

MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2016
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, Nick Mahlich, Iain Mackie, WSCllrs Martin Dewdney and Richard Lillis, Mary Coles (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Debbie Dennis, Village Agent for Nettlecombe.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Robin Wichard **Planning – Item 9.3**

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Liz Scott, SCCllr Christine Lawrence

Debbie Dennis, the newly appointed Village Agent for Nettlecombe and surrounding parishes, was welcomed to the meeting. She had been invited to introduce herself and her new role within the community to members. She is employed by the Community Council of Somerset on a part-time basis. Her remit is to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations. Specific solutions can then be offered for their identified needs and this would stop them falling into a crisis situation. For example gaining access to the West Somerset Food Cupboard, finding information on the internet to apply for assistance etc. She appreciated referrals to her and would assist wherever she could. Cllr Crothers thanked Debbie for her interesting talk.

2. OPEN FORUM FOR ALL RESIDENTS

No matters were discussed.

3. POLICE REPORT

An email had been received from Sue Thompson, PCSO at Williton, apologising that no-one was available from the Beat Team to attend the meeting. The Clerk read out the report which outlined the present situation in the area and explained that it was no longer possible to provide individual statistics for separate parishes due to cuts in policing and amalgamation of beats. Recorded crimes for the entire beat area (all areas patrolled out of Williton) were down 15% on last year. There were no specific emerging crimes/patterns for the Monksilve/Nettlecombe area. Currently Williton has one warranted Officer, PC Andy Ware, who is the Neighbourhood Beat Manager, and two PCSOs – Peter Bolton and Sue Thompson who cover the entire beat area. There are also response teams operating out of Williton.

4. MINUTES of the previous meeting on 9th November 2015, having previously been circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS OF REPORT

5.1 Broadband – no further information had been received on progress in Nettlecombe.

5.2 Woodford Culvert (0360104) on Nettlecombe Park Road

There had been heavy rain but the culvert was coping well to date. Cllr Reynolds said he had pulled some sticks and debris out to aid the water flow. Monitoring the area for an accumulation of vegetation etc would be an ongoing maintenance task.

Cllr Mahlich had spoken to Paul Tucker as to when the work might take place for the extension of the culvert pipe and making good the parapet headwall, he expected it to take a long time. He was checking with Duncan Darling of Nettlecombe Estate to establish that the strip of land housing the culvert belonged to the estate. The Chairman was sure that this was the case. Cllr Mahlich had also emailed Josian Didier to find out if funds were available for this necessary work. The whole area needed monitoring and the scouring out of the bridge required attention soon. It was established that water was coming through to the leat.

5.3 Closure of Brendon Hills Surgery/takeover by Dunster Surgery

The new surgery at Dunster had now opened and patients were pleased with the good facilities in the building. The Chairman pointed out that the sign for Brendon Hills Surgery had not been removed at Torre. The clerk was to ask Highways to remove this.

5.4 Airband

WSCllr Dewdney offered the latest information on Airband. Planning applications had been submitted for approximately 63 masts to be erected across Exmoor.

5.5 Blindwell Lane

The problem with the new buildings needed to be discussed with WS Planning Department. The different coloured roofs on the structures at the site were visible from a considerable distance and resembled a theme park. The white roof of the Dutch barn was particularly obvious.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

A SID report from the B3188 at Nettlecombe between 19th Oct 2015 and the 02nd Nov 2015 had been circulated to councillors. An email had been received from Dave Grabham advising members of the dates of the two SID installations during 2016 in Nettlecombe and asking for notification if this was not convenient:

Woodford approach from Monksilver week commencing 7th March and 25th July

Yarde approach from Woodford week commencing 22nd February and 11th July.

Councillors agreed that these dates were acceptable.

West Somerset Council Local Plan to 2032 Examination – Final Inspector’s Matters & Issues had been forwarded via email for final comment.

The **result of Public Consultation for Dulverton Middle School change of age range** had been circulated to members.

7. PARISH PRECEPT 2016-17

The precept had been agreed by a majority via email but there were a few points to discuss, particularly as there was a reasonable reserve at present. It was suggested that money should be earmarked for future expenditure, for example flood maintenance work and the problem with the bridge by Nettlecombe Park Road (see Matters of Report 5.2). Cllr Crothers proposed that the precept be kept at its present amount (£2.300) to account for present and possible future responsibilities. This was seconded by Robin Wichard and carried unanimously.

8. AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS 2017

The Clerk apologised for the late receipt of the audit arrangements for 2017, they had been circulated on 30/1/16 and the urgency of reply had not been noted. It was agreed that they should be circulated again and read carefully. The option considered appropriate be emailed to Mary Coles by 26th February. Cllr Lintott had a copy of the Audit Arrangements and considered that Option 4 may be the best choice for Nettlecombe Parish.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chairman’s Report (MC)

Dunster Panel

A good report had been received from **Magna Housing**, West Somerset which was available on the table for councillors to read.

The **Police** reported a slight reduction in reported crime. They were encouraging the public to report all crime so as to keep the number of officers constant in our area and not lose out to Bristol.

The finances of the **West Somerset Council** to be discussed on 24th February so there were no details of cuts or adjustments to budgets presently available.

Highway matters discussed at the Panel have been included under the **Highways Report (9.2)**

ENP and Parish Forum

I have been unable to attend recent meetings but I am hoping to attend the next meeting. The Economic Prospectus Summary was available, on the table, for councillors to see.

Events in the Parish

The Parish Supper on 8th January had been attended by approximately 40 people. SCC Cllr Christine Lawrence had given a vote of thanks and appreciation to the organisers for an enjoyable evening.

An important future event: Nettlecombe Fete at Huish Barton to be held on Saturday 28th May.

9.2 Highways' Report (NM)

Cllr Mahlich gave further information about highway matters.

Slade Lane section Vempletts Cross to Huish Barton will be patched and resurfaced in the next resurfacing programme.

The state of Slade Lane from Vempletts Cross down towards Slade House was still not good. Some patching had been done and potholes filled but not of a good standard therefore not likely to last.

Cllr Crothers reiterated these remarks and had brought the poor state of this part of the lane to the attention of David Peake (Somerset Highways) at the Dunster Panel meeting.

Cllr Crothers had mentioned in her report that the Slade Lane drainage clearance had resulted in the lane north of Vempletts Cross being much less wet.

There were still no further developments with regard to tracing the owner of Guernsey Cottage on the B3188. Anna Thomas, of Woodford House, and Cllr Mahlich had been talking to Peter Owen (SCC Highways) about the problem of the debris washed down from the track onto the road and the blocking of drainage routes. Possible prevention of this could be managed with the construction of a hump similar to the one at Yarde.

9.3 Planning Applications (BL)

Cllr Lintott reported on the following planning applications:

6/24/15/102 (circulated 25/10/15) – **Mr Gerald Cole, Huish Farm – Proposed erection of new grain store**

3/28/15/001 Westwick House (resubmission) permission refused.

3/28/13/005 – Land at Aller Farm (resubmission) – there had been no further information about this.

6/24/05/101 – plot 0668 Old Mineral Line – Mrs Debbie Smith. A copy of a letter sent to Mrs Smith had been forwarded by Joe White, ENPA, to the Parish with information that full planning permission was needed for her outbuildings.

Cllr Wichard declared an interest before this matter was discussed.

3/24/15/003 Yarde Hill Buildings, extension and change of use of existing barn to form a two bed holiday let plus two-bay timber garage - Mr Dan Cotterill.

A reasoned response had been sent to WSCouncil by Cllr Lintott. Access being the biggest problem with this proposal.

6/26/15/101 Ham Lane Reservoir, Roadwater (adjacent parish) – proposed erection of two holiday bunk houses (appeal). Nettlecombe had not made an official comment but it was understood that Old Cleeve parish councillors were against this appeal due to problems with access.

9.4 EMN Hall

Anna Thomas had sent in a report for the meeting. She was thanked in her absence.

The floor throughout the main hall, entrance and committee room had been sanded and varnished.

Every chair had been serviced and repaired where necessary and new rubber leg-ends fitted to protect the new floor.

The washhand basins in the ladies' cloakroom had been replaced.

Bookings for the Hall were steady.

9.5 Footpaths

Cllr Wichard reported that he had not been out for a few weeks partly due to the extremely wet weather and acknowledged that there were probably damaged footpaths etc due to this.

He had received no acknowledgement for his adopt-a-footpath application.

9.6 Finance (Mary Coles, Clerk)

The Clerk put forward accounts to be paid:
Clerk's salary – Jan-March - £210 already approved.

10. FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION

Cllr Reynolds said that he was attempting to contact Lucy Devitt to arrange the relaying of the rest of the Millennium hedge at the churchyard.

The Exmoor Local Plan was going to the Inspectorate in March for consent in the summer.

The Clerk was requested to obtain a quote for a good laptop and printer for council use. Grants could be obtained for this and all members agreed that application should be made.

11. DATE OF AGM AND NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 9th MAY 2016 at the EMN Hall

7.15 pm AGM

8.00 pm Committee Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chair

Date