

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 10TH February 2014 AT 7.30PM

Present **Grant Bolton (GB, Chair), Ann Crowcombe (AC), Christine Smith (CS),
District Cllr Gloria Cawood and County Cllr Philip Ham**

In Attendance **Vickie Watts (VW; Clerk) and 6 members of the public.**

1 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Snelson, Jacquie Gallo and PCSO Nicola Hounsley emailed apologies which were duly accepted by the Chair.

2 **Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**

There were none.

3 **Agreement of Minutes of Meetings held on 13th January 2014 & matters arising**

The minutes had been distributed to all Councilors and were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were then duly signed by the Chair.

All actions were completed and will be mentioned later under agenda items apart from:

3 – AC reported that she had spoken with Mr David Dixon who knows who is currently dealing with the Parish website and will report back with the information required for the Parish Council to update the site.

5 – GB will put sign up about dog fouling tomorrow

10 – The damage to bridge has been reported along with drains along from the Village hall. Mr Ellis and Mr Edmondson have both been written to regarding the overgrown hedge in Cooks Lane although there has been no response as yet.

All other items are to be mentioned under the relevant Agenda items.

4 **Councilor vacancies**

Karen Mitchell attended the meeting and expressed a wish to become a Councilor. Her application had already been circulated to all Councilors for consideration.

The Chair proposed that Karen Mitchell should be co-opted onto the Council. This was seconded by Councilor Crowcombe. A vote was taken which was unanimously in favour of the proposal. Miss Mitchell will sign the acceptance or offer and complete the declaration of interest for submission to MDC at the end of the meeting. She was informed that she could participate in the meeting but would not be able to vote until MDC confirmed receipt of the declaration of interest form.

5 **Meeting Opened to the Public**

There were no points raised.

6 **The Cricket field and the fence**

GB has taken down the damaged fence which is now ready for removal (Which a member of the Cricket Club has kindly agreed to do). GB has got one quote for the replacement fence for £400 but will make further enquiries to see if a better price can be obtained. The Clerk confirmed that this was not covered on insurance. It has however been highlighted that the Cricket club should forward a copy of the insurance cover for the cricket Field each year for the Cranmore Parish Council records.

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The Clerk had made enquiries into the requirements for forming a committee but it was suggested (By Somerset Association of Local Councils) that a working party be formed rather than a formal committee at this stage. A vote was taken which was unanimously agreed by all present. This can be reviewed at any point necessary in the future.

It was decided that it was time to raise public awareness in order to raise funds maybe with publicity in the local papers etc. The Clerk to make an application to the Health and Wellbeing grant, which will need submitting by the end of February.

VW

7 **Planning**

7.1 Ref: 2012/2798 – Corner House, 50 Dalimore Lane, Dean. Replacement of existing gateway

All Councillors had previously had a chance to consider the plans and after some discussion it was agreed that subject to highways agreeing and providing they are moving it away from the A361 to offer safer access then the Council had no objection.

7.2 Ref: 2013/1244 – Land adjacent to Torr Works. Erection of 4 wind turbines

All Councillors had previously had an opportunity to consider the plans and after some discussion it was agreed that there was nothing to add to the comments previously submitted by the Council.

District Cllr Philip Ham arrived 8.15pm

7.3 **Planning update on recent decisions and planning applications**

7.3.1 Road Closure at Quaperlake Street (A359), Bruton – Copy placed on the village notice board

7.3.2 2013/2189 – Land South of Old Wells Road, Approval or details reserved by conditions 5 & 6. Approved

7.3.3 2013/2254 – All Hallows Preparatory School, Conversion and extension of tennis courts. Approved with conditions.

7.3.4 Appeal – Land to the North West of Martins Paddock, Cranmore – Appeal dismissed.

7.3.5 2013/2208 - Quarry Way Business Park. An invitation had been received from Mr Stott offering to meet up either at the site or off site (village hall) and invite a few representatives to attend Cranmore and Doulling Parish councils, one or two Waterlip residents, and one or two businesses on the site. However he did state that this needs to be controlled and managed, and that "we all don't want residents attending from Waterlip, who will disrupt any discussions with false allegations." The Chair stated that he was not comfortable with residents of Waterlip not being welcome. It was suggested that he should be invited to come and speak at AGM but that we would decline his invitation as it currently stands. The Clerk to draft a response to circulate to all Councillors for agreement prior to sending.

VW

8 **Reports**

8.1 **County Councillor report**

County Councillor Philip Ham apologised for his poor absence and explained that the Cranmore meeting coincides with County Cabinet meetings. He went to explain his involvement within the Council. He confirmed that it has now been agreed that there will be a 0% increase to the Council tax and that he was currently heavily involved in following up on flooding issues around his ward.

