

**Minutes of Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 19th March 2015 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs J Chipp (Chair), B Druitt, T Motture, J Hughes, T Brooks, R Harbour, D Lock and J Loader (clerk). Also in attendance was A Trollope-Bellew (WSC Cllr), PCSO P Bolton – part-time

27/15 Apologies: Cllr Christine Lawrence (SCC Cllr)

28/15 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations: None

29/15 Public Participation: None

30/15 Police Report – PCSO Peter Bolton reported the Beat had only received 28 calls since January. No criminal activity, more day to day issues and traffic incidences. A 24 hour Rural Farm Watch scheme had stopped any potential opportunists.

31/15 County Councillor's Report: Christine Lawrence had sent her apologies due to having to be in Minehead. The Library review showed that the two stops in Crowcombe and Crowcombe Heathfield would continue. Please do use the mobile service otherwise it may be removed.

32/15 District Councillor's Report: Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported the WSC Budget for next year had been approved on 25 February. This would mean an extra 5p a week on a Band D property. The amalgamation between WSC and TDBC has made significant savings. WSC were still required to make additional savings. There will be amalgamations in Legal Services between WSC, Mendip and TDBC and with Building Control between WSC, Mendip, TDBC and Sedgemoor. The Hinkley Point works are continuing in spite of requiring more co-investors. The new Flood Board was being chaired by Anthony and WSC would be receiving £91k for road improvements. Anthony also announced he was now the new Deputy Leader of WSC. Crowcombe Court had agreed people could use their car parking facility if this would alleviate traffic issues through the village if using the church ie funeral.

33//15 Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd January 2014 – It was proposed, seconded and agreed the January minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

34/15 Matters Arising from the Minutes: a) Accidents since January 2015 – none reported

35/15 Highway Issues: a) Agreed to contact Peter Owen at Highways & Bridge Dept regarding Broad Meadow following a recent meeting at the culvert. The Coombe gullies and along the A358 required clearing again (from Crowcombe to Bishops Lydeard).

36/15 Finances: a) **Payments:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks salary £367.57, Clerks expenses £27.98, The Play Inspection Co £75.00, MJ & JA King £180.00, CLOWNS £50.00. £ b) **Receipts:** Nil c) **Finances to date:** Balances as at 12th March 2015 was: Current a/c £9,171.16, Deposit a/c £3,221.87, Amenities a/c £2,681.65. Unpresented cheques £96.00 Balance £14,978.68 d) **Internal Controls Document** – this had been updated, discussed and approved. e) **New Financial Regulations** – these had been updated following changes at the last meeting, circulated and adopted.

37/15 Play Area Update for Easter Opening a) **Maintenance of Equipment** – following the circulation of Mark Christopher’s quote for the urgent maintenance work for £1,640.00 which had been agreed by the Cllrs. The work would commence on 23rd March in time for the opening on 29th March at 10.30am. Flyers for the school and pre-school had been printed announcing the opening of the new area with an Easter Egg Hunt. b) **Invitations** – a list inviting those who had contributed both by grant funding and volunteering their time would be sent out. c) **Thank You Sign** – this would be installed in time for the opening at a cost of £110.00 (Carl Woodley) d) **Press Release** – this would be written up with photos after the opening e) **Grass cutting / wood chips** – agreed for Matt Peaster to carry out maintenance in time for opening and to provide wood chips for boarders. f) Agreed to ask Simon Date to remove fencing between two play areas. g) **Sycamore Tree Quotes** - the clerk had received three quotes to fell and remove the stump from the sycamore tree. It was agreed to go with Simon Date’s quote for £400. h) **Weekly Play Area Inspections** – the clerk had produced a folder containing the sheets covering the areas that required inspecting each week for both areas. Cllr Brooks would complete March and then pass onto the next Cllr on the rota.

38/15 Minutes of Planning Site Meetings

a) Minutes of site meeting held on 1st February 2015 re: **3/07/15/001** conversion of existing annexe building to from ‘granny annexe’ at Lower Stream Farm, Stogumber were approved as correct. The PC had supported the application. b) Minutes of Site Meeting **3/07/15/002** minor alterations to existing house at Glebe House, Mark Herniman Hill, Crowcombe were approved as correct. The PC had supported the application. The Chair signed the minutes. c) Minutes of site meeting held on 1st March 2015 at 8 Brendon View, Crowcombe Road, Crowcombe re **3/07/15/003** conversion of unused loft space to create a bedroom and en-suite, dormer windows, replacement of lean-to extension and new porch were approved as correct. The PC had supported the application. The Chair signed the minutes.

39/15 The Crowcombe Chest – It was agreed to contact David Freemantle to get clarification on how an election and those wishing to be elected would take place as the procedure was not detailed on the draft Memorandum of Undertaking document previously discussed at the January meeting (minute 13/15).

40/15 Superfast Broadband update – Cllr Druitt reported he had attended the Oake Parish Council meeting recently which had SCC Matt Ballard and BT Programme Manager Laurent Boon in attendance to update residents on the Connecting Devon & Somerset Superfast Broadband Service and the many issues. Phase I would be complete by December 2016. Phase II would commence soon after. The service was aiming to reach 95% of households/businesses. Afterwards Cllr Druitt had managed to speak to Mr Boon about Crowcombe’s issues and following recent email correspondence it is hoped that the necessary boxes and cable connections will be put in place and the service will be live in August 2015. It was agreed to hold off on the letter to BT that had been discussed at the previous meeting following this update.

41/15 Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday 26th April – Invites to the local groups and organizations within Crowcombe was updated and agreed. It was agreed to donate £50 to the PCC for them to provide refreshments after the Thanksgiving Service prior to the APM.

42/15 Clerks Report – a) **WSC Draft Local Plan to 2032** was available on disc should anyone wish to view this, as well as on-line.

42/15 Matters with Permission from Chairman a) Retiring Councillors – it was noted that three/four councillors would not be standing again. It was agreed to make an effort to encourage and recruit new councillors before 9th April which was the deadline for nomination forms. b) **Speed Watch Volunteers** – no one had come forward to date. c) Recent animal bite incident – agreed for the clerk to contact PCSO Bolton for advice and information.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th May 2015 at Church House commencing at 7.30pm which would introduce the new Parish Council.

Chairman