

# 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 14<sup>TH</sup> April 2014 AT 7.30PM

Present **Grant Bolton (GB, Chair), Ann Crowcombe (AC), Karen Mitchell (KM),  
Christine Smith (CS), and Jacqui Gallo (JG)**

In Attendance **Vickie Watts (VW; Clerk) and 4 members of the public.**

1 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Snelson, PCSO Nicola Housley and Cllr Gloria Cawood had sent apologies which were duly accepted by the Chair.

2 **Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**

JG expressed an interest in Agenda item 6, the planning application ref: 2014/0356. Land South of Quarry Works Way – Work/Felling of TPO trees

3 **Agreement of Minutes of Meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 & matters arising**

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

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

3. AC has spoken with Wainwright Quarries regarding the repair of the Norman Culvert at Waterlip but they have confirmed that they will not undertake the cost of the work. Cllr Philip Ham (as Chair of the Quarry Liaison meeting) has said that he will pursue highways. AC to email PH. AC

3, 12. No news as yet regarding the police enforcement team using the layby on the A361 for speed camera vans. AC confirmed that the Police enforcement team now has 4 motorbikes which are being funded solely by the speeding fines and they will be dispatched to areas where there are speeding issues to undertake half hour sessions with speed cameras. GB

8. AC to establish if All Hallows still welcomes members of the village to use the tennis courts out of school hours. This information is for the Village plan. AC

12. White lining has been refreshed at the junction of the A361 but further refreshing is still required around the village. GB to report. GB

4 **The Cricket field and the fence**

The Clerk confirmed that she had not heard whether the application for a grant from the Health and Wellbeing fund had been successful. There is also no news from Dean Pitman regarding the grant from Wainwrights. The Clerk to chase. VW

GB confirmed that a quote had been received from Garden Fence Maintenance for the cricket field fence. Green plastic chicken wire and wooden posts have been quoted for:

- 100m @ £1750
- 300m @ £2250

GB to seek further quotes and possibly a cheap temporary fence could be sourced for the interim.

GB confirmed that further funding options have been mentioned in the Parish Bulletin which may be a possible avenue if required.

It was asked when the fencing would be erected as cricket starts at the end of April. GB confirmed that the Parish Council can't do anything until the funding is secured,

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other than seek cheaper temporary fencing options. Everyone to give this some thought and report to GB if anyone is successful.

GB to speak with Darren regarding supplying a copy of the Cricket Club's Public Liability Insurance for Parish Council records. GB

## 5 Meeting Opened to the Public

Concerns have been raised about dog walkers using the footpath across the cricket field but allowing the dogs to run loose rather than remaining on leads. Clerk to contact the dog warden and request a visit to see if anyone can be spotted and also to check signage is adequate at both ends of the footpath. VW

## 6 Planning

### 6.1 Ref: 2014/0356 – Land South of Quarry Works Way – Work/Felling of TPO trees

All Councillors have had an opportunity to consider the plans. After much discussion it was proposed that in light of the application having been put together with the help of Bo Walsh (Tree man at Mendip District Council) the application should be approved. This was proposed by GB & seconded by CS. However it should be noted that the Parish Council is disappointed that so much damage has been done to this County Wildlife site and that there should be future monitoring to prevent lorries being parked above TPO tree roots, to prevent damage to the remaining trees in the future. The Parish Council would like to see an inspection of the completed works within an agreed time limit. The Parish Council would like to be kept informed. Clerk to inform the planning department. VW

It was also noted that Chilcompton Parish Council were notified as consultees and responded that they were in favour of approval of the application. Clerk to ask the Planning department why they were consulted. VW

### 6.2 **Planning update on recent decisions and planning applications**

There were none

## 7 County & District Reports

7.1 County Councillor Philip Ham did not attend or supply a report.

7.2 District Councillor Gloria Cawood did not attend but emailed a report which was read by Clerk. It explained that the new planning procedure has been agreed and will start from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May; it will speed up the process but possibly at the expense of quality. This new system can only reduce the democratic input at the most local level. It will be up to the officers to decide most things on the say-so of just 2 Councillors – the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, with even less going to Board. Any new information coming forward after the statutory 21 days will be ignored, with the role of the local District Councillor being greatly diminished. Cllr Cawood spoke up at Scrutiny against this new system and was extremely dismayed that Cabinet was so willing to disregard the voice of local residents. "Under localism we are told that the Local District Councillor will have a greater say in what goes on in their local community while the Cabinet get on with strategic matters". Ward Councillors have been increasingly marginalised at Mendip.

Cllr Cawood reported that the Quarry Way application went with officer recommendation for approval. Cllr Cawood did try to convince the officer to accept new conditions, particularly in respect of screening and drawing attention to neighbourhood concerns about noise. She also put forward strong views about rewards being given for destroying wild-life habitats etc. However, the company said they were willing to look at more tree planting so that the building would be less visible to nearby housing.

