

Minutes of the Annual Cutcombe Parish Meeting of Electors held on Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 7.30 pm at Moorland Hall

1. **Present:** Parish Council Chairman Roger Webber (*Chairman*), Somerset County Councillor Frances Nicholson, District Councillor Steven Pugsley, Marcus Capel (Headmaster of Cutcombe and Timberscombe First Schools), Cutcombe Parish Councillors Linda Atkins, Eric Clarbull, Frank O'Neill and Vivian White, the Reverend David Weir, PC Jeff Trimmings, sixteen parishioners and the Parish Clerk Marlene Allinson.

Welcome: the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

1. **Apologies of absence:** none.

2. The **minutes** of the meeting held on 7th May 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. **Chairman's Annual Report:** Cllr Webber gave his 27th Annual Report which is filed with these minutes and thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for all their work over the last year.

4. **RFO's Financial Report:** Marlene Allinson gave a summary of last year's income and expenditure including Snowdrop Valley, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

5. **Annual Update on Cutcombe First School:** Marcus Capel gave a report and thanked everyone, including the school governors, for their support. The school is thriving, as is the pre-school, and numbers are increasing. A copy of his report is filed with these minutes.

6. **Police Annual Update:** PC Jeff Trimmings gave details of change of staff for the area: WPCSO Sue Hurley is leaving for a one year's leave of absence. There have been 16 reported crimes over the year, 9 of which were badger cull related. Other crimes are vehicle theft, theft from vehicles, criminal damage to tractors, chainsaw theft, non-payment at the garage and 2 non-dwelling burglaries. Rural Watch is active. The local police have supported a bid for funding for upgrading the cameras at the crossroads.

7. **The Reverend David Weir** gave details of Easter services including the School Easter Service at 9.30 am on

26/03: all are welcome. Easter Sunday will see the procession with the donkey and on the 9th May the bells will be rung for VE Day. Social evenings are being organized by the Church in the Moorland Hall, all are welcome. Revd Weir gave out A Guide Leaflet for All re St John's Church Graveyard, Cutcombe, a copy of which is filed with these minutes: all comments on this leaflet would be appreciated.

8. Update on the Sports Club and the Recreation

ground: Cllrs Webber and Clarbull spoke regarding the current process of updating the existing lease on the recreation ground between the Parish Council (owners) and the Moorland Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (tenants). Jim Matravers, Chairman of the Sports Club and Secretary of the Football Club displayed plans of the proposed new Sports Club building and explained why this is needed. Planning permission will be sought as soon as possible. It is hoped that the new changing rooms will be available for all users of the field and the MUGA.

9. Update on the Wheddon Cross Crossroads: Cllr Webber outlined the position regarding the funding available for updates and his frustration at the slow pace of obtaining plans from Somerset County Council: it had been hoped that these would be available for this meeting. When received an open public meeting will be called for consultation purposes.

10. Update on the Wheddon Cross Toilets: Cllr Atkins reported on negotiations so far with West Somerset Council: plans have been drawn up for two unisex toilets with the idea of renting out the remainder of the existing building, all of which would be upgraded. At the moment the proposal and costings are going through committee and the Cabinet at West Somerset, once approved a public meeting will be called for consultation with the Parish.

11. A Plan for Cutcombe: the way forward? The Clerk outlined a previous attempt to produce a Parish Plan for Cutcombe when funding was returned due to lack of enthusiasm and commitment. It was agreed that joined-up thinking is needed to try to find solutions to problems in the Parish, for example parking and housing. No firm decisions were reached at this meeting.

10. Open Forum: items raised included: **affordable housing** for rent, will these ever be

available for purchase? It was reported that the post of Rural Housing Enabler will be abolished at the end of this month. It was agreed that the Choice Based Letting Service currently operated for West Somerset does not work well for ensuring that local affordable needs housing goes to local people. **Faster Broadband:** Co Cllr Nicholson reported that BT will not give a firm date for this to be available in Cutcombe.

11. **The Joyce Charity:** Cllr Webber reported that £1,300 had been given out by the Charity, which covers Cutcombe, Winsford and Wootton Courtenay, during the last year. There are three trustees including himself.

11. **The West Charity:** Cllr Webber reported that around £300 had been given out over the last year. Anyone knowing of a possible beneficiary to contact himself or one of the other Trustees.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.