

CRANMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Vickie Watts

cranmoreparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk | 07971 516916 | Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, CRANMORE, ON 8th January 2018 AT 7.30PM

Present Cllr Anne Crowcombe (Acting Chairperson), Cllr Jackie Gallo, Cllr David Van Dyk and Cllr Karen Mitchell

In attendance: Vickie Watts (Clerk) took the minutes. 5 members of the public attended.

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bolton and Cllr Alan Price both sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

2 Declaration of interests and dispensations

There were none.

3 Agreement of Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 11th December 2017 and matters arising

All Councillors had received a copy of the draft minutes prior to the meeting. Cllr Mitchell highlighted that it was minuted that she had both attended the meeting and given apologies when she had in fact not attended. There was also a typo which was to be corrected by the Clerk on the electronic copy but was amended by hand on the hard copy. All agreed that the minutes then accurately reflected the meeting so were duly signed by the Chair.

Vote: 4 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstained

All matters arising had been actioned or will be discussed under a later agenda item apart from:

- After the December meeting the Clerk had reported to Charlie Higgins of Somerset Highways, that the recent installation of the barbed wire fence near to the railway bridge opposite East Somerset Railway entrance, was a concern to the Council and asked if he would make an inspection. Charlie had responded asking if we knew who was responsible for erecting the fence. It was believed that the land on the other side of the fence was part of the plot for the property known as The Granary. The Clerk to pass the address to Charlie. VW
- Cllr Van Dyk had not yet had an opportunity to speak with the landowner of the Christmas tree farm regarding the access from the A361. This was to be adjourned until the February meeting. DVD Ag
- Cllr Van Dyk had not yet approached Trevor Richards the Head of All Hallows School to ask if he could make a request to pupils' parents to drive through the village with more caution. DVD
- Cllr Crowcombe has not yet circulated the presentation given at the recent App/Social Media training that she attended with Cllr Mitchell. AC
- The Clerk to chase up Terry Drake for the signage ordered some time ago. VW

4 Meeting Open to the Public.

- 4.1 It was noted that there was a lot of litter around the village and along the A361, some of which resulted from badly packed recycling and the recent high winds. It was agreed that a request would be made via the Grapevine and the Facebook page for residents to pack recycling boxes securely to prevent the wind blowing lighter items. KM

The increase in litter raised the question as to whether there was going to be a village litter pick this spring. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Jill's Close and the WI to agree a suitable Saturday in February or March. VW

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The Clerk will contact Mendip District Council to ask if they can arrange for litter picking to be undertaken along the A361. VW

4.2 The small stream in Dean needs clearing. Cllr Crowcombe explained that this was already on the agenda to be raised with Charlie Higgins, the representative from Somerset Highways. AC

4.3 The white line markings on the roads around the Parish are fading and need to be repainted. This will also be raised at the meeting with Charlie Higgins. AC

5 Planning

5.1 Planning applications

2017/3149/LBC & 2017/3148/FUL - Convert outbuilding to single dwelling

Dean Farm Dallimore Lane Dean Shepton Mallet Somerset

All Councillors had considered the plans for the abovementioned application. There were no complaints registered on the Mendip Planning portal and the consensus from some residents in Dean was that there were no objections to the development. It was proposed by Cllr Mitchell that the application would be approved which was seconded by Cllr Gallo. Councillors felt that it was a positive use of a redundant farm building.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against & 1 Abstained due to being a District Councillor

5.2 Planning updates

5.2.1 2017/2785/HSE – South Hill House, West Cranmore, BA4 4QS and
2017/2786/LBC – South Hill House, West Cranmore, BA4 4QS

Proposed alterations to a listed building including alterations to ground floor, first floor and second floor interiors to improve useability, altered and improved roof access to meet the needs of ongoing maintenance, adjustment and augmentation of rainwater goods to improve performance, alterations to exterior to improve appearance and improvement of mechanical services.

Mendip District Council recommended approval with conditions on both applications

5.2.2 017/2935/TPO – Waterlip Quarry Ball Lane to Piers Road, Waterlip, BA4 4RN
Works to trees in a TPO area: proposed pruning, crown reductions and coppicing to sycamore trees
Mendip District Council recommended approval with conditions

5.3 Local Plan Part II Pre-Submission Consultation

Mendip District Council is consulting on the Pre-submission Draft of the Mendip Local Plan Part II from Tuesday 2nd January to Monday 12th February 2018.

MDC is also consulting on a Draft Supplementary Planning Document for Self and Custom build single-plot exception sites. The plan will be discussed at the Parish Forum meeting hosted by Mendip District Council. Agenda item for the February meeting.

Ag

6 Reports

6.1 Somerset County Council

No report had been received.

6.2 Mendip District Council

District Cllr Van Dyk explained that Mendip District Council would have to put up Council Tax hugely to bridge the gap to cover the current level of service to the district. However, the Council has just secured its first investment, namely a large warehouse in Chepstow with a long-term tenant in place. A large retail unit located in Swindon, which also has a long-term tenancy agreed will hopefully be the second. These investments have been achieved by borrowing money at very low interest rate and will generate good income and reduce the need to increase the Council tax excessively in the future. All contracts are scrutinized by Cushman Wakeman Consultancy and have very strict procedures and checks in place.

