

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 June 2015 AT 7.30PM

Present Cllr Grant Bolton, Cllr Ann Crowcombe, Cllr Jacqui Gallo and Cllr Van Dyk

In Attendance Vickie Watts (Clerk) took the minutes. 9 members of the public attended.

1 **Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interests.

The Clerks explained that a dispensation should be granted to allow all Councillors due to make decisions and discuss the granting of funds to Jill's Close & the Memorial Hall committees as they are all trustees to the groups. The dispensation was signed by the Councillors currently present. Cllr Mitchell to sign at the next meeting.

Cllr Crowcombe will take the completed register of declarations to the monitoring officer. AC

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Karen Mitchell and PCSO Nicola Housley sent apologies which were duly accepted by the Chair.

3 **Agreement of Minutes of Meetings held 11th May 2015 (annual Parish council meeting and usual monthly Parish meeting) & matters arising**

All Councillors agreed that both sets of minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and were then signed by the Chair. All actions had been completed and will be discussed later in the meeting under the relevant agenda heading.

4 **Meeting open to the public**

John Reakes confirmed that he had agreed at the start of the 3 year insurance contract that the sum of £497.10 would be paid by both the Memorial hall committee and the Community group. He then passed to the Clerk one cheque from the Community group and said that the other cheque will be posted soon.

A resident of Tansey attended the meeting and expressed concern over activities taking place at the sports field over the weekend namely:

- Extreme tree branch cutting, hedge cutting and strimming around the pavilions. Extreme pruning should not be carried out during spring/summer when the birds and wild life are nesting and breeding.
- Burning of the cuttings, on Friday 5th June at 6.10pm. The evening time was permissible however no consideration was taken for neighbours. It was a breezy evening and consequently the flames were licking up and burning the branches on the growing trees (where it was so close to the hedge). It almost looked out of control at the early stages, and the smoke that was bellowing out was unbearable. Neighbours had to take washing off the line, shut all the doors and windows and retreat in-side.
- They left the fire still burning alone at 6.30pm which was unsafe in a communal sports field, with very dry buildings next door.
- Rumour has it that they are clearing the area for 40 tonnes of topsoil to be

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delivered

The question was asked as to whether the Parish Council had been approached regarding the activities in light of the fact that the PC is in fact the landlord? No members of the Council had received notification.

After discussion Cllr Van Dyk suggested that the tenancy agreement be updated to a modern short term tenancy. Cllr Van Dyk to investigate as a matter of urgency. It was also suggested that the signage to the sports field be improved to highlight the entrance. The Clerk to obtain quotes – agenda item for next month.

DVD

VW
Ag

5 Reports

5.1 **PCSO** – PCSO Nicola Housley did not attend but emailed a report that on the 7th May in the Long Cross area, there was a Barn window forced open and items were taken from within.

5.2 **District Councillors report** – District Cllr Van Dyk gave the following report:
He explained that the new Mendip District Council structure is made up of 32 Conservative, 1 Lib Dem, 1 Independent & 3 Green party representative and members have now been allocated with their roles. The structure will be available on the Cranmore website.

The Council faces enormous challenges over the next 5 years with contributions from Central Government being stopped. From 2016 it is debatable as to whether they will be taking away the £1.8million out of the budget which will mean that tricky questions will be asked. Most services are outsourced and so no real savings can be made in this area so it's pretty depressing Mendip District Council don't want to raise Council tax much if it can be helped. District Cllr Van Dyk explained that they do have assets like land that could be utilized by setting up a commercial company with Councillors sitting on board to invest in housing. This will obtain a grant from Government and secure more housing which is much needed. This will buffer the money that is not going to be forthcoming from Central Government. Several councils have already adopted this model which has been hugely successful. This will be audited and open for public scrutiny.

SHAPE Mendip now has 30 groups working from the Hub and is working well and saving money.

5.3 **County Councillors Report** – County Cllr Ham did not attend and no report had been received.

6 Planning

6.1 Proposed Public Path Diversion Order. Part of Footpath SM 4/16 and Bridleways SM 4/31 and SM 4/16 at Coldharbour Farm in the Parish of Cranmore

Councillors considered the application and maps which detailed the proposed diversions. It was felt that it would be an improvement on the existing route and that the Clerk should notify Somerset County Council of such.

