

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 12th February 2018 AT 7.30PM

Present Cllr Anne Crowcombe (Chairperson), Cllr David Van Dyk, Cllr Alan Price and Cllr Karen Mitchell

In attendance: Vickie Watts (Clerk) took the minutes. 3 members of the public attended.

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bolton and Cllr Gallo, sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

2 Resignation of Chair – Election of Chairman

The Clerk explained that Cllr Bolton had expressed a wish to stand down as the Chairman but was happy to continue as a Councillor. The Clerk therefore asked for nominations for Chair. Cllr Mitchell proposed Cllr Crowcombe which was seconded by Cllr Price. Cllr Crowcombe said that she was happy to take the role of Chair until the annual meeting of the Parish Council in May. The Chair signed the acceptance of office

3 Declaration of interests and dispensations

There were none.

4 Agreement of Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2018 and matters arising

All Councillors had received a copy of the draft minutes prior to the meeting. All agreed that the minutes 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.

5 Meeting Open to the Public.

1. Clarification was sought regarding the date of the next meeting. The Clerk confirmed that it was incorrectly printed on the agenda and that the correct date is the 12th March 2018 at 7.30pm.
2. Cllr Price said that there were two trees which needed to be cut back which bordered the Memorial Hall. It was agreed that Cllr Price would seek quotes for discussion at the next meeting.

AP
Ag

6 Planning

6.1 Planning applications

2017/3107/LBC – The Old School Rooms, Cooks Lane, Cranmore, BA4 4RH

Proposed replacement of the existing wooden frames with hardwood frames in the same design.

All Councillors had considered the plans for the abovementioned application which was for the replacement of the window frames. It was proposed by Cllr Mitchell that the application should be approved which was seconded by Cllr Price. This was on the basis that the applicant is replacing frames like for like.

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

6.2 Planning updates

There were none.

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6.3 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. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the following points:

VW

1. What would happen if no one wanted to buy a property which had been built under the self and custom build single plot exemptions sites?
2. Cranmore Parish Council would like to see something included to allow sensible planning applications which are infill.
3. Cranmore Parish Council would like the parish to be re-evaluated as at round 3. We believe that we have considerable amenities and should be upgraded to become a secondary village rather than a tertiary village as currently listed.

It was questioned as to whether the Council should be consulting with the village on possible recategorisation. How can we engage with the residents? Agenda item for the March meeting.

AG

7 **Reports**

7.1 Somerset County Council

County Cllr Ham reported that:

- The Highways small improvement scheme ref A361 and the Old Frome Road/Bulls Green relief road. The scheme scored highly and is being processed which can take up to 12 months and sometimes longer. Deaths and number of accidents on both roads is a major factor. Use of both roads with better signage and speed control measures hopefully will help. Discussion has also taken place reference Doulting bypass and our local MP's are lobbying Highways England and Chris Grayling the Transport minister to take this forward. I will keep you updated on both of these issues.
- The Budget is likely to be 5.99% i.e. 2.99% plus 3.00% for Adult Social care. Full Council will take place next week when this will be finalised.
- The work the Task and Finish Group undertook on the County Farms has been received and terms agreed around the way forward. This could be via innovation centres, training education through colleges and universities. Small farms to be kept as starter units
- Somerset County Council is in a position to propose a balanced budget on the 21st of February but not yet finalised so detail is not agreed. An extra £2m was announced last week for Rural Councils which was gratefully received.
- The Ofsted report into SCC Children's services was published at the end of January. The report followed 2 inadequate ratings in 2013 and 2015 and represented a critical re-assessment of the services provided to the most vulnerable children in the County. The report found improvements across all areas of work and gave a rating of 'Requires Improvement to be good' with adoption services rated as 'Good'. Focused attention must keep up the pressure to ensure that improvement continues to ensure that a 'Good' rating is achieved at the next assessment and 'Outstanding' shortly afterwards.
- SCC have recently launched the biggest investment programme in education for generations with 24 new or replacement schools and 19 other major building projects to existing schools over the next few years. The £140 million of investment will be focused on Primary level but also includes secondary, nursery and early year's provision. The first major announcement will be a £9 million investment in Selworth Secondary school providing a large number of specialist placements for pupils with complex health issues.
- Library Consultation is now available for communities, businesses and individuals to participate. Drop in sessions are running across the network during the consultation period to enable information sharing. It's important that as many people as possible are encouraged to engage with the consultation to provide comprehensive feedback from those who may be affected by any potential changes to the service. No decision will be taken until the results of the consultation have been fully analysed. The

