

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at the Moorland Hall

Present: Councillors Roger Webber (*Chairman*), Linda Atkins, Eric Clarbull, Vivian White, Eric Norman, John Anson, John Davis. Marlene Allinson, Jill Homewood (*Parish Clerk*), West Somerset Cllr Steven Puglsey, Somerset Co Cllr Frances Nicholson and one parishioner. Jill Homewood

213.1 Election of Chairman and Receipt of Chairman's Declaration:

Two nominations: Cllr Webber and Cllr White. An anonymous ballot was carried with Cllr Webber being declared Chairman by 4 votes to 3. The Chairman's Declaration was signed. The Chairman thanked Cllr O'Neill for his work over the last 3 years and welcomed the newly elected: Cllrs Anson and Eric Norman.

213.2 Election of Vice Chairman: Cllr Atkins was nominated and elected by unanimous vote.

213.3 Receipt of Declarations of Acceptance of Office from individual Councillors: each Councillor signed a Declaration, witnessed by the Parish Clerk

213.4 Public Question Time: Cutcombe telephone kiosk – Frank O'Neill presented his findings to the meeting. At present there is no threat of discontinuation of service and ENPA is keen it remains operable, although over last five months only 24 calls were made: all of which were to free phone nos. School has been identified as potential custodian and S Gilbert would be able to carry out maintenance (M Allinson has contact details). Listed structure/£1 take over charge.

213.5 Apologies of Absence: None.

213.6 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Clarbull, personal, Chairman of the Moorland Hall Committee item

11.4. Councillors were asked to complete individual Registers of Interest and also Election Expenses forms as a legal requirement.

213.7 Minutes and Matters Arising: the minutes of the meeting held on 21st April were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising: 212.6 Bus Services: notice to be placed on noticeboards asking if public are happy with the services.

Road Sweeper: due to 3 month road closure through Dunster roads were not swept. Cllr Pugsley asked to be informed of any issues.

Cutcombe Hill: public meeting to be set up end June/beginning July with Peter Radford and David Peake of

Highways

213.8 213.8.1 Planning Applications: 6/8/15/102 Little

Oak Farm: Lawful Development Certificate for the existing material change of use of land for stationing and use of mobile home as a single dwelling: as this is a legal matter the Council had no comment **213.8.2 Other Planning Matters:** concern raised by parishioner regarding permanently parked vehicle at Church Cottages which would be an obstacle to an ambulance. Cllr Clarbull to liaise with owner.

213.9 Highways: Popery Lane Bridleway Consultation: due to unsafe slippery surface the bottom part of this historic track was concreted over. Concerns that other parts are also unsafe and suffering from water erosion. The meeting was told that there is a legal requirement that tracks are kept up to a modern standard; the Highways Authority can be taken to court under Section 56 and if complainant is successful there is a legal obligation for the Authority to carry out remedial work immediately. Luckwell Bridge: received response to say that they await better weather. Crossroad improvement: Cllrs Atkins, Webber and O'Neill met with County Council at their offices: no work proposed around stones; work costed at £10,000; improving signage on road, H-bar markings on dropped kerb area. Council officers to make site visit. Drawings show give way and hatchings, but no signs. £20,000 set aside for improvement at project end. County Council aware that they need to address all issues, meeting to be scheduled within next 6 weeks, where information can be given also on the legal aspects of any proposals. Need to consult with local people.

213.10 Nominations for Parish Members of the ENPA and Election Meeting: Cllr White was nominated.

213.11 Finance: Cheque approvals for: 11.1 renewal of Council's insurance policy with Came & Co in the sum of £428.06 11.2 Internal auditor's report noted 11.3 internal auditor Derek Bott £50 11.4 the Moorland Hall for £10 for room hire 11.5 Clerk's Salary and expenses from April to May 2015 (£360.68) 11.6 Inland Revenue £162.60 Income Tax due 11.7 Clerk's Snowdrop Valley Expenses (£120.93 SV account)

213.12 Correspondence and Meetings: 213.12.1 Public toilets proposal: email R Mulcaire of West Somerset Council received 14 May: 99 year lease £25 pa rent; Supplementary Estimate for 2015/16 Capital Programme of £12,000 to enable Parish to reconfigure building; other T&Cs to be agreed by Asst Director for Property and Development in association with Lead

Member. Cllr Puglsey recommended that the Parish negotiate to take on the freehold. Matter to be subject of public meeting. **213.12.2:** Recreation Ground: documents from 1968 and 1969 came to light clearly showing that the field was conveyed to the Village Hall and its Trustees. Therefore the Parish Council has no say in its management. However, the Parish Council has a 2 year contract (with option to renew for further one year) with regard to the grass cutting with which it will continue. A sum of £100 had been spent on legal advice prior to the discovery of the said documents. The remaining £550 of the sum allocated for this advice will not now be needed.

213.13 Items for the next Agenda: (1) appointment of Portfolio Holders; (2) Finance: Section 137 Grants; (3) Nominations for Moorland Hall Committee representative; (4) update of Council's Asset Register re removal of Recreation Ground; (5) Public Toilets proposal

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40pm. The next meeting of Cutcombe Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 16th June 2015** at 7.30pm in the Moorland Hall.

All are welcome to all meetings.