

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.45pm on Tuesday 16th October 2018 at the Moorland Hall**

**Present:** Councillors John Anson (*Chairman*), Linda Atkins, Eric Clarbull, Eric Norman, Roger Webber, Vivian White, Parish Clerk Nic Kemp, Co Councillor Frances Nicholson, West Somerset Councillor Steven Pugsley, Neighbourhood Partnership Sergeant Daniel Bishop, PCSO Linda Brooks, and one parishioner.

**255.1 Public Question Time:** items raised: (i) Do we still have time to utilise the SIDS money available? (ii) Is shale gas drilling allowed in this area?

Cllr Anson replied to (i) – Yes

Co Cllr Nicholson replied to (ii) – not within the park boundaries, but outside and then can extend underneath the park.

The parishioner left the meeting.

**255.2 Apologies for Absence:** Councillor John Davies

**255.3 Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Eric Clarbull	14.2	Personal: Chairman of the Moorland Hall	Minuted
Cllr John Anson	14.2	Personal: Trustee of the Moorland Hall	Minuted

**255.4** The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2018 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

**255.5 Reports from West Somerset and Somerset County Councillors:** Co Cllr Nicholson stated that the precautionary gritting routes were still being finalized, but with both the A396 and B3224 due to be on the routes, Cutcombe was not likely to be too affected. The next step was to identify how salt bags and bins were to be distributed, and re-iterated that when the bad weather comes, the procedure will be as before – gritting and snow ploughs were on standby to be called in as required. Cllr Pugsley stated he will arrange a meeting with all affected parishes once the plan is finalised.

Cllr Nicholson has raised concerns with Highways over the diversion route applied to the road closure at Highercombe. Cllr Pugsley reported that the Government has lifted the cap on Local Authority borrowing to fund housing. Possibility exists for Somerset West and Taunton Housing Authority to build new homes, and not just in Taunton.

Cllr Nicholson was asked to investigate the unrest between the tenants of the market site industrial units, and the management company, due to concerns over increases in the leases, repairs not being carried out, and similar units being charged at different rates.

Cllr White thanked Cllrs Nicholson and Pugsley.

**255.6 Local Policing:** Neighbourhood Partnership Sergeant Daniel Bishop explained the new structure of the local police, focusing on PCSOs being visible and contactable within the community, and demand officers who can be pulled to the trouble hotspots. Three PCSOs cover the Exmoor area – Linda Brooks, Brian Stevens and Jo Dawson. He also explained the Community Speedwatch as an option for any speeding hotspots within the village. Cllrs highlighted the problem of traffic being diverted through Wheddon Cross when an accident closed the A39, and asked the police to consider other options.

Cllr Anson thanked Sergeant Bishop and PCSO Brooks, and they left the meeting.

**255.7 Planning Applications:**

**255.7.1 6/8/18/109 North Hill:** Proposed silage pit and creation of new field access and associated works. As the applicant is the landowner, Cllr Webber stated that he did not consider that he need declare an interest because his cousin farms the land, therefore he took part in the debate and decision-making. Cllr Clarbull proposed to support the application. Cllr White seconded. Unanimously supported.

**255.7.2 6/40/18/113 Pit Pony Cottage:** Application to modify Section 106 Agreement under 6/43/14/101 to retain agricultural occupancy condition on Pit Pony Cottage and to enable land tied under existing Section 106 Agreement to be held in separate ownership. Cllr Webber proposed to support the application. Cllr Clarbull seconded. Unanimously supported.

**255.7.3 Other Planning Matters:** None.

**255.8 Highways and Transport Matters:** Cllr Norman has identified the venues for the SIDS training, and is liaising with Mike Ellicott (Exford PC) to arrange for one person from each parish to attend.

Suggestion of including Speeding/Speedwatch on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllrs Nicholson and Pugsley left the meeting.

**255.9 Audio Recording of Meetings:** Cllr Norman reported that Exford PC gave positive feedback to using a recording

device, and record all parish meetings. The device they use cost £30.

Cllr Clarbull proposed that we continue as we are at the moment, and if the clerk requests a recording device then we can re-visit. Cllr White seconded. Unanimously supported.

**255.10 Permitted development rights for Shale Gas:** Various concerns due to lack of information and controversial nature of the drilling. Council does not feel able to either support or object as have not had balanced presentation of facts.

**255.11 Thank you to Marlene Allinson:** Cllr Webber proposed a written thank you, Cllr Clarbull seconded. Unanimously supported.

A parishioner joined the meeting.

**255.12 Cleaning of War Memorial:** Cllr Clarbull has already started to clean the memorial. A parishioner has offered to pay to have the letters re-painted if needed.

**255.13 Exmoor National Park Representative:** Cllr White gave a report on the progress in housing needs and developments within the National Park.

**255.14 Finance:** It was noted that:

**255.14.1** Southern Electric have charged £29.70 by direct debit for electricity charges to the toilet for 26 June to 13 September 2018

It was agreed to pay:

**255.14.2** The Moorland Hall and Recreation Ground £11.25 for hall hire in September

**255.14.3** Community Council for Somerset £4,276 for the 8 Parish Housing Needs Survey

**255.14.4** PFK Littlejohn £240 for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2018 once the Clerk has confirmed the costs are correct and why a different company was used

**255.14.5** A set allowance of £5 per calendar month to the Clerk in respect of telephone calls made for council business, following a change itemised calls to a call plan

**255.15 Correspondence and Meetings:**

**255.15.1** Clerk read a statement from West Somerset Council about the Future of Local Government in Somerset.

Clerk also reported that two parishioners had queried paid work in Snowdrop Valley being given to a member of the Steering Group. Clerk to confirm in Standing Orders the amounts of expenditure which can be made without offering out to formal

tender.

**255.15.2** Cllr Atkins reported meeting with 4 agents regarding letting the space adjacent to the toilets. Two agents would advertise the unit for free, one on an informal basis, one to support the community.

Cllr Norman gave his apologies and left the meeting.

Cllr Clrabull proposed using the Greenslade Taylor Hunt, Exmoor Farmers and Stags to advertise the unit. Cllr White seconded. Unanimously supported.

**255.16 Items for the Next Agenda:** Steve Perry – Empty Homes Officer for Taunton Deane will attend to give a presentation; Porlock Fire Station appliance change.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm. The next meeting of Cutcombe Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 20th November 2018** at 7.30pm in the Moorland Hall.

**All are welcome to all meetings**