

**Minutes of Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday, 12th September 2013 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs J Chipp (Chairman), B Druitt, R Harbour, T Motture, T Brooks, and J Loader (clerk). Also in attendance was Christine Lawrence (SCC Cllr) and A Trollope-Bellew (WSC Cllr) – part-time.

77/13 Chairman's welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

78/13 Apologies: Cllrs J Hughes, D Lock and PCSO Peter Bolton

79/13 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations: None

80/13 Public Participation: None

81/13 Police Report – PCSO Peter Bolton had sent a report which was read out by the clerk. There had been 58 calls received within Beat 013 which covers Crowcombe, Monksilver, Stogumber, parts of Lydeard St Lawrence, Capton, Vellow and Lower Vellow, Escott and Kingswood since 11th August. None were serious. People were to remember to continue to pass information to the Police (101 or 999, depending on severity) regarding suspicious vehicles, activity, incidents, poor driving, dangerous driving, suspected drink-drivers, anti-social behaviour etc.

82/13 County Councillor's Report: Christine Lawrence reported that Hinkley were putting on various exhibitions around the area which the public could attend during the day, running from 3 September until 29 October. Details were on the Hinkleyconnection.co.uk website. Planning application for 30 houses at Townsend Farm (03/05/213/006) near Carhampton was going to the Planning Committee in September. SCC were holding a listening/learning/changing event at WSC offices on 18 September & 27 September in Minehead to discuss the budget and get the thoughts on people's priorities. It would be advertised in the Free Press and website. The Health and Well-Being Fund had £5,000 to spend on local projects. It was agreed to complete a form to request some funding for the final play area pieces required for the project.

Highway Issues – Cllr Lawrence agreed to contact Highways regarding the lack of cats eyes on the Flaxpool Hill on A358 which had not been replaced since the re-surfacing of the road. The gullies from Bishops Lydeard to Crowcombe required clearing as well as at Crowcombe Combe.

83/13 District Councillor's Report: Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported that WSC and TDBC were working together to review costs on a Joint Member Advisory Committee. Both councils were not merging. Penny James would be starting her new role at Joint Chief Executive on 24 October. Funding of WSC was still an issue but the Council is secure until at least 2016.

84/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd July 2013 – It was proposed, seconded and agreed the July minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed each page of the minutes.

85/13 Matters arising from July Minutes: a) Road Accidents – there had been two accidents since July – one at Flaxpool Hill by The Homestead and the other at Slough Lane/Halsway Cottage. b) the Mile Stone had been collected during the week and was going to be engraved and positioned as soon as possible. c) It was noted that many of the road signs were covered by hedge growth and could not be seen clearly even after the hedges had been cut. SCC Highways to be notified.

86/13 Local Plan Update – The Councillors discussed, amended and approved the various sections from the West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 (revised preferred strategy) document. Both Stogumber and Crowcombe Parish Councils had met to discuss this form and would send in a joint response.

87/13 Finances: a) **Payments:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks salary £363.93, Clerks expenses £29.10, Carl Woodley (Mystery Park sign) £46.00, CPCL (play equipment) £7,227.57, Clerk's Back pay £10.92 – re: d). b) **Finances to date:** Current a/c £7,004.51, Deposit a/c £3,219.30, Amenities a/c £952.40 c) FOCPA cheque for £1,727.57 was received at the meeting, to be banked into the Amenities a/c which had been used to place the play equipment order. d) The Parish Council approved the clerk's salary scale rate increase back dated to April 2013 following new pay scales announced by NALC and SLCC. New salary rate was £10.603 per hour.

88/13 a) Play Area Update – The order for the new play equipment had been sent on 1 August 2013 to CPCL with a cheque for £7,227.57 (50% of order). Delivery and installation was expected in October. b) **Mystery Park sign** – this had been installed and looked very good. c) **Maintenance of Play Area** – following a discussion regarding the condition of the play area and maintenance. It was agreed to contact FOCPA and advise them that the Council would continue to pay for the grass cutting only and that a Village Working Party would carry out one/two major tidy ups during the year. This would save on maintenance spend and thus the council may be able to support some of the additional funding required to complete the project. It was agreed to find out i) how much money the group were short of. ii) contact Christine Lawrence to ask for some funding from her Health and Well-Being Grant iii) Review how much money is in the Amenities a/c to release some funds if possible. d) **2nd Play Area Sign** – the quote for a new Play Area sign was approved. Clerk to place order for the new sign with Carl Woodley at a cost of £50.00. e) **Annual Inspection of Play Area** – the Clerk raised the issue that the annual inspection was out of date. Digley Associates had ceased trading and Came & Company our insurers recommended The Play Inspection Company. It was agreed to find out whether the Annual Inspection could be incorporated with the Post Installation Inspection. Clerk to contact both companies for advice. f) **Tree Surgeon Report** – the clerk had contacted Chris Groves Associates for a report on the two trees showing signs of deterioration.

89/13 Minutes of Planning Site Meetings held on 11th August 2013 ref application 3/07/13/008, 3/07/13/009 & 010 and 3/07/13/011– the minutes of these meetings were approved as correct and the chairman signed them. All the applications had been supported by the Council. b) **Application 3/28/13/005 – Aller Farm Solar panel application** – it was agreed the Council would not respond to this application due to the short notice given and lack of information to hand, but an individual could respond accordingly if they so wished.

90/13 Website Update – there were still some on-going issues regarding getting the web site live. Clerk to email Cllr Chipp the link, to try and move this forward in time for the next meeting.

91/13 Clerk's Report – Annual Audit had been returned by Grant Thornton with no issues.

92/13 Civil Contingencies Unit Meeting Update – The Crowcombe Hall committee were meeting very soon and would be able to provide names to pass onto the Civil Contingencies Unit.

93/13 Matters with Permission from Chairman – a) Cllr Druitt informed the meeting that Western Power were putting in three phase cabling at the Triscombe end of the village. b) Bus shelter works should be completed by the end of September. c) Agreed to ask WSC Enforcement Officer to contact the Quantock Orchard Caravan Park to ensure the correct number of days people were staying was within the regulations outlined.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.58pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 7th November 2013 at Church House.