

**MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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, Liz Scott, Nick Mahlich, Iain Mackie, SCCllr Christine Lawrence, WSCllr Martin Dewdney, Mary Coles (Clerk),

**IN ATTENDANCE:** No residents were present.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** There were none.

1. **APOLOGIES:** No apologies had been received, apart from SCCllr Lawrence's apology for late arrival.
2. **OPEN FORUM FOR ALL RESIDENTS**  
No matters were discussed.
3. **POLICE REPORT**  
No police were present nor report received. A formal request for an email update to be requested for the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Lintott said the recent badger cull had produced a police presence but, as far as he was aware, there had been no serious incidents.
4. **MINUTES** of the previous meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015, having previously been circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record.
5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**
  - 5.1 **Broadband** – Updating boxes continues, Bilbrook and part of Crowcombe have been connected. Also see Item 7 re Airband.
  - 5.2 **Flood concerns at Nettlecombe \_ Woodford Culvert (0360104) on Nettlecombe Park Road**  
Cllr Mahlich had recently received an email from Paul Tucker, Senior Bridge Engineer at SCC, which had been circulated to Parish Council members. He agreed with councillors' findings that the upstream end of the precast concrete pipe culvert would benefit from being extended by approximately 1m. This would include making good the parapet headwall at the same time. This work was to be prioritised and added to SCC's outstanding works database. The other works suggested – the open section of culvert closed in and the pipes extended to do so – were outside the responsibility of SCC and any costs should be borne by the landowner. Paul Tucker also added that there may be funding available for this from the flood management team. The Chairman said that Nettlecombe Estate should be approached explaining the situation and requesting permission for the work to be done. Cllr Mahlich responded that whether they would or wouldn't take responsibility the work was necessary. Cllr Reynolds agreed with this saying that it was critical to make sure the pipe was well secured and it was sensible to undertake the whole job with the same contractor. Cllr Machlich was advised to speak to Duncan Darling at Nettlecombe Estate. He concluded that significant problems would occur for the Centre traffic, particularly the coaches, if the road was to sink.
  - 5.3 **Closure of Brendon Hills Surgery/takeover by Dunster Surgery**  
Work was progressing well on the new Dunster Surgery and the complete changeover to this building should take place before Christmas.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE**
  - Old Camford Nurseries**  
Cllr Crothers read an email she had received from Trevor Short, ENP Planning Investigation Officer, regarding the closure of the outstanding enforcement case at the Nurseries. This followed concerns raised in 2011 over the condition of the site. The occupier has cleared unnecessary and excessive vehicles and rubbish and

Environmental Health were satisfied with these actions. The site is overgrown and Trevor Short has encouraged the occupier to continue his efforts to improve the site whenever his health will allow.

**SID Reports for Nettlecombe** had been recently circulated to councillors. This was on the Woodford sign, approach from Monksilver, taken between the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The median speed was calculated at 28mph which is compliant with the posted speed limit of 30mph. The 85%ile speed was calculated as 34mph which is 2mph below the intervention limit of 36mph. Cllr Mackie commented that drivers exceeded the speed limit to over 50 mph on a regular basis along this stretch of road.

**West Somerset Standards Authority Parish Representatives result** had been circulated by email on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Secretary of State Members' Appointments for National Parks 2016** email had been circulated on 27<sup>th</sup> October and nominees' applications had now closed.

**Volunteer Drivers** – a request had been received for additional drivers to help with the ATWest car scheme. Cllr Lawrence endorsed the scheme and encouraged circulation of the information to as many people as possible.

## 7. **AIRBAND MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER AT TITHE BARN, DUNSTER**

In the coming months an initiative called Get up to Speed is to run public briefings in partnership with Exmoor National Park, Connecting Devon and Somerset and Airband, the fixed wireless supplier chosen to deliver 30 Mbs to some of the hardest to reach parts of Devon and Somerset. These meetings (see above) are open to communities and businesses and will be an opportunity to learn more about the next phase of Connecting Devon and Somerset's programme to bring superfast broadband to Dartmoor. Free support for communities is also being offered.

## 8. **WOODFORD NOTICEBOARD**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Reynolds for the excellent job he had done in re-erecting and repairing the 'felled' noticeboard. It was thought that a tractor had possibly caused the damage. The cost for materials and a minimal fee for labour was £66.00.

## 9. **DEAD TREES IN THE CLOSED CHURCHYARD**

Cllr Crothers advised members that quotes had been obtained for the felling and removal of the dead swamp cypresses in the churchyard. Bob Parker had quoted £290 and Dave Greenslade £350. Both Cllr Lintott and Cllr Reynolds thought these quotes were expensive and queried whether we were paying all the costs for this work. The Chairman replied that she thought a 50/50 division with the PCC would be agreeable - £145 each. Cllr Mackie said there was no option but to get the work done because of the insurance implications. He then proposed that Nettlecombe Parish Council should pay half the cost (£145). Cllr Scott seconded and it was agreed unanimously.

## 10. **REPORTS**

### 10.1 **Chairman's Report (MC)**

#### **Dunster Panel**

The Chairman had nothing to report from this meeting apart from mention of the Code of Conduct and a discussion about the toilets at Blue Anchor.

