

1. **Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th November 2018 at the Moorland Hall**

Present: Councillors John Anson (*Chairman*), Linda Atkins, Eric Clarbull, John Davies, Eric Norman, Roger Webber, Vivian White, Parish Clerk Nic Kemp, Steve Perry (Taunton Deane Empty Homes Officer), County Councillor Frances Nicholson (part of meeting) and one parishioner.

Prior to the start of the meeting, one minute's silence was observed in memory of Edwin Beckett. Cllr Anson also thanked Cllr Clarbull for his efforts in cleaning and preparing the War Memorial prior to the centenary commemoration, and read a letter sent to Cutcombe School thanking them for their part in the commemoration.

257.1 Public Question Time: None

257.2 Apologies for Absence: West Somerset Councillor Steven Pugsley

257.3 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Clarbull – Item 11.3 – Personal – Chairman of Moorland Hall

Cllr Norman – Item 11.7 – Personal – Business Owner

Cllr Anson – Item 11.3 – Personal – Trustee of Moorland Hall

257.7 Presentation by Steve Perry: Due to the weather Cllr Anson took this item early to allow Mr Perry to travel home earlier. Mr Perry explained his role in trying to reduce the number of empty homes in Taunton Deane and West Somerset, and the definition of an "Empty Home". Mr Perry is dealing with one particular property in Cutcombe, which is not technically an empty home, but is getting some results through discussions with a family member. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Mr Perry and Cllr Pugsley with further background on the situation as any details provided would help Mr Perry progress the case.

Cllr Nicholson joined the meeting.

Cllr Anson thanked Mr Perry. Mr Perry left the meeting and the parishioner left the meeting.

257.4 Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16th October 2018 were approved as a true record with no amendments. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 8th November 2018 were approved as a true record with no amendments. There were no matters arising from either meeting.

257.5 Report from County Councillor: Cllr Nicholson reported that salt bins and bags would be provided as previous years, although the routes which had been removed from the precautionary gritting routes and did not have salt bins/bags would not be allocated bins/bags. The Council is running consultation on support provided to families.

Cllr Clarbull asked for an update on the rents and differences on the trading estates. Cllr Nicholson did not yet have an answer.

Cllr Webber reported that Trading Standards and Co Council inspectors seemed to be duplicating work when inspecting farms. Cllr Nicholson keen to reduce duplication.

Cllr Webber reported that speeding was high priority in the Consultative Forum. Cllr Nicholson replied that Speedwatch needs to be run through the police. Speeding drivers seem to be local, therefore local pressure and awareness can be raised.

Cllr Nicholson also drew attention to the last paragraph in a letter on the parking review, which details that Traffic engineers no longer deal with signing, HGV restrictions, speed limits or disabled parking bays. These items will be included under the parking review.

Cllr Anson thanked Cllr Nicholson

257.8 Highways and Transport Matters: This item was taken out of order to allow Cllr Nicholson to comment

257.8.1 Popery Lane/Putham Lane – Cllr Nicholson confirmed that the section of “lane” from the junction with Lower Park Lane to the cattle grid is not a road. Highways in the past, following a request from Cllr

Nicholson carried out a repair. She will ask if they will honour that repair and attend to the surface again. Clerk to seek advice regarding if a lane has been maintained for a period of time, and Cllr Nicholson to confirm Highways' position.

Cllr Nicholson left the meeting. Cllr Norman gave apologies and left the meeting.

257.8.2 SIDS – Cllr Clarbull confirmed the price for Chapter 8 training is £175 pp + VAT. This is via GQ Excel and there is no date set for this yet as it will be as part of a full course. The SIDS device are available from £1,800 + VAT. Cllr Norman to invite Mike Ellicott from Exford to attend next meeting to finalise decision on SIDS device.

257.6 Planning Matters: No planning applications received for discussion. One planning application in neighbouring parish has been received to be logged for next meeting. Unanimous agreement that no wish to discuss as not in Cutcombe. Clerk to submit "No Comment" to the application.

257.9 Porlock Station Fire Appliance: The Clerk read a statement from Porlock PC. The new smaller appliance is to be used at Porlock, and the recruitment of fire fighters has also been addressed. Cllr White explained from the presentation given at the Panel how the live system used by the fire service pulls crews from out of the area to cover areas in need, and also ensures that suitable vehicles are sent to the call outs.

The parishioner re-joined the meeting.

257.10 Local Government Boundary Commission: The Clerk read a letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission, confirming the ward boundaries had been set.

257.11 Finance:

257.11.1 The Clerk confirmed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been passed with one observation

257.11.2 Clerk to send the draft budget to all councillors for comment and publish on the noticeboards, to be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

257.11.3 It was agreed to pay the Moorland Hall £22.50 for October Hall hire

257.11.4 It was agreed to pay Somerset Association of Local Councils £60 for Clerks Training Part 2 (£30) and Part 3 (£30)

257.11.5 It was agreed to pay Zara Media and Design Ltd £57.60 from the Snowdrop Valley account for the Snowdrop Valley advert in the Exmoor magazine.

257.11.6 It was agreed to pay Countrywide Grounds Maintenance £1,148.40 for the second half year of cutting Cutcombe Playing Fields

257.11.7 It was agreed to pay The Rest and Be Thankful Inn £1,656.90 for toilet cleaning and consumables to date (6 months). It was also agreed to set up a standing order to pay the monthly cleaning of £240, and to pay consumables on 3 monthly or 6 monthly invoice.

257.12 Correspondence and meetings:

257.12.1 The clerk reminded councillors of the Historic Signpost event on Thursday 22 November. The Valuation Office had contacted the clerk to confirm the current situation of the toilets and had confirmed that there was no tenant in the space to let yet.

The clerk also confirmed as she was to start working as Clerk for Winsford Parish Council, they may agree to contribute towards the Clerk training fees from SALC. Helen Davies has set up the Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross facebook page and is generating interest and linking to the village website.

The Clerk confirmed the requirements for the Thank You to Marlene Allinson – former clerk.

257.12.2 None

257.13 Items for next agenda and date of next meeting:

Next meeting – Tuesday 11 December 7.30pm in the Moorland Hall

Items for agenda: Grass Cutting contract; Budget; Terms of Reference for the Snowdrop Valley Committee; Update on Snowdrop Valley

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm. The next meeting of Cutcombe Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 11th December 2018** at 7.30pm in the Moorland Hall.

All are welcome to all meetings

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety, and Human Rights.

N J Kemp, Parish Clerk
13 November 2018