that had been sent to him. As it was now a mandatory requirement to display this information electronically she thought it may be necessary to set up a separate Parish Council website hence the delay in sending the grant application. However she felt it was unnecessary to do this if the existing one could be fixed. Cllr Crothers offered to speak to Clive Thorne to see if the matter could be resolved quickly.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Police Report

An email had been received from PS Sue Thompson informing councillors that there is a new Neighbourhood Sergeant, Sgt Stu Williams, and a new Neighbourhood Beat Manager, PC Jamie Munro, in this area. She apologised that no police could be present at the meeting. She added that “all Parish Councils are able to look at the beat stats via the Avon & Somerset Website, unfortunately, the stats in isolation do not mean a great deal to small localised areas.

Current trends to be aware of at the moment are crimes targeting the elderly & vulnerable- cold callers/rogue traders, so if you are aware of anyone who may benefit from a visit from the Bobby Van, or a visit from one of us to offer crime prevention advice, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. If any issues are raised at your meeting that we need to be aware of, or can help with, please give us a call.”

6.2 Rural Crime Initiative (circulated by email 4/2/17)

This initiative had included an important **text** number **81819** that could be used when reporting rural crime. It was to be trialled for three months to measure its effectiveness. The number won't be monitored 24/7 but the team will be looking at it when they are on duty; it therefore shouldn't be used for reporting crimes, or anything which requires an immediate police attendance. In those circumstances please dial 999.

6.3 SID information (circulated by email 1/12/16)

The proposed dates for 2017 are as follows:-

Woodford (approach from Monksilver) - Weeks Commencing 06th March 2017 and the 11th September 2017

Yarde (approach from Woodford) – Weeks Commencing 20th March 2017 and the 25th September 2017

6.4 Exmoor National Park Local Plan Consultation

A schedule of main modifications to the Local Plan and a schedule of proposed changes was published for public consultation between Friday 13th January and 24th February 2017. Information on Exmoor National Park website.

6.5 NFU Leaflet – Better Farming and Better Planning (circulated by email 7/2/17)

6.6 S106 balances and applications deadlines received from West Somerset Council (email 13/2/17)

A link was given to the webpage showing all the deadlines for 2017 as well as the latest finance reports. £1000 was still outstanding from 2010 for Nettlecombe Parish to claim.

6.7 Yarde Postbox

Ros Owen had informed the Chairman that the postbox in Yarde had been removed when the telegraph pole it had been fixed to was taken down. There had been no move to replace the box and despite phone calls and correspondence with Royal Mail there was no clear indication whether it would be returned. The Clerk was

asked to write a letter and request its urgent return to Yarde.

7. PROPOSED NEW COUNCIL – WEST SOMERSET/TAUNTON DEANE

The consultation was open until the end of February. Councillors discussed the proposal to amalgamate with Taunton Deane Council. Comments included: Cllr Wichard - the loss of local knowledge particularly in planning, as in his experience paperwork and queries were sent to Taunton Deane despite WSCllr Dewdney's point that there was still a team in Williton. The chairman stated, that for Nettlecombe, ENP covered the majority of planning.

Cllr Mackie – with electronic communication central costs were reduced, in the past it would have been different.

There would be a 25% reduction of councillors in West Somerset from 80 to 60.

WSCllr Dewdney pointed out that the final decision will be with the minister and he could amalgamate all three councils – West Somerset, Taunton Deane and Sedgemoor, if he so decided.

All present agreed that West Somerset alone was too small to be functional.

Cllr Reynolds commented that he was in favour of a unitary authority.

8. PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2017-2018

There had been a vote on the precept decision for 2017-2018. Six councillors (Cllrs Crothers, Lintott, Mahlich, Mackie, Scott and Wichard) had been in favour of the status quo. Cllr Reynolds had voted for a 10% reduction in the precept. Therefore the precept had remained at £2,300 per annum.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chairman's Report (MC)

The Benefice had requested information from the Parish Council for its new Welcome Pack. This had been provided and Parish Council details were included. There was to be a Parish appraisal in the near future. No paper copies of the Parish Plan were available as they had all been distributed. However, there should be an electronic copy on the Nettlecombe website, this to be checked out. A decision to be made as to whether there would be another print run.

