

**MINUTES of the MEETING OF NETTLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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 Ben Lintott (acting Chairman for the meeting), Oliver Reynolds, Nick Mahlich, Liz Scott, SCllr Christine Lawrence, WSCllr Martin Dewdney, Mary Coles (Clerk)

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

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** A declaration of interest was made by Cllr Lintott with reference to the revised planning application for Solar Panels at Aller Farm.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Marilyn Crothers and Robin Wichard
2. **Police Report** – No police report.
3. **OPEN FORUM**  
There were matters discussed.
4. **MINUTES** of the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014, having previously been circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record.
5. **MATTERS of REPORT from the previous meeting**
  - 5.1 **Broadband**  
There were no broadband updates. WSCllr Dewdney said he would ask SCllr Lawrence to take up the continuing problem with the County Council.
  - 5.2 **HGV signage on B3190 at The Grove and Fair Cross**  
No signage had appeared to date. Cllr Lintott commented that, realistically, to stop HGV lorries accessing the lanes it would need a sign at every junction - not practical or desirable.
  - 5.3 **New traffic signs etc at Fair Cross**  
Cllr Mahlich said that the above ground signage was all in place but the white lining was still to be done. It had been mismarked behind the cottages and he had informed Highways about this.
  - 5.4 **Flood maintenance work Woodford**  
Cllr Reynolds reported that he had strimmed the ditch and cleared out the grass where the works had taken place in 2013 on the south east side of Nettlecombe Park Road opposite the old Nurseries. He had removed sticks and branches in the culvert entrance, this would need regular checking. A large stone had moved under the bridge at the edge of the road requiring future attention when the water level had lowered. He suggested that it would be best to wade into the stream and inspect the bridge arch and sides with a torch. An update to be given in May and SCC to be informed if needed.  
The Clerk had received no further correspondence from Josian le Brun to her reply regarding his query about the Flood Mitigation work.
  - 5.5 **New Mast at Golsoncott**  
Work on the mast had been scheduled to start on 16<sup>th</sup> February.
  - 5.6 **Solar Panels at Aller Farm (see Planning)**

## **5.7 2015-2016 Precept**

This had been set at £2,300, as agreed.

## **5.8 Fields on the Mineral Line opposite Crystal Glen**

The Clerk was monitoring the situation around this area.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **6.1 NALC Transparency Code for Parish Councils with annual turnover not exceeding £25,000**

This document sent, from SALC, had been emailed to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their information. The Clerk was familiarising herself with the new code which was to operate from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015. The majority of the Government's mandatory requirements were already adhered to. *(The document will be emailed to all councillors with these minutes.)*

### **6.2 Nick Laphorn, Head of Field Studies Centre, Nettlecombe Court**

Cllr Crothers had written to Mr Laphorn, Head of Centre, on 31<sup>st</sup> December on behalf of parishioners who had lost their water supply (estate managed) just before the holiday. It had been felt that those affected had been given insufficient knowledge of the procedure to deal with this eventuality. Cllr Lintott read out the letter from the Head of the Field Studies Centre to Cllr Crothers asserting his disappointment at her remarks. Cllr Scott affirmed that there had been some difficulties with the supply and it had been extremely upsetting for those involved. Since the problem, Duncan Darling, the Nettlecombe estate manager, had contacted residents with a list of relevant telephone numbers for such an emergency which would help in the future. The Clerk was asked to thank Mr Laphorn for his informative explanation and the resolution to any future communication snag.

### **6.3 Keith Richards, Technical Officer, WS Council – Sandbag stock storage**

Keith Richards had asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to hold a stock of sandbags and locally manage their distribution to facilitate easy access and faster delivery. This letter had been forwarded to councillors on 8<sup>th</sup> January. There had been no recommendations for where sandbags could or should be stored. The most likely area of need was Woodford/Yarde.

### **6.4 Street Cleansing and Public Convenience Cleaning Contract**

A further letter from Keith Richards had been received with reference to the retendering of the above West Somerset Council contracts and ways of mitigating operating cost increases. It was felt that co-operation with Taunton Deane and discussion with Somerset County Council may aid this process.

### **6.5 Appointment of Parish Members to ENPA**

The meeting organised by SALC to explain the process for election of parish members to ENPA had been postponed. The Clerk said that Cllr Crothers had been intending to attend the meeting and was thinking of standing for election on this committee. Further information was to be emailed to members about this.

### **6.6 Somerset County Council Contact Number**

An email had been received about the introduction of one telephone number for all departments in the Council. The number would be issued in the next couple of weeks and would be forwarded to everyone.

### **6.7 Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

Mary Coles reminded members that the consultation on the draft second Rights of Way Improvement Plan was taking place between 10<sup>th</sup> December and 10<sup>th</sup> March. This email had been forwarded to members on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. It was requested that it be resent.

## **7. REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Mary Coles had circulated the revised Standing Orders and understood that there were no further amendments needed.

## **8. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

Members were reminded that elections were taking place in May and all Parish Councillors needed to be nominated and put forward for re-election. At present there were only six councillors representing

Nettlecombe. There was a suggestion for a resident to be approached to complete the seven permitted. The Clerk had checked the residency qualification and it was one year.

