

Minutes of Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 20th March 2014 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs J Chipp (Chairman), B Druitt, R Harbour, T Motture, J Hughes and J Loader (clerk). Also in attendance was Christine Lawrence (SCC Cllr).

23/14 Apologies: Cllrs D Lock, T Brooks, A Trollope-Bellew (WSC Cllr) and PCSO Peter Bolton

24/14 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations: Cllr Chipp regarding agenda item 19. Magna Housing.

25/14 Public Participation: None

26/14 Police Report – PCSO Peter Bolton had sent a report the clerk read out:

The report covers from 18 January to 18 March 2014. Calls to Police using 101 or 999 system within the beat area which includes Crowcombe and Bicknoller Parishes. 39 calls to Police over this period of time. 24 calls were flood or traffic / road related / minor Road Traffic Incidents / Trees down (Most of these were from the West Quantoxhead / Sampford Brett / Crowcombe / Bicknoller area) 4 were lamping advisory calls (Farmers shooting at night)

There were 3 crimes recorded during this period – none were in the Crowcombe or Bicknoller parishes. None were serious crimes. None involved dwelling or non-dwelling burglary / break ins.

Police continue to patrol Industrial Estates (day and night) remote rural premises and areas to reassure the local communities and maintain a high visibility presence. Visits to local schools continue on a regular basis and patrolling the busy A358 every day and night. Local villages and towns are also regularly patrolled to combat Anti-social behaviour and opportunist crime.

The Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner are holding a public forum at the Beach Hotel in Minehead on March 25th in the evening at 1900 hours.

27/14 County Councillor's Report: Christine Lawrence reported that SCC had put forward a 20 year flood relief plan costing £100m as reported on the news recently. SCC was providing £22.5m towards the plan. It was hoped the Government would look towards this proposal positively but everyone would have to wait and see what the long term plan would be. The Crown Estate would be selling off a number of Crown Houses in Dunster, Old Cleeve and Roadwater. This raised concerns regarding existing tenants either having to be re-housed or the ability to purchase these houses. The Minehead Hospital Injuries Unit would be closing during the night hours (11pm to 7am) as there were not enough sufficiently trained numbers of staff available.

28/14 District Councillor's Report: Anthony Trollope-Bellow had sent his apologies for not attending due to his ill health. Everyone wished him a speedy recovery back to full fitness.

29/14 Minutes of Meeting held on 7th January 2014 – It was proposed, seconded and agreed the January minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed each page of the minutes.

30/14 Matters Arising from the Minutes a) Car accident on Flaxpool Hill on 14th January 2014 am involving a green VW polo – police were in attendance. No other accidents reported. b) Affordable Housing update – it was not known who the families were who would be moving into the new homes. c) Falcon Housing had sent an invitation to their Open Homes Hour on Tuesday, 1st April from 11.00am to 12.00 noon. Councillors agreed to attend if possible.

31/14 Finances: a) **Payments:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks salary £367.57 Clerks expenses £27.19, Chris Groves Assoc. £408.00 (Oak tree survey), The Play Inspection Company £71.94, Information Commissioner's Office – renewal £35.00. It was agreed to chase up Mr King for his play area maintenance invoice to be paid before the year end.

b) **Finances to date:** (Statements dated Jan 14) Current a/c £8,755.60, Deposit a/c £3,220.12, Amenities a/c £2,680.42. Unpresented cheque £70.00. Balance £14,586.14. No queries were raised regarding the finances to date.

32/14 In the Mix Youth Project – It was agreed to arrange an informal meeting after Easter to find out more about this project with the Street Village Team at the Base Youth Centre in Wiveliscombe.

33/14 Forces March – 23rd May 2014 – it was agreed to support this event again and to carry the flag emblem as last year.

34/14 Stogumber Neighbourhood Area for Designation Consultation – it was agreed that the boundary proposed for this area was appropriate for the preparation of a Stogumber Neighbourhood Plan. Clerk to return form before 27th March when consultation closes.

35/14 a) Play Area Update – a) The points raised at the Play Area meeting on 2nd February 2014 had been discussed and agreed by FOCPA and CPCL after Cllr Chipp had sent photos with the issues to CPCL. It was agreed to have a site meeting the following week to finalise the drainage works running from the tunnel. Until this was resolved CPCL could not complete the works. The work site also needed to dry out more before the works could commence again. b) **Play Inspection Maintenance Report** – this had been carried out on 30th December 2013 and various low risks and a moderate risk had been identified. It was agreed to contact our insurers to find out how this report affected our policy and to get advice on who could carry out the moderate risk repairs. c) **Oak Tree Survey** – The report concluded there was some decay present in the trunk but it did not require felling. It was recommended to monitor the tree annually for any further symptoms and to retest with the Resistograph in two years.

35/14 War Memorial Renovation – Cllr Hughes outlined his findings regarding the war memorial. After discussion, it was agreed in principle to investigate obtaining permission to replace the existing memorial with something similar together with costs to see if this project was viable.

36/14 Red Telephone Box – It was understood that the owner of the old red telephone was still in talks with West Somerset Railway.

37/14 SCC Highways Issues – a) Gullies – It appeared that only some gullies had been cleared and others not, which was confusing. Cllr Lawrence agreed to contact Highways again to find out the reasoning behind this and to report - The cattle grid by the gate at the top of the Coombe was broken. The SID expected during February had not been installed to date for speed monitoring.

38/14 Clerks Report – a) **Somerset Levels Relief Fund** – it was agreed the PC would not donate to this fund. Leaflets would be placed in the shop for individual donations. b) **Victim Support** – agreed not to donate this year. c) **CPRE membership request** – agreed not to join this organization this year. d) **Somerset Community Council membership request** – agreed not to join this organization this year.

39/14 Annual Parish Assembly – Date agreed was 18th May following the Church Service. Clerk to contact groups and organizations for reports similar to last year.

40/14 Minutes of Planning Site Meeting – held on 23rd February 2014 at Crowcombe Heathfield Station – application 3/07/14/003 – reinstatement of goods office building at Crowcombe Heathfield Station. The Councillors that had attended the site meeting had no objections and supported the application. The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed as correct by the Chairman.

41/14 Magna Housing Association – Land next to 12 Hagleys Green. The Councillors noted the letter from Magna Housing Association regarding the potential for planning permission near Hagleys Green. Until a planning application was received the Councillors could not comment. It was noted that there may be parking issues to consider.

42/14 Matters with Permission from Chairman – a) Western Power had completed the installation of additional resilience to Crowcombe. b) The Air Ambulance request to install a clothes bank was agreed to go in the village hall car park on a trial basis.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 15th May 2014 at Church House.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Sunday, 18th May 2014 at Church House.