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- 8 **Review of Village Plan:**  
The Council ran through the Village Hall and Communications sections of the village plan and made several amendments which will be approved at the annual meeting. Clerk to amend and email to all Councillors VW
- 9 **Finance**
- 9.1 Financial Statement  
The Chair ran through the current statement which was agreed by all Councillors as correct. The Chair duly signed a copy for the records.
- 9.2 Income  
The clerk confirmed that the precept had been received as agreed. £7500 plus Community Tax Support £290.84.
- 9.3 Payments  
The following cheques were agreed by all Councillors and duly signed:
- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Clerks salary (March) | £143.35 |
| HMRC                  | £ 36.00 |
| SALC training.        | £ 25.00 |
- 10 **Review of Standing orders**  
It was agreed that this be adjourned until the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to allow all Councillors opportunity to digest the contents. It was agreed that an additional Parish Council meeting would be held prior to the Annual Meeting of the Parish, to hear this and another planning application. Ag
- 11 **Community Group request.** Mary Boston had been in touch stating that they were having a problem getting a Chair for their meetings. She asked if it was possible, if the Community Group meeting was to be held at 6.30 til 7.30pm prior to every other Parish Council meeting, whether a Councillor would be prepared to chair the meeting. After a short discussion it was agreed that GB would act as Chair with AC as Vice Chair. GB to confirm with Mary Boston and the Clerk to book the Memorial Hall for the extra time for the Community Group meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm GB VW
- 12 **Highway Issues:**  
Dave Grabham had emailed to say that the speed indicator device (SID) installed at Cranmore (Waterlip) during w/c 3 March 2014 only gave 3 days worth of data instead of the expected 14 days due to battery failure. He confirmed that they currently have 40 replacement batteries on order to overcome the problems with existing batteries (which are the original ones and are beginning to now break down). GB  
The installation of the SID scheduled for Tansy during w/c 17 March 2014 could not be carried out as there are no suitable posts available in the area to which to attach the SID. He has requested that the Parish Council suggests where the SID could be positioned so that he can get a dedicated post installed. After discussion it was decided that it should be at the north end of Tansey, to 'indicate' the speed of southbound traffic entering the 30mph Tansey limit. Clerk to notify Dave Grabham. VW
- 13 **Website/Facebook/Twitter**  
Cllr Mitchell explained to the Council how Facebook and Twitter work and how they can be valuable tools for businesses and groups to raise their profile and promote both events and interesting articles. She confirmed that she has set up both Facebook and Twitter accounts for Cranmore (rather than Cranmore Parish Council). It was suggested that Councillors should give consideration to the accounts set up and how they might be used and managed. It is understood that Somerset

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Association of Local Councils will be sending out information about how Parish Councils can utilize Social Networking sites soon which will be helpful in making a decision on how the Council progresses. Adjourn to next meeting.

**ALL**

**Ag**

## Website

David Dixon has emailed to say that he has recently taken on managing the Cranmore website and is trying to update the various pages on it. He confirmed that there is a page about the Parish Council, and links to the complete minutes dating back to 2010. Currently, the information page has a list of Councillors with phone numbers which is very out of date. He has asked the Council to let him know what the Council would like to see included. It was agreed that an email with ideas would be sent, with current Councillor details for immediate inclusion, and the discussion would continue by email to establish any other content which it was felt should be included.

**GB**

**ALL**

14 **PCSO report** – PCSO Nicola Housley did not attend but emailed the following report for March:

- 13/03 - A small red vehicle was reported acting suspiciously in Downhead where upon it drove down a farm drive, when seen it made a hasty retreat
- 18/03 - Two vehicles were broken into at Cranmore Tower, two bags were taken, one from each vehicle
- 23/03 - A road traffic collision by the Piers on the main road involving 3 vehicles
- 25/03 - A trailer transporting a big mobile home turned over, also at the Piers, road blocked for some time.

15 **Councillors' Reports**

15.1 Footpaths – Cllr Smith reported that the field between the railway station and the main road has had half of the field ploughed with a fence erected across. GB to check that the footpath is still accessible.

15.2 Speedwatch – A speed watch session is planned for next week.

15.3 Somerset Association of Local Council – There has been a repeal of the section 150(5) LGA 1972 which now allows Councils to make payments using electronic banking. It was confirmed that we need not do anything at this stage but if we choose to use internet banking in the future we will need to amend our financial regulations to ensure that Council funds are not compromised. The SALC website has further information to help with the transition.

16 **Meetings attended**

Quarry meetings – Cllr Snelson attended but stated that there was nothing to report  
SALC Good Councillor training – Cllr Mitchell attended and said that it had been very beneficial. The Parish Council funded the course but Cllr Mitchell kindly made a donation to Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

Planning at Wells Town Hall – Cllr Crowcombe attended. It was confirmed that a ¼ of all developments must be low cost housing for local people, but it has come to light that for some of the smaller villages there are not enough people that qualify for the affordable housing so the houses are then available to families from further afield.

Annual Meeting of the Parish – 28<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7.30 but there will also be a Parish Council meeting on the same evening starting at 7pm in order to cover a planning application and the standing orders.

17 **Correspondence**

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There was none.

18 **Date & Time of next meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 – 7pm Cranmore Parish Council meeting and 7.30pm for the Annual Parish Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 for Parish Council meeting

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_