He also confirmed that the deadline for the Health and Well-being grant is the end of February. £5K available but he already has applications for over £7K however he encouraged the council to submit an application.

AC stressed to Councillor Ham that Cranmore parish had many Highways issues

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some of which have been on-going for some time like:

1. The main crossroads is being monitored and it is expected that it will be altered in the future as it is a technical fault in the design.
2. Have been previously agreed that weight limit will be implemented in Tansey.

It was hoped that a meeting could be arranged in the near future to discuss highways issues in more detail.

8.2 **District Councilor report**

Cllr Cawood attended and reported that Planning has taken up a good deal of her time with the highlights mentioned below:

Bath and West Turbine Application, Doultong - Turned down AGAIN by the Planning Board on December 11th, against the officer recommendation.

Little Sharpshaw Solar Farm, Nunney – Turned down by Planning Board at Wells Town Hall on November 20th.

Hurlingpot Farm Solar Farm Appeal (Doultong) – Dismissed by the Inspector. This decision has been a long time coming since it was September when the appeal was heard.

Torr Works Wind Farm was anticipated to go to Planning Board in January 2014, but Laura Mackay now tells me it should go to the Board Meeting on March 26th. Due to the scale and high level of interest it is a definite as an item for the Board.

Bath and West Local Development Order (LDO) – Mendip has identified the Bath and West site as their first Enterprise Zone, hoping to draw down funding from National Government to allow rate relief for businesses developing on the site. A Local Development Order (LDO) allows decisions to be made without going through the planning process, but the order still needs to be considered in public. Cllr Cawood has attended two further meetings on this and has had to push for Doultong PC Chairman to be invited on to the Working Group and for a presentation to be made to the Council ASAP. At last a letter has been sent to Doultong Clerk asking for a representative and will no doubt be discussed at the February PC meeting. Prestleigh residents are understandably anxious about this. The programme has already slipped and it looks like the matter will now go to a June meeting of Full Council for adoption. Cllr Cawood stated that once agreed LDO status provides a big enough site for a variety of businesses and avoids a 6-9 month delay on planning applications.

100 New Houses for Nunney? – Cllr Cawood has been working with Nunney Parish Council to achieve more affordable housing for the village, which would help to ensure the school, shop, cafe and pub can survive.

Early discussions with the Diocese indicated that a development of around 55 houses could be built between Glebelands and the Transport Cafe, but Barrats who won the contract revealed plans to the Parish Council and at an exhibition in the Church to build 100 houses of which about a third would be affordable (social) housing. This could increase the population of Nunney by between 20-30%. Views are mixed and considerable concerns are being raised, with developers hoping to start building ASAP.

2 Mells Lane, Chantry – This was supported by the Parish Council and neighbours, but the officer recommendation was to Refuse on the grounds that this was an unsustainable location. Cllr Cawood visited the site again and contacted the one objector and neighbours. The Chair and Vice Chair agreed to my request that this

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was a balanced case, the Officer having shown that there were pros and cons. It went to Board last week with a written representation from me for Approval. The application won majority support at Board.

2 Detached Houses at Martin's Paddock, West Cranmore - Appeal Dismissed. This was opposed by the Parish Council and other objectors on several grounds, including that it was outside the village envelope, highways and in an unsustainable location. Mendip's Planning Officer was opposed to this and substantially agreed with the Parish Council. The applicant had gone directly to the Inspector on the grounds of non-determination, so Officers had to decide how they would determine it had the decision been theirs.

General Comment on Planning - Since the Evercreech Appeal there has been much pressure to modify Mendip's Draft Local Plan it to make it sound and legally compliant. The latest Plan was submitted in December 2013 to the Inspector, who has determined that some of these modifications are to be regarded as 'Main' rather than 'Minor'. The hearing on the plan will be considered in the fortnight starting March 31st.

Meantime, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its interpretation by officers continue to carry considerable weight. The draft local plan identifies communities like Cranmore, Whatley/Chantry and Downhead as unsustainable, while Doultling and Nunney villages which both have a school, pub etc are considered more suitable for residential development. Put simply, the difference between the Cranmore and Chantry applications was that the Cranmore one was building in open countryside, while the other was in a garden.