VW

6.2 Planning updates

6.2.1 2015/0356/OTA - Erection of a dwelling house, office and covered parking with occupational tie (forestry)

Refused

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6.2.2 2014/2588/FUL – Barns to South of 55 Dalimore Lane, Dean
Planning board notification 17/06/15 – Making representation.
Clerk to forward notification to neighbouring resident (Mr & Mrs Guidi)

6.2.3 2015/0691/FUL – Transport Depot, Quarry Business Park
An email had been received from the applicant's representative Chris Langdon via Mendip Planning Office. In the email he responded to points raised by Cranmore Parish Council in its "General observations" which were submitted to the planning department after the application had been considered. It had been agreed that the Parish Council was not in a position to vote either for or against the application. It was agreed by all Councillors that no further response was required.

7 Finance

7.1 Agree Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation had been checked and approved by Cllr Crowcombe & Cllr Van Dyk.

7.2 Review of Financial statement

All Councillors had received a copy of the statement prior to the meeting and it was agreed that everything was in order as expected.

7.3 Income

The Clerk confirmed receipt of the Cricket club rent for the period of 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 totaling £3.00.

8.4 Payments

The following cheques were agreed by all Councillors and duly signed by the Chair and Cllr Crowcombe:

Clerks salary May (Inc HMRC payment)	£180.99
Expenses	£ 21.12
Came & Co - Insurance premium	£1590.07

Vote: 4 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstained

9 Agree purchase of litter bin

The Chair explained that a new litter bin was required for the Piers Road Layby. The Clerk had circulated details of the Topsy Royale bin, which was priced at £147.90 + VAT. All Councillor felt that it was suitable for the location. Cllr Bolton proposed that the bin should be purchased (Black with concrete fixing bolts) and was seconded by Cllr Gallo. The clerk to place the order for the proposed bin

Vote: 4 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstained

10 Decision on Cricket field fence

Fence – It was agreed that the erection of the fence be installed at the end of the season. Alan Price said that Dean Pitman will drill the holes for the fence and it can be erected.

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It was suggested that the Clerk make enquiries with Cllr Ham to see if he would ascertain whether the strip of land which runs 30 yards from the entrance of Jill's Close, could be transferred to the Parish Council. VW

11 Village Plan

Cllr Van Dyk did not have a copy of the Village plan. It was suggested that this be emailed to Cllr Van Dyk and be adjourned to the July meeting. Ag
VW

12 Emergency plans

In the absence of Cllr Mitchell this will be adjourned until the next meeting Ag
KM

13 Highways Issues

Speed Indicator Device scheme – It was agreed that Cllr Crowcombe would arrange a meeting with Dave Grabham, Cllr Van Dyk and representatives of Doultling Parish Council to hopefully move this forward. AC

The SID results for Waterlip in May show that the median speed was calculated at 38 mph – 8 mph above the posted speed. The date of the next installation for Tansey was due to be today the 8th June 2015 but due to the illness the installation has been postponed until the 2nd of November.

General Highway updates: - The Clerk reported that:

- Charlie Higgins of Somerset County Council (SCC) Highways department has confirmed that they have no ditches on Dallimore Lane but confirmed that the Highway authority has a prescriptive right to drain the highway to adjoining roadside ditches as in this case the ownership and maintenance responsibilities generally rests with the adjacent landowner.
- Robert Davey of the Traffic Management team at SCC has confirmed that they will arrange to have the white lining re done to make it clearer where HGV drivers can stop.

Cllr Bolton noted that the Give Way markings at Piers Road crossroads have faded badly and need remarking – The Clerk to request that they be re painted as a matter of urgency. VW

14 Councillor Reports

Community group – Cllr Bolton reported that the village fair will take place on the 25th July. Any groups interested in having a stall should get in touch. This year there will also be a car boot held at Crane Cottages. Any suggestions for raffle prizes would be appreciated. ALL

Notice boards – Alan has provided price for plastic rosewood - £700 for three. Need to consider budget for future.

Speed watch – Cllr Bolton reported that speed watch has not been active.

SALC – Clerk to keep all Councillors aware of Training sessions available. VW

15 Meetings attended/To be attended

There were none to report.

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16 Correspondence

Police and Crime plan 2015	Passed to Cllrs – No action required
Nomination for PCSO	Passed to Cllrs – No action required
Harris & Harris	Confirmation of receipt of payment – No action required

17 Date & Time of next meetings

Full Council meeting Monday 13th July and Monday 10th August 2015

The meeting finished at 9.45pm

It is agreed that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed _____ Dated: _____