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consultation runs until 22nd April and further details can be found at <http://somerse libraries.co.uk/consultation/>

- Somerset Road Safety Strategy – in 2017 22 people were killed in fatal collisions on the County's roads and although it is the lowest annual total each death represents a personal tragedy. Analysis shows that of these collisions 60% involved cars, 19% motorbikes, 5% pedestrians, 11% HGV's and 5% agricultural vehicles. This illustrates that all road users need to consider how they can safely use the highway. The consultation on road safety runs until 8th March and can found at <http://www.somerse consults.org.uk/consults.ti/system/home>

7.2 Mendip District Council

District Cllr Van Dyk explained that some Parish Councils have been concerned about the money being invested by Mendip District Council in long term ventures in order to have a source of revenue. On 19th April at the next Parish Forum there will be an opportunity to meet with the Cabinet members who are the key decision-makers along with the Phoenix group who are leading the decisions on the investments. There will be an opportunity to ask questions but they must be submitted in advance by 27th March 2018. Agenda item to agree any questions. Ag

On 1st March District Cllr Van Dyk will be meeting with the Care and Commissioning Department of Somerset County Council to discuss options for residential care and how it might be implemented.

7.3 PCSO Report

No report had been received.

8 **Finance**

8.1 Agree Bank Reconciliation

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

8.2 Payments:

The following cheques were read out for payment:

Clerks salary (£212.08) & expenses (£21.16) for January	£233.24
Memorial Hall Payment towards fuel for heating	£200.00
Travis Perkins – Noticeboard materials	£150.00

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

Vote: 4 in favour; 0 against and 0 abstained

9 **Discuss updating the Village Plan**

The traffic advisory group have reviewed the first section of the plan but no amendments were made as it was agreed that consultation with the parishioners should be sought. AC

10 **Discuss setting up a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Cranmore.**

Cllr Mitchell is looking to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the Memorial Hall/East Cranmore Lane area of the village. She will be looking for approximately 10 people in the vicinity to make it viable. If there is enough interest a meeting will be held to get the scheme set up and running.

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

Four quotes had been received from our current contractor Shepton Mallet Landscapes, Brentons Landscaping, Primrose Garden Maintenance Ltd and Greensward Sports Consultancy Ltd.

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After consideration it was agreed that the Clerk would:

VW

- Ask Chris Brown (SM Landscapes) to review his quote as there is a considerable difference between his and Brentons Landscaping quote.
- Ask Brentons to supply two references from other Councils or clients that he has been working with for a reasonable period of time.

It was agreed that it may be worth including in the contract a get-out clause after the first year.

12 Update on Sports field - Installation of the border and entrance signage

Cllr Price confirmed that the contractor (Simon Dyke) is happy to complete the work. The grass will need to be cut back, the posts installed and the fence erected. Cllr Price to seek a date for when the work will be completed.

AP

Cllr Price confirmed that the timber for the noticeboards have been purchased and work will start soon. The Community Group to agree words for the memorial plaque to remember David Dixon.

AP

DVD

13 Parish website – Review content

Cllr Crowcombe and the Clerk will meet with Mark Webster on Wednesday the 21st February at 7pm to discuss managing and updating the website.

AC

VW

14 Phone Box - Identify resources necessary and agree plan for relocation and refurbishment

Cllr Crowcombe to ask Cllr Bolton if he will lead the project or confirm the schedule of works required to complete the relocation and installation of the phone box.

AC

GB

15 Somerset Libraries Service Consultation 2018

A 10-week Library Consultation is currently underway. This is an opportunity to respond and have your say on the service provided. Drop in sessions are running across the network during the consultation period to enable information sharing or you can take part online using <http://somersetlibraries.co.uk/consultation/>. The consultation runs until 22nd April 2018.

