

Minutes of the Annual Cutcombe Parish Meeting of Electors held on Thursday 19th April 2018 at 7.30 pm at Moorland Hall

Present: Parish Council Chairman John Anson (*Chairman*), District Councillor Steven Pugsley, Somerset County Councillor Frances Nicholson, Marcus Capel (Headmaster of Cutcombe and Timberscombe First Schools), Reverend David Weir, Cutcombe Parish Councillors John Davis, Eric Clarbull, Roger Webber and Vivian White, three parishioners, Dan Barnett, Access and Recreation Manager, Exmoor National Park Authority, Sue Southwell, Rural Housing Enabler and the Parish Clerk Marlene Allinson.

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

1. **Apologies of absence:** Cllr Linda Atkins.
2. The **minutes** of the meeting held on 6th April 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising.
3. **Chairman's Annual Report:** Cllr Anson gave his Annual Report as Chairman 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 on the last year, a copy of which is filed with these minutes and informed everyone that the School had made £500 selling snowdrops during the Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride Scheme.
6. **Annual Update from Revd David Weir:** Revd Weir stressed that the Church is there for everyone of all faiths as a meeting place not just for weddings, funerals, baptisms and so on. He mentioned that the second step of Nicola Butt's ordination will take place at Exford Church on 30th June. He thanked Gill Langdon for all her hard work, she has retired as Church Warden after 34 years' service. £2,822 has been raised to date for the new Church Path which will be done in two stages, stage 1, hardcore, should start at the beginning of July, it has been delayed by the weather. When £4,000 has been raised Phase 2 will be started (tarmacking). He appealed for volunteers to get

involved in sorting out overgrowth and the wall.

7. **Wheddon Cross Toilets:** Cllr Atkins had sent in a report which was read out, it is filed with these minutes.

8. **Update on the Housing Survey:** Sue Southwell: she apologized that Jane Birch (Community Council for Somerset) and Tessa Saunders (ENPA) were unable to attend this meeting. Sue reported that the housing survey questionnaires are currently being analysed and that full funding had been granted from Awards for All. The questionnaire had been posted out to all homes and 3 drop-in sessions had been organized but these were not well attended. There had been 302 replies (25%) which is a good result, but responses from businesses had been poor, as had online responses. Sue will write some copy appealing to businesses and send it to the Clerk for inclusion in the next Parish magazine. Sue and Jane will organize a meeting when the report is finalized to discuss the results.

9. **Open Forum: Dan Barnett:** Dan gave an update with slides on Popery Lane: the attempts at making the path less slippery and possible solutions including a rope handrail, concreting over and an alternative path to the side of the slippery section. Dan also reported on the Snowdrop Valley walking paths, the path down from Raleigh Manor and Sir Robin's Path both need scraping and some good quality stone added and the drainage sorting out. He is also considering asking the Badgworthy Land Trust if the fence could be moved to make the path wider in parts but this may impinge on the snowdrops. He agreed that horse riders should not use the paths in the valley and that signs and other preventative measures should be put in place: all of these things need to be costed out and budgeted for. He informed everyone that ENPA surveys each Parish and its paths every 2 years: Cutcombe has 134km of paths, 169 gates, 165 signposts and 20 stiles. **Somerset County Councillor Frances**

Nicholson reported on the Coming Home From Hospital Scheme, she will update the Parish Council further at the May meeting.

West Somerset Councillor Steven Pugsley reported on the merger/reorganization of West Somerset and Taunton Deane Councils: in some ways the rural voice will be enhanced rather than diminished by this move and financial savings will be made. **Items raised by parishioners** included: (i) why are road closure signs put on the pavement and unlit, this is dangerous: Cllr Anson has raised this with Highways but he will pursue the matter; (ii) why is free milk for primary and nursery schools not

being promoted: Cllr Nicholson said that it is up to individual schools to decide on this but she will investigate.

9. **The Joyce Charity:** Cllr Webber reported that £1,500 had been given out by the Charity which was set up 360 years ago.

10. **The West Charity:** Cllr Webber reported that £400 had been given out over the last year.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.