

Minutes of Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 22nd January 2015 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs J Chipp (Chair), B Druitt, T Motture, J Hughes, T Brooks and J Loader (clerk). Also in attendance was Anthony Trollope-Bellew (WSC Cllr)

01/15 Apologies: Cllrs R Harbour, D Lock, Christine Lawrence (SCC Cllr), PCSO Peter Bolton

02/15 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations: None

03/15 Public Participation: None

04/15 Police Report – no report received

05/15 County Councillor's Report: Christine Lawrence had sent her apologies. She had requested that any concerns raised at the meeting to be emailed to her for action.

06/15 District Councillor's Report: Anthony Trollope-Bellow reported a) WSC would be proposing to raise the Council Tax by 1.99% when Full Council meet later in the month. This increase would affect a Band D property by 5p a week. b) The amalgamation between WSC and TDBC has made significant savings which was set to continue. c) The £240k put aside for the Superfast Broadband to extend to more rural areas was progressing. d) The latest Local Plan had been accepted at Full Council and would be going to The Inspector for approval. e) Waste Partnership - a press release was being published advising people to put out their bins and recycling bins before 7am as services were beginning earlier.

07//15 Minutes of Meeting held on 11th November 2014 – One change to the minutes under the Mitigation Fund section - ATB stated that the applicants had to 'prove/justify' the situation to be able to satisfy the Mitigation Fund for approval. It was then proposed, seconded and agreed the November minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

08/15 Matters Arising from the Minutes: a) Accidents since November 2014 - 15th December at 10am on Flaxpool Hill near to Ashfield Junction on the A358, a car overturned and was on its roof, blocking the road, Police had been in attendance. 11th November – Between Hurley Lane and Crowcombe Road – car turned over due to flooding. 20th November – Williton side along Hurley Lane - woman on bike hit by car driver due to low sun visibility. 8th Jan 2015 – Flaxpool Hill – an altercation at 8.30am. 28th December – bottom of Crowcombe Coombe – road closed most of the day – fatality – air ambulance in attendance/ Incident Team

09/15 Highway Issues: a) Agreed to ask Cllr Lawrence for an update regarding the barrier/culvert works by Broad Meadow and the latest situation regarding the SID.

10/15 Finances: a) **Payments:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks salary £367.57, Clerks expenses £33.16, Chris Grove Associates £240 (sycamore tree), Church House £96.00, Data Protection Registration £35.00 and when received The Play Inspection Co £75.00. £ b) **Receipts:** Nil c) **Finances to date:** Balances as at 12th January 2015 was: Current a/c £9,950.71, Deposit a/c £3,221.33, Amenities a/c £2,681.38. Unpresented cheques £28.80 Balance £15,824.62. d) **Draft Precept for 2105/16** - The clerk presented a revised draft precept for 2015/16 following the changes at the last meeting. After discussion it was agreed to set the precept at £7,500. This included budget maintenance costs for the play area equipment and tree maintenance. A Band D property would pay approx. £32.28 over the year. Clerk to send signed paperwork to WSC. The Council Support Grant would not be received from WSC this time.

e) **Financial Regulations** – the clerk informed the Cllrs that new Financial Regulations had been updated on the SALC website which included allowing payments to move away from the 2 signatures on cheques system. This was due to the repeal of S150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 issued in May 2014. After discussion it was agreed Crowcombe Parish Council would remain using the current system of cheque payments as the council did not generate enough payments per meeting to make these changes. New Financial Regulations would be updated to show this and would be approved at the next meeting. f) **Risk Assessment Schedule** – The clerk and Cllrs went through the schedule detailing when each item was last reviewed and future actions. The Clerk would ensure this schedule was acted upon at the appropriate times.

11/15 Play Area Update a) **Maintenance of Equipment** – The Cllrs had received the quote from Andy Hayes which was very expensive to approve and covered additional maintenance. The Clerk stated she had contacted another person who would be visiting the site at the weekend and sending a quote for the works. Concerns were raised at the life expectancy of the play equipment and when these would have to be replaced. It was agreed to contact our Insurers to find out at what stage equipment should be removed. It was agreed that the weekly inspection reports should be sent to the clerk and if there were any concerns, the Chairman and Clerk would make a decision to take out of action the damaged equipment. b) **Weekly Reports** – clerk to chase up reports and agree who was covering January and February inspections. c) **Annual Inspection** – clerk was awaiting the report from The Play Inspection Company following the inspection carried out in December 2014. d) **Sycamore Tree Quote** – Cllr ATB agreed to ask Simon Date for a quote to fell and remove the roots.

12/15 Minutes of Planning Site Meetings

a) Minutes of site meeting 3/07/14/008 Rexton Gorse Cottage, The Avenue were approved as correct. The PC had supported the application. b) Minutes of Site Meeting 3/07/14/010 Hooks, Crowcombe were approved as correct. The PC had supported the application. The Chair signed the minutes.

13/15 The Crowcombe Chest – The clerk had received and issued a draft Memorandum of Undertaking between Somerset Community Foundation and Crowcombe Parish Council along with The Crowcombe Chest Terms of Reference from David Freemantle for discussion and approval. The PC required clarification on how an election and those wishing to be elected would take place which was not clear in the paperwork. Once known, these could be approved.

14/15 War Memorial Renovation – after a long discussion on the various options investigated and the restrictions that English Heritage have stipulated, it was agreed that the PC can no longer pursue this project for now.

15/15 Superfast Broadband update – Cllr Druitt with Cllr Trollope-Bellew updated the PC regarding the current position of where Crowcombe stands with getting this service. Various issues have been raised at recent meetings with BT and SCC and it appears that Crowcombe is no further forward. It was agreed to write a letter to BT from the PC regarding this situation once Cllr Druitt had passed on the contact details to the clerk.

16/15 Clerks Report – a) **Parish Elections – 7th May** – Cllr nomination forms would be available from 2nd March. 23rd March proposed date for election notices to be put up. 9th April at 4pm deadline for nomination papers to be returned to WSC. b) Forces march taking place on 23rd May 2015. c) Mechanical Street Cleaning – it was agreed to respond to WSC by stating the service received was at the minimum and no further cuts should take place.

17/15 Matters with Permission from Chairman a) Election Notices – it was agreed to place a separate notice into CAW for anyone wishing to stand as a Parish Councillor as there would be vacancies this forthcoming term. b) It was agreed to contact the Meddemans to ask them to secure the new bench outside the church. c) The Chair had received a letter from a resident in the new affordable housing development regarding the standard of build of the houses. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to WSC highlighting these issues once all details had been received. WSC should be made aware of the problems with Falcon Housing. d) Community Speed Watch Volunteers – it was agreed to put a notice into CAW asking for volunteers for this potential service to commence.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th March 2015 at Church House commencing at 7.30pm.

Chairman