16 Litter Pick

The litter pick is planned for the Saturday 3rd March 2018 at 10am meeting at the Memorial Hall. The Clerk has booked equipment and arranged for the rubbish to be collected afterwards. Posters seeking volunteers will be placed on the notice boards.

VW

16 Highway Issues (Inc SIDS, Speeding & outstanding requests, etc)

The Joint Advisory group has been formed with 4 members, 2 from Cranmore Parish Council and 2 from Doultling Parish Council. Terms of Reference have been agreed and it is clear that the group will only act as a working party discussing points and referring back to the Parish Councils to make the decisions.

At the first meeting it was agreed that consultation with the parishioners should be undertaken. Cllr Crowcombe will place an article in the Grapevine. A schedule for the SID scheme needs to be put together to include Prestleigh, Waterlip and Dean. The next meeting is 15th March 2018.

AC

Cllr Price asked if there was any news on whether the Highways department was going to act on the report that the road at Tansey is breaking up. The Clerk to chase up.

VW

Cllr Crowcombe to liaise with Cllr Gallo regarding speed watch dates.

AC

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Cllr Crowcombe and Cllr Van Dyk met with Charlies Higgins of Somerset Highways to discuss the issues around the village. Cllr Crowcombe reported as follows:

1. Waterlip (By the Chapel): Flooding had been reported and already addressed by the Highways team
2. Cranmore Piers: Flooding had been reported and already addressed by the Highways team
3. Barbed wire along the top of the fence opposite Cranmore Station – This was recognized as a possible safety hazard but was the responsibility of the landowners. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the landowner. VW
4. Slait Hill / All Hallows junction onto the A361 – A solution may be to extend the 40mph speed limit to the East just beyond the junction. Cllr Van Dyk to request a meeting with Chris Betty (Also from Somerset Highways). DVD

At this meeting both the entrance to the Christmas Tree field and the extension of the speed limit to the West of Dean would also be discussed. It was recommended that the 40mph would begin just East of Slait Hill Junction and be continuous right through to just beyond Piers Road junction.

5. Dean: flooding drain in Dallimore Lane would be cleared. It would be the responsibility of the landowners to ensure that the other 2 streams were running freely. The Clerk to contact landowners. VW
6. Visibility at the top of Cooks Lane (East). Highways clear the grass area but it is the brambles protruding for the hedge which are causing the problem at the moment. The Clerk to contact the landowners. VW
7. Rubbish along the A361. MDC's responsibility but the hedges are so overgrown that they would have difficulty getting the debris as the hedges need to be cut first. The Clerk to contact the landowner. VW
8. White Lining – Highways would renew the lining on junctions upon request. List ALL
needs to be compiled at the next Parish Council meeting. Ag

17 Councillor's Reports (Community group, Footpaths; Speed Watch; SALC; Quarry)

- 17.1 Jill's Close – The monthly report had been received and everything is in order.
- 17.2 Community group – There was nothing to report.
- 17.3 Memorial Hall – Cllr Price said that there are some trees which border Cooks Lane that need to be cut back. Is this something that the Parish Council will fund? It was agreed in the first instance that quotes should be obtained for discussion at the next meeting. AP
Ag
- 17.4 Somerset Association of Local Councils – A e-newsletter had been circulated to all Councillors for perusal, which covered various points.

18 Meetings Attended / To be Attended

Planning refresher sessions – 10/01/18 at MDC and 06/02/18 @ Frome (2 attended)
Mendip Parish Forum – 18/01/18 @ MDC (3 attended)
Risk Seminar – 07/02/18 – Clerk attended
SALC AGM - 14/03/18 @ 7pm @ MDC Shepton Mallet Council Chamber
SALC Councillor essentials- 15/03/18 @ 7pm in Wanstrow Village Hall
MDC Rural Housing Seminar – 28/03/18 time TBC

19 Correspondence

Mendip Society Newsletter

20 Date & Time of Next Meeting

Monday 12th March 2018 at 7.30pm –monthly Parish Council.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm