

DRAFT MINUTES of the MEETING of NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 12th AUGUST 2019 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), Oliver Reynolds, Iain Mackie, Liz Scott, Robin Wichard, Carol Juffs (Clerk), and Martin Dewdney.

IN ATTENDANCE: No residents present

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Ben Lintott

2. MINUTES of the AGM and Meeting on 13th May 2019

These were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. FINANCIAL & OTHER INTERESTS FORMS

Financial and Other Interest forms were emailed to the Councillors and completed for the meeting

4. Election of Parish Councillor

Cllr Robin Wichard proposed that Martin Dewdney should be elected as a Councillor to Nettlecombe Parish Council and this was seconded by Cllr Iain Mackie. The Chairman thanked Martin Dewdney for standing for office and welcomed him to the Council.

5. Election of Representative to West Somerset Flood Group

Cllr Liz Scott proposed that Cllr Oliver Reynolds was elected as the representative for West Somerset Flood Group and this was seconded by Cllr Martin Dewdney. The next meeting of the WSFG will be at Sampford Brett village hall on October 22nd 2019 at 2.00 pm.

6. Police Report

Although no report had been received it was noted from the recent Dunster Panel meeting that there continued to be problems with thefts from outbuildings and trades van contents, but fewer agricultural thefts.

7. OPEN FORUM – for all Residents

There were no residents attending the meeting.

8. SOMERSET and SOMERSET WEST & TAUNTON COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No reports had been received for this meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 West Somerset Flood Group correspondence for financial support to their website and had enclosed an invoice, as blanket charge to all councils.

It was noted that there were still no outstanding invoices from Simon Passmore, grounds contractor. Cllr Reynolds will try to follow this up in person.

10. APPOINTMENT OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT for Church yard around Nettlecombe Parish Church

In the absence of further quotes being received, despite a couple of people stating an interest, the quotation from Derek Quartly was approved to mow and strim the churchyard at £75 per cut, (compared to £85 in the previous contract) and to cut the ivy on stone walling when required at £60.

Cllr Scott reported that the overflow ditch needed doing and the Chairman will follow this up with Mr Quartly.

11. MATTERS OF REPORT from 13th May 2019

Accounts 2018/19 were sent to Auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP

There were no further matters of report from the meeting.

12. REPORTS CURRENT

Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the SALC Parish Councillors update at Williton on 4th June which was a useful refresher, and provided the supporting paperwork to the table.

The Exmoor National Park meeting was held on 13th June but no minutes had yet been received.

The Dunster Panel meeting on July 2nd had been well attended and there were grave concerns about the future of the road from Watchet to Blue Anchor, especially by Daws Castle and the foreclosed Blue Anchor Pub.

Nettlecombe Fete was a financial and social success raising a record £4335. Those involved were rewarded with a Pimms and Cream Tea party which was well attended in the church on 7th July.

The Chairman attended a site meeting at the small holding located on the Mineral Line with Debbie Smith and ENP Planners. At the time of the meeting no correspondence had been received from ENP regarding the outcome of that meeting.

Church matters – Rev. Angela Bernes-Wilson has now returned from her three month sabbatical. Rev John Rose has now left the Benefice and hopefully enjoying a less busy life in Sidmouth. Rev Ben Flenley is still recovering from a stroke but hopes to return to 'light duties' soon. Bishop Nigel Stock is helping with services on a weekly basis.

The Arts Society has started to prepare a Church Trail for 8 – 12 year olds to use in Nettlecombe Church.

Highways

In the absence of Cllr Lintott the Chairman reported the complete re-surfacing of the lane from Wood Advent to Roadwater. Also the problem for Fair Cross cottages when an articulated lorry turned around in the early morning when Stickle Path road was closed. The lorry mounted the roadside wall destroying most of it – this highlights the problem of large lorries generally in the narrow lanes around the parish.

Footpaths

Cllr Wichard reported the footpaths were generally in good shape and he was strimming to help keep vegetation under control on a couple of paths locally. He will be looking at a fallen tree to assess whether it needs someone in to remove it.

The Chairman asked Highways and ENP to remove the mound of soil accumulating by footpath close to Egypt.

Planning

Slade House application was approved just ten days after the last meeting, with consent for all the alterations applied for, but work does not appear to have started.

The Wilsons application was approved on 18th June for extension to outbuildings.

Traphole Lodge (formerly Briar Cottage) large application (three separate ones) on the old Mineral Line, as reported earlier, a report from ENP is still awaited. Old Cleeve Parish Council will deal with objections to create a dwelling on open countryside. Cllr Mackie to write to ENP in agreement with and showing support to Old Cleeve Parish Council, with reference to Miss Tina Trickett's applications.

Blade Mill has complied partly by reducing the roof height and adding garage doors, but appears to be in breach by not apparently finishing the work. The access ramp to the garage has not been built and the site has not been cleared. Cllr Mackie will write to SWAT advising that the work does not appear to have been finished. The work has been very protracted and needs to be resolved, as it was not completed by 3rd July and the weather had been good to not justify hold-ups.

Also application for 10 houses in Washford – on right of A39 as one enters Washford, a proposal of six for outline planning originally but Developer Acorn now advertising for potential ten houses on the site. Access to highways will need to be considered as there is not a safe way to access at present

EMN Hall – no report received

West Somerset Flood Group – reported earlier in the meeting

Other Parish Matters

Cllr Scott reported on the ragwort which seemed widespread through Nettlecombe. Also Balsam problem which is notifiable – but that problem is historical.

Finance

The following payments were approved by Cllr Dewdney and seconded by Cllr Wichard

Clerk's salary £254.02

SALC Annual membership £47.09

SALC Training for MC £25.00

Zurich Municipal Annual Insurance £167.44 – fixed rate for three years

Grounds Maintenance Derek Quartly £225

Postage E C Juffs £8.82

West Somerset Flood Group website contribution £5

13. CHANGE OF BANK SIGNATORY – FINANCE CLERK

The decision to change the bank signatories from the out-going Clerk Mary Coles, and to be replaced with the new Parish Clerk Elizabeth Carol Juffs was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Mackie.

It was resolved that the Authorised Signatories in the current Natwest bank mandate for the accounts as detailed in section 1.3 of the Business banking single mandate, be changed in accordance with the section Authorised Signatories on page 6 of the Natwest Business banking mandate. The current mandate will continue as amended.

The Clerk will manage the signed paperwork to Natwest bank in Minehead.

14. FUTURE BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION

The Parish Supper will take place in January 2020 according to availability of the staff at Nettlecombe Court.

15. DATE OF Next Meeting – Monday 11th November 8.00 pm