

**Minutes of Crowcombe Annual Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs B Druitt, T Brooks, D Lock and J Loader (clerk). Also in attendance was Mrs J Long, M Smith, A Trollope-Bellew (WSC Cllr), SCC Cllr C Lawrence and 1 member of the public.

50/15 Election of Chairman – it was proposed and seconded that Cllr Druitt be voted as the Chairman which he duly accepted.

51/15 Declaration of Acceptance of Office – the Chairman signed the declaration of acceptance of office form together with the other councillors and countersigned by the clerk.

52/15 Co-option of new members - it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to co-opt Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Martin Smith and Julie Long onto the Parish Council. The members signed the declaration of acceptance of office form and counter signed by the clerk. The register of interests forms were also completed or would be sent to the clerk within 28 days.

53/15 Apologies: Jane Chipp, PCSO Peter Bolton.

54/15 Election of Vice-Chair – it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Dennis Lock be vice chair which he duly accepted.

55/15 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations: a) A Trollope-Bellew stated he was the landowner to the Recreation Ground and declared an interest, as the PC leased this land from him.

56/15 Public Participation: K Chittenden was pleased to see the council now had 6 members.

57/15 Police Report – PCSO Peter Bolton had agreed to send a report in due course, as he was attending another PC meeting and could not attend Crowcombe's.

58/15 County Councillor's Report: Christine Lawrence was delighted to see the PC up to 6 members, because at the Annual Parish Meeting there had only been three councillors. Cllr Lawrence stated she covered 15 parishes which included her area of Alcombe. She chairs the cabinet under Health & Well-being too. Extra funding was required to cover Children's Services and more qualified, mature Social Workers were desperately needed. A clear pathway of improvement was required and was being discussed. The Superfast Broadband project and issues were continuing and the need to get proper coverage over the Exmoor National Park and other rural areas was key.

59/15 District Councillor's Report: Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported that following the recent elections in WSC the Conservatives had overall control of the council. Tim Taylor did not stand again and a new leader is to be elected.

60//15 Minutes of Meeting held on 19th March 2015 – It was proposed, seconded and agreed the March minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

61/15 Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 8th April 2015 - It was proposed, seconded and agreed the April minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

62/15 Matters arising from the Minutes: a) Accidents since March 2015 - bus shelter written off on 22nd April 2015. Sign post opposite bus shelter damaged 8th April.

63/15 Highway Issues: a) Culvert at Broad Meadow – this was still unresolved. Agreed to write a strong letter to Peter Owen asking why this has not been repaired after all this time and requesting an expected repair date. b) 30mph sign posts through village require replacing as they are rotting. c) Cllr Smith reported Church House would be carrying out a traffic count in June to assess speeding cars and numbers and the impact on the village. d) Old tyre requires removing by the run off relief road up the Coombe. e) Gullies – along A358 - it was agreed that Cllr Lawrence and Cllr Trollope-Bellew would work together to resolve getting these gullies cleared out from our parish towards Bishops Lydeard where necessary.

64/15 Finances: a) **Payments:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks salary £367.56, Clerks expenses £43.57, CJ Lewis £60.00 removal of damaged bus shelter, Aspire4More - £36.00 internal auditor, SALC membership £119.54, Came & Co (Broker Network) insurance £963.54, Mrs J Loader refund of advert £317.94. £ b) **Receipts:** WSC Precept – 1st half £3,750, HMRC vat refund £193.30. c) **Accounting Statements on Annual Return & Year End Accounts 2014/15** – the clerk had circulated the yearend accounts for approval. After discussion they were adopted as correct and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. d) **Annual Governance Statement on Annual Return** – the clerk read out and stated each section of the Annual Governance Statement that the council had carried out its duties correctly. This was approved. e) **Insurance Renewal** - after discussion it was agreed to remain with Came & Company as our insurance brokers for one year only. They were being very helpful in managing the claim on our behalf. As the PC had had to make a claim due to the bus shelter being damaged beyond repair this would probably affect our premiums next year.

66/15 Resignation of Clerk – the clerk had a copy of her resignation letter as record for the minutes. The advert for a replacement clerk had been published in the County Gazette and on the SALC website. The closing date for applications was 14th May. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss applicants and then have interviews the following week.

67/15 PlayArea. a) **Weekly Play Area Inspections** – the clerk had produced a folder containing the sheets covering the areas that required inspecting each week for both areas. The rota was as follows: Dennis Lock – May, Julie Long – June, Martin Smith - July, A Trollope-Bellew - August, Tony Brooks – September.

68/15 Clerks Report – a) Veterans Charity Forces March – 22nd May at 10am. b) Somerset Emergency Community Contacts – it was agreed that Martin Smith, Tony Brookes and Anthony Trollope-Bellew would be contacts in case of emergencies ie flooding. c) **Bus Shelter quotes** – it was agreed to contact B Fowler, P Farmer and one other supplier to quote for a new bus shelter.

69/15 Kesteven Recreation Ground Annual Meeting – it was agreed to hold this meeting on 21st June at 9.30am. Clerk to book Quantock Room and invite others.

70/15 Matters with Permission of Chairman a) It was agreed to take up Jane Chipp's offer of continuing to manage the website which was greatly appreciated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 2nd July 2015 at Church House commencing at 7.30pm.

Chairman