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It is hoped that opportunities to invest locally and green options will be possible.

6.3 PCSO Report

No report had been received.

7 **Finance**

7.1 Financial statement and 3rd quarter budget review

All Councillors had considered the statement prior to the meeting and agreed that it was accurate and it was therefore signed by the Chair.

The Clerk explained to the Councillors that the main payments have already been paid including the grass cutting which is one of the biggest outlays for the Parish Council. Everyone agreed that accounts were in good order so Cllr Crowcombe signed the budget report.

The Clerk mentioned that the noticeboard at Dean was now in a very poor condition and needed to be replaced as a matter of urgency. Clerk to email Cllr Price.

VW

7.2 Discussion re Precept 2018/19

The Clerk had prepared a spreadsheet with the estimated budget for the next financial year which Councillors had been able to consider prior to discussion. It was agreed that the Capital expenditure should be reduced from £5,000 to £1,500 which would make the total spend for the year £12,570. After discussion it was agreed that the Precept would be increased and set at £9,450. The Clerk will notify MDC of the requirement.

VW

7.3 Agree Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk had prepared the bank reconciliation which was checked by Cllr Mitchell at the end of the meeting.

7.4 Payments:

The following cheques were read out for payment:

Clerks salary (£147.65) & expenses (£17.00) for December £164.65

It was agreed that the cheque would be signed by Cllr Crowcombe and Cllr Van Dyk.

Vote: 4 in favour; 0 against and 0 abstained

8 **Discuss updating the Village Plan**

Adjourned until the February meeting.

Ag

9 **Update on potential purchase of field adjacent to Jill's Close & funding options.**

As no progress had been made and even it's sale was now doubtful, all Councillors agreed that this should be removed from future agendas and reinstated if required.

10 **Review of the parish grass cutting contract**

The Clerk had put together a specification for the grass cutting contract, which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Mitchell asked if the grass bank which bordered the village hall grounds/East Cranmore Lane could be added to the specification. Everyone agreed that this would be acceptable.

VW

It was agreed that Cllr Mitchell would collect the grid references for each area and take photographs to aid potential contractors when compiling their quotes.

KM

Once the Clerk has amended the specification it will be recirculated for final agreement before sending out to potential Contractors.

VW

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- 11 Update on Sports field Installation of the border and entrance signage**
This will be carried forward to the February meeting. The Clerk to speak with Cllr Price to ascertain when the contractor can help with the installation of the fence. Ag
VW
- 12 Parish website – Review content**
Mark Webster is happy to meet with Cllr Crowcombe and the Clerk to discuss managing and updating the website. Clerk to arrange a Wednesday or Thursday evening meeting. VW
- 13 Highway Issues (Inc SIDS, Speeding & outstanding requests, etc)**
Cllr Crowcombe and Cllr Van Dyk are meeting with Charlie Higgins of the Somerset Highways department on Weds 10th January 2018 at 10am. A list of highways issues from around the Parish will be discussed including: AC/DVD
- The need for 2nd width cut along the A361 to the east of Cooks Lane to aid drivers' visibility.
 - Enquiring whether the Doulling bypass could become a priority again.
- Cllr Crowcombe confirmed that additional batteries have been supplied by Dave Grabham for the SID units. Cllr Crowcombe is to provide a photograph of the site proposed for the post in Tansey. AC
- David Crowcombe had provided the SID results which show the seriousness of the problem of speeding vehicles within the Parish. The Councillors examined the display at the end of the meeting.
- Speed watch will be out again this week.
- 12 Councillor's Reports (Community group, Footpaths; Speed Watch; SALC; Quarry)**
- 12.1 Jill's Close – The monthly report had been received and everything is in order.
- 12.2 Community group – The group is aiming to buy a decent projector which can be used for films. The WI may contribute towards the cost.
- 12.3 Memorial Hall – John Reakes confirmed that the committee is progressing slowly with the requirements needed to gain the Hallmark award. They hope to apply soon. If awarded it will open options for future additional lines of funding.
- 12.4 Somerset Association of Local Councils
The monthly newsletter was well received and informative.
- 13 Meetings Attended / To be Attended**
Somerset Highways department on Weds 10th January 2018 at 10am
Parish Forum Thurs 18th January 2018 at 6.00pm
Planning refresher session hosted by MDC:
- Weds 10th January 2018 at 6.30pm at MDC Council Chambers
 - Tues 6th February 2018, 6.30 pm, in the Assembly Rooms, Frome
 - Thurs 15th March 2018, 6.30 pm, in the Town Hall, Glastonbury
- 14 Correspondence**
HMRC wrote to say that there will be changes in process for VAT 126 claims. No action required.
Lloyds Bank – Updating online business terms and conditions. No action required
Letter of resignation from Grant Bolton from the role of PC Chairman. He will continue to remain as Councillor.

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15 Date & Time of Next Meeting

Monday 12th February 2018 at 7.30pm – Monthly Parish Council.

The meeting ended at 21.15pm