#### **Events in the Parish**

Val Plumb held her last service at Nettlecombe using the chalice and paten from the V&A. This was the first time the chalice had been used by a woman priest, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and for a common worship service. Revds Ben and Kathryn Flenley have moved into the benefice temporarily, he will be House for Duty priest. An advertisement for a new Quantock Benefice priest will appear in spring 2016.

**Code of Conduct Training** had taken place at West Somerset District offices in September, the chairman and clerk had both attended the session on different occasions.

**ENP and Parish Forum** had been attended by the Chairman where a report on Airband had been given. This system worked on line of sight from a central receiver. See item 7 also.

## **10.2 Highways' Report (NM)**

Cllr Mahlich gave further information about highway matters.

There were no further developments with regard to tracing the owner of Guernsey Cottage on the B3188. Cllr Scott added that the washdown of rubble and stone from the driveway onto the road was much less because there were no vehicles using the entrance at present.

The B3190 at Huish Barton, where the faulty culvert was causing undermining of the road, had received no attention according to Cllr Lintott. Cllr Mahlich was to pursue both these matters.

The state of Slade Lane from Vempletts Cross down towards Slade House was not good. Cllr Mahlich had reported two large potholes and further holes had been sprayed as though they were to be repaired soon but nothing had happened. SCCllr Lawrence offered to phone David Peake to enquire what the situation was for further attention to the lane.

Cllr Scott requested that a highways' team should come and clear Nettlecombe Park Road up to Colton Farm where the accumulation of leaves was causing a problem. Two accidents had occurred attributed to the leaves and drains were blocked on the flat section. SCCllr agreed to refer this also to David Peake.

Cllr Mahlich was due to pick up de-icing material later in the month which would increase the parish council stock to 30 bags. Cllrs Scott, Crothers and Reynolds requested some for use on difficult surfaces in their areas.

## **10.3 Planning Applications (BL)**

Cllr Lintott reported the following planning applications:

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

This development would not add to traffic as it was to be a holding store for grain and for machinery in the winter months. Cllr Reynolds added that it would fill an untidy space. Cllr Lintott to reply to this application as above.

**3/28/15/001 Westwick House (resubmission)**

Cllrs Crothers and Reynolds had looked on site at the resubmitted plans and considered it a better scheme. A letter had been written by the clerk to West Somerset Council planning with their observations.

**3/28/13/005 – Land at Aller Farm (resubmission)** – there had been no further information about this and it was considered by some members that it was probably 'dead on its feet'.

**6/24/05/101 – plot 0668 Old Mineral Line – Mrs D Smith.**

No definite decision was known about this and it was assumed the matter was ongoing. A letter had been written to Mrs Smith by the Clerk when she had queried the original backing of the Parish Council for her plans and subsequent rejection. The Clerk had circulated Mrs Smith's letter and her reply which documented every minute from 2009 that mentioned this planning request. There had been no further correspondence from Mrs Smith.

The development at Blindwell Lane off Lodge Rocks was discussed as a planning application that Nettlecombe, as an adjacent parish, had not been consulted on by WS Council. The development had been granted despite strong opposition, not least from Old Cleeve Parish Council. Cllr Reynolds commented that the buildings could be viewed from many vantage points some within Nettlecombe Parish. The white roof of the dutch barn in the day and the extent of lighting at night was obtrusive. The clerk was requested to write to WSC planning and advise them of the above comments.

A letter was read from Trevor Short regarding the works above Clitsome Farm where the field had been levelled and posts for an agricultural building erected. An Enforcement Notice had been served and was not appealed. Initially the Notice was not complied with but, apart from reseeding, it had eventually been dealt with. There had been reason to prosecute but it was decided it was unnecessary now.

## **10.4 EMN Hall**

No report had been received for the meeting.

**10.5 Footpaths**

In the absence of Cllr Wichard, Cllr Crothers reiterated SCC’s request for local people to take responsibility for a footpath under their Adopt-a-footpath scheme. There were no other matters to report.

**10.6 Finance (Mary Coles, Clerk)**

The Clerk put forward accounts to be paid:

Clerk’s salary – July-Dec = £420.00 already approved

Payments to be agreed:

Clerk’s travel expenses to SALC AGM @ 45p per mile @ 74 x 45 = £33.30

Oliver Reynolds – Woodford noticeboard repairs = £66.00

Simon Passmore – churchyard grass cutting 2015, 10 cuts @ £75 = £750.00

strimming of river channel at Woodford = £25.00 Total £775.00

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds that these charges be approved, seconded by Cllr Lintott and carried unanimously.

Mary Coles reported on the SALC AGM that she had attended at Somerton in September. One of the items had been about the Transparency Code and the new national funding scheme for Parish Councils. This was to receive financial help towards internet services and equipment required for the purpose of publicising all required information on the web. Nettlecombe would be eligible for this help if needed. There had also been information about the future changes to the external audit arrangements.

**11. FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS’ INFORMATION**

Cllr Scott informed members that she had cut her side of the cemetery hedge, for which she was thanked. There was no date arranged for the Parish Supper, normally held in January. The Chairman would advise as soon as she had suitable dates from Nettlecombe Court.

A useful contacts list was to be printed out and distributed.

Dates needed to be booked with Ross Urquart for 2016 meetings:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the ENM Hall, Monksilver

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chair .....

Date .....