## 9. REPORTS

### 8.1 Chairman (MC)

There had been no Dunster Panel meeting nor SALC meeting for comment.

#### **West Somerset Flood Group**

In the Chairman's absence the Clerk reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the group. The next meeting was to take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April venue and time to be arranged. There would be a highway representative available to talk about gulley tagging.

### 8.2 Highways (NM)

Cllr Mahlich had provided information on the traffic signage and markings at **Fair Cross** under Matters of Report.

#### **B3188 at Guernsey Cottage**

Cllr Mahlich agreed that the solution to the problem at Guernsey Cottage would be the resurfacing of the track down to the B3188 or the debris being caught before it reached the main road and gulleys. Mary Coles said she had received no reply from Mr & Mrs Dyer of Guernsey Cottage regarding the state of the track. Cllr Scott offered to find out alternative ways of contacting the owners and would report to Cllr Mahlich if she managed to ascertain any information. He replied that if this was not successful it would be passed to Highways for action, SCCllr Lawrence added that she would help to chase if needed.

#### **B3190 at Huish Barton**

Cllr Lintott reported that the culvert under the road was still not running correctly consequently the road was increasingly undermined. It was false economy by Highways not to deal with this problem. Cllr Mahlich agreed and would persevere with this.

#### **Clitsome and Slade Lanes**

Cllr Mahlich said that Clitsome and Slade lanes would be closed at least until the end of February. At Clitsome Lane large pipework was being installed but Cllr Reynolds observed that unless the ditches at Clitsome Farm were kept cleared any problems there would continue. Cllr Lintott remarked that the drains needed to be sorted out before any resurfacing work took place. He requested that Cllr Mahlich enquire about any works taking place on the road from Vempletts Cross to the Grove (B3190), he added that one large hole had been filled recently. Cllr Reynolds remarked that there were markings from the top of this lane (the Grove end) to the bottom of Slade Lane and it would be useful to ascertain what the plan was for these works. Cllr Mahlich agreed that he would ask the Highway Manager these questions.

### 8.3 Planning Applications (BL)

Cllr Lintott reported the following planning applications:

**6/24/07/105** (circulated 09/10/14) - **Appeal re Land on Mineral Line (Debbie Smith)** – No notification of appeal decision to date, this could take some time.

**03/24/14/003** (circulated 26/10/14) – **Lower Berrymans, Beggearn Huish (proposed barn)** – barn to be sited in field south east of Lower Berrymans (Egypt side). This application had been granted as submitted.

#### **6/24/14/102 Huish Farm – extension to existing barn.**

A letter dated 22/1/15 had been received by Cllr Lintott from Sarah Scannell, the Planning Officer at ENPA, stating that she could not support the application in its present form. No comment was offered by the Parish Council. The application was recently granted with amendments (one porch only).

#### **6/24/14/103LB Field Studies Council, Nettlecombe Court – building consent for internal sanitary works**

No objection had been made by the Parish Council but four comments had been made by the Chairman. The application had then been approved by ENPA with many conditions included.

Cllr Lintott had declared an interest on the following revised application:

#### **3/28/14/005 Solar Panels – Aller Farm** (circulated 5/2/15)

This application was for a smaller area of solar panels but the associated problems would be as before.

### 8.4 EMN Hall

Cllr Lintott reminded the Clerk to contact Anna Thomas before the next meeting to obtain an update on events etc at the Hall.

**8.5 Footpaths**

John Green’s report was read out and included the following issues that had been raised with Tim Parish (ENP) and Andy Stevenson (SCC):

Additional signage would be of benefit to walkers and possibly the landowner

1. Close to Lower Hayne where forestry work and new fences have made the correct routing of the path confusing especially for anyone new to the area.
2. Near the southern end of the walk from Colton Farm to the Raleigh’s Cross road.
3. Near Beggearn Huish Farm. Cllr Mahlich queried where this footpath might be, no members were aware of a problem. The Clerk to request further information from John.

A lot of forestry work had been undertaken in Erridge and Nap woods, there was one tree across the path in Erridge wood and another on the northern edge of Nap wood that was leaning precariously against a smaller tree, these had been blown down since the work. Tim Parish had informed John that the ENP had agreed with the land owner of the woods that the footpaths would be restored in the spring.

John queried where the broken stile (mentioned in the previous minutes) was situated. Cllr Reynolds thought it may be the one opposite Cllr Scott’s drive near the recent drainage works.

Thanks were extended to John for his informative report.

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

The Clerk put forward accounts to be paid:

Clerk’s salary January to March £210 this had been approved.

£1732.27 was at present in the current account after deduction of the above amount.

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

Referring to item 6.3 it was suggested that maybe a community sandstore could be combined with a winter salt storage shed. Mary Coles to contact Angela Summers to see if the S106 money qualified for this purpose. A venue needed to be found where a store could be erected.

**10. DATE OF AGM AND NEXT MEETING**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at ENM Hall, Monksilver

7.15 pm AGM

8.00 pm Committee Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chair .....

Date .....