9.2 Highways

In Cllr Mahlich's absence Cllr Crothers reported on a problem between Egypt and Vempletts Cross where the new tarmac had covered a drain cover. She was to speak to Cllr Machlich about this.

Cllr Reynolds said he was not happy with the organisation of recent work undertaken in Carhampton. It had caused much unnecessary disruption. Signed information about roadworks in West Somerset was either uninformative or lacking.

9.3 Planning

Cllr Lintott had emailed a report for the meeting.

6/24/16/102 – Yarde Cottage: erection of field shelter and amended application for erection of garage both approved.

6/24/17/101 Windwhistle Barn, Windwhistle Lane - a site meeting had taken place on 30th January, the Clerk, Cllr Crothers and Cllr Reynolds were present. Councillors who could not attend sent in their comments which agreed with Cllr Lintott's response to Exmoor National Park. There were four queries to be answered: water supply; necessity for vermin proof rubbish container regularly emptied; knowledge of extent of repairs needed and materials to be used; some disquiet locally about bringing people into an unspoilt and quiet part of the parish. Providing satisfactory answers were given to the above, as a Parish Council there was no major objection to this application. Cllr Crothers did not agree with conserving the building for a camping barn and was to give an individual response. This application had not yet been decided. Cllr Scott had spoken to Mike Ruell (the applicant) who had offered to attend a meeting with Nettlecombe parish councillors. This was considered unnecessary.

6/24/17/102 Highcroft, Fair Cross, Washford – this had not yet been decided.

WL 16/3 Proposed diversion of public footpath at Yarde. A response had been sent to the re-routing of the footpath between Huish Barton and Yarde.

9.4 Footpaths

Cllr Wichard had nothing to report.

9.5 Watchet, Williton & Quantock Vale Panel – 6/12/16

PCC Sue Mountstevens’ visit to West Somerset

Cllr Wichard circulated an account of the evening.

The sale of police buildings in Minehead would not lead to a loss of presence in the town, the plan was to have one site for Police, Fire and Ambulance services.

Talks are in place with options to ensure that CCTV also remains in Minehead.

In Williton it is proposed that the police move into the rear of WS Council building. The library is also going into the ground floor, the County Council support team is already there.

48% of crime is now cyber crime. ‘Action Fraud’ is monitoring this and working on the national picture.

Plans are to retain a limited custody suite in West Somerset. New vans are being introduced with screens so only one officer will need to escort a prisoner in future.

Cllr Crothers thanked Cllr Wichard for attending the meeting on the council’s behalf.

Cllr Wichard then had to leave for another appointment.

9.6 EMN Hall

No report had been received but councillors could see the redecoration etc that had taken place.

9.7 Finance

The Clerk reported a total of £2,851.01 in the current account.

The clerk’s salary (October-December) of £210 to be paid as agreed.

Simon Passmore’s invoice for £700 had been paid as agreed at the previous meeting.

9.8 West Somerset Flood Group

Mary Coles informed members that Teresa Bridgeman had been chosen, as the Flood Group representative, to attend a conference on government flood policy in central London at the end of April. She was to be funded from the the Prince of Wales Award £1000 prize won by the WSFG.

10. FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS’ INFORMATION

Cllr Lintott (in his absence) had requested the clerk to bring up the increasing problem of fly tipping in the area. It was difficult and time consuming for council officials to find out who had dumped the offending rubbish. Answers were needed to this unsightly and sometimes dangerous offence.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a speaker in favour of fracking to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

11. DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND AGM

Monday 8th May 2017 7.15 pm Annual Parish Meeting
8.00 pm AGM of Nettlecombe Parish Council

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Chair

Date