8.3 PCSO report

Although PCSO Nicola Hounsley did not attend she did email the following report:
27/01 a garage was broken into in the Long Cross area, two lawnmowers were taken
01/02 Report of a vehicle left on a private lane (Downhead). No police action as private land.
04/02 Tree down in Long Cross area
05/02 A burglary in Downhead from a workshop, a chain saw was taken.
As mentioned at the last meeting re the two vehicles in Chelynch Park Doultling, near the Glebeland, keeper visited and both vehicles removed.
Any queries/concerns you may have please feel free to send myself or(Claire Leonard 1955) an email and we will do our best to help as it is not always possible to attend all the meetings. Currently we are all on standby to help with the floods down on the levels.

Dates for this year's mobile monthly visits to Cranmore are:

20/02 20-2100 hrs

10/03 14-1500hrs

22/04 20-2100hrs

22/05 20-2100hrs

19/06 20-2100hrs

21/07 20-2100hrs

None in August due to holidays

09/09 20-2100hrs

07/10 14-1500hrs

06/11 20-2100hrs

04/12 14-1500hrs

She will be parked somewhere along by the pond

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9 **Review of Village Plan:**

The Council ran through the Housing, Education and Employment and Industry sections of the village plan and made several amendments which will be approved at the annual meeting. Clerk to amend.

VW

10 **Finance**

10.1 Financial Statement

The Chair ran through the current statement which was agreed by all Councilors as correct. The Chair duly signed a copy for the records.

10.2 Payments

The following cheques were agreed by all councilors and duly signed:
Clerks salary (January) £161.28

11 **Review of Standing orders**

Adjourn until March meeting to allow all Councilors to read ready to discuss next month.

Ag
All

12 **Highway Issues:**

GB reported that white lining needs at the main cross roads with Piers Road as it has worn away.

GB

AC reported that the wall has again been damaged opposite the Chapel in Waterlip which is owned by Wainwrights, it passes over a Norman culvert and there are concerns that it will cause damage to the culvert if not looked into and repaired. Wainwrights have said they cannot afford to repair it. Chris Betty had said that he would speak with Wainwrights but it appears that when AC asked recently, Wainwrights confirmed that Chris Betty has not been in touch.

GB

Flooding on the A361 has been reported but it is very dangerous. County Cllr Philip Ham will also press for action.

Cllr Snelson confirmed by email that it has been confirmed that the SIDS will be installed as follows:

A361 installed w/c 17/02

Waterlip installed w/c 03/03

Tansey installed w/c 17/03

It was asked if a request could be made for the police enforcement camera to attend, in the layby on the A361, opposite Cooks Lane. GB confirmed that it would look into it along with approval of the site for speed watch data gathering in village.

GB

An email had been received stating that a Bridleway in Cranmore at the end of Cranmore was in such bad condition that it is virtually unpassable by cars, horses and walkers due to the pot holes. The Clerk to reply passing on the telephone number for the rights of way team at Taunton.

VW

13 **Update on Dog waste bin and litter bin**

The Clerk has put forward a request for agreement to three locations for the new dog waste bin but has not had confirmation as yet –Clerk to chase.

VW

The Clerk confirmed that Highways did not need to give permission for a bin located on the Church grounds but would need to approach the Church directly to obtain consent. VW to progress.

VW

GB confirmed that the litter has now been cleared in Piers Lane. Special thanks to Brian Pike for his helped.

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GB will speak with Dean Pitman re the installation of the bin in Piers Lane Layby. GB

14 Councilors Reports

Nothing to report.

15 Meetings attended

JG & AC attended the planning meeting 22/01/14 which covered Enforcement which was very interesting.

SW Conference of Local Council Association Regional Conference 2014. Clerk to consider attending. VW

SALC training meetings – re email to all Councillors VW

19/03 for next planning event hosted by MDC to be held at Wells Town hall. Clerk to ask what topics will be discussed. VW

Quarry Way – Planning board date. Could be the 5/03/14 and 26/03/14. MS & GB to attend. The Clerk will need to book MS a 5 minute slot to speak. MS/GB
VW

16 Correspondence

Mrs Denham – Letter was read out which expressed a concern for the emergency services struggling to find Manor Farm, Cranmore and instead turning into the drive of 1 Kingfisher Cottages. The Clerk will speak with the PCSO and emergency services to see if anything can be done about this. Cllr Ham suggested speaking with Judy Thompson who is involved with Community Safety at MDC. If may also be worth speaking with residents to ask if the matter of signage can be addressed. Clerk to speak with Cllr Snelson who may be able to help. VW
VW
VW

St Bartholomew's Church – Letter of thanks for recent donation.
Mendip community transport – Letter of thanks for recent donation.
Citizens advice bureau – Letter of thanks for recent donation.
Dean Methodist chapel – Letter of thanks for recent donation.

17 Date & Time of next meeting

10th March 2014

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

Signed _____ Dated: _____