

Crowcombe Parish Council

The Orchard, Biscombe, Churchstanton, Taunton TA3 7PZ

Tel: 01823 601495

Clerk: Claire Morrison-Jones

Minutes of Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 3rd November 2016 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm

Present :

Cllrs M Smith (Chair), T Brooks (Vice), B Druitt, D Lock, K Kenyon, A Trollope-Bellew, J Laver
C Morrison-Jones (clerk). SCC Cllr C Lawrence. 1 member of the public

105/16 Apologies of absence

None

106/16 Public Participation

None

107/16 Police Matters

A Police report was sent, via email: Recorded crime figures for the whole of the Williton/Watchet beat area - SEPTEMBER TO SEPTEMBER 2015 /2016

Criminal damage, down 11%

Dwelling burglary, down 23.8%

Fraud and Forgery, down 100% (there was 1 last year)

Other Offences, up 100% (10 vs 5)

Sexual Offences, up 52.9% (26 vs 17)

Shoplifting, down 17%

Racially or religiously aggravated crimes - 4 this year, 1 last year

TOTAL RECORDED CRIMES, up 23.8%

There is an area on the Avon and Somerset Constabulary website where you can get some quite specific information when seeking crime statistics, <https://www.police.uk/> This is a national site so you can compare with any area in the country. The specific link for the AW 052 area (Williton & Watchet) is <https://police.uk/avon-and-somerset/AW052/crime/stats/>

108/16 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Christine Lawrence started her report with the proposed closure of six stroke beds at Williton Hospital. Whilst she had initial concerns, following a meeting with the clinical commissioning group, she was reassured that this was a clinically led decision as it has been proven that the majority of patients make better progress and become less institutionalised if they return home sooner, providing that a comprehensive care package is provided. Beds will continue to be provided at Williton for patients that are unable to utilise home support care packages.

More severely affected patients will still require residential beds and whilst she has concerns over journey times for relatives visiting South Petherton hospital, the beds provided there for stroke patients are state of the art and the most appropriate for severely affected patients.

Christine went on to report that at the bends between Bilbrook and Withycombe Straight, £120,000 has been spent improving the surface and road markings to try and prevent cars leaving the road and ending up in the adjacent field.

Concerns were raised regarding the Minehead to Bridgwater bus service possibly being cut. Although a coach would be laid on for children to get to college, the journey to Minehead for other users will require going via Taunton therefore considerably increasing journey time. It is hopeful that the Porlock to Minehead service will continue for next year; usage figures are being collected and analysed.

D Lock thanked Christine for hosting the volunteer award ceremony which he attended last week with Crowcombe's nominee, David Freemantle, where 61 nominees were rewarded.

Signed :, Chair Date :

109/16 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported Taunton Deane and West Somerset have voted to recommend to the Secretary of State that they reform as a new Council. Pending the results of a judicial review called for by the Lib Dem group within Taunton Deane, there will be a public consultation followed by a decision by the Secretary of State.

The Hinkley Point C agreement has now been signed by France, China and the UK and will be proceeding. This means that new funding sources are to be made available via the Somerset Community Foundation to distribute across Somerset.

Devolution : it is becoming apparent that an elected mayor will be required by the Secretary of State to enable full devolution. Councillors now need to consider the financial implications of not instating a mayor and whether that is in the best interest of the electorate

Cllr Christine Lawrence left the meeting at this point

110/16 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

None

111/16 Minutes, 1st September 2016

It was agreed that the minutes be adopted as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes

112/16 Highways

- a) A Trollope- Bellew reported that he had attempted to contact David Peake regarding the lane at Triscombe (min 95/16) but, as expected, had not elicited a response. B Druitt reported that there were paint markings around some of the bad ruts - repairs imminent?
- b) T Brooks reported that the wooden fence by the cattle grid on the Combe had been damaged but was now repaired
- c) It was noted that the trees/hedges bordering some of the Brendon View properties were overgrown and obstructing the road. Clerk to report to Highways

113/16 Demolished wall adjoining car park

A Trollope-Bellew reported that the West Somerset officer responsible for this matter is doing all she can and four quotes have now gone to the insurance company. It is West Somerset's understanding that the insurance company is now inclined to pay out on the claim but nothing is guaranteed. It is now one year since the wall was damaged

A T-B agreed to continue pursuing this in the hope to have a decision by the January meeting, although it is understood that contractors may be unwilling to commence repairs until temperatures have risen.

114/16 Broadband outside the village centre -update

Tony Motture was unable to attend the meeting but had provided an update report which was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. As authorised at the September meeting, he had registered an interest with BT and had been assured a response within 8-10 weeks. None was so far forthcoming, despite this timescale having now elapsed.

In his report Tony explained that he had, as requested by councillors, investigated alternatives to BT and had found a personal solution in 4G. M Smith agreed to contact Tony to thank him for his efforts and to request further costings for this solution.

Councillors noted that applications to the CDS voucher scheme close on 30th November.

Whilst it was acknowledged that vouchers are only available to those properties that fall within the programme area (not all properties in Crowcombe), it was agreed to remind parishioners to check their eligibility for a voucher before the scheme closes.

B Druitt reported that the connection speed in Crowcombe to those that have already been enabled is slowing down as more properties join the network. The next step should be to push for fibre direct to property.

The chairman reported that today a notice had been placed by the bench by Hagley's Green by Western Power that it was planning to put underground cabling from Grimes Farm to the bench for the purposes of a BT cabinet. He agreed to investigate and report back to councillors.

115/16 Finances:

a) Payments to approve

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|---|---------|
| i. Clerk's salary, expenses and reimbursements | £298.26 |
| ii. HMRC – clerk's PAYE | £66.40 |
| iii. Wiser Hosting, web-site hosting | £28.80 |
| iv. T Brooks, reimbursement for barrier for car park wall | £48.62 |

J Laver suggested that the clerk's future transport expenses be increased to the HMRC recommended amount of £0.45 per mile. This was agreed by all councillors

b) Receipts received

West Somerset District Council. 2nd half of precept £4,400.00

c) Expenditure to date

The clerk reported that the balance total held by the council as of 30/9/16 to be £20,452.93 consisting of £14,580.84 in the current account, £3224.57 in the deposit account and £2683.52 in the amenities account, with uncleared cheques totalling £36.00

116/16 Play Area

a) Weekly inspection reports

- i. It was noted that there were fungi growing in the play area. T Brooks will monitor during his weekly inspections.
- ii. The mole hills were back. J Laver was authorised to organise a mole catcher to deal with the problem.
- iii. Dog droppings had been removed from the playarea – agreed to monitor situation
- iv. Gate sign was becoming faded
- v. Monitor tyre area as coming loose
- vi. Middle stilt in North/East wild area coming loose

T Brooks reported that he was continuing with the playground running repairs and would monitor the items mentioned

b) Playground rubber grass tiles – update

M Smith and T Brooks had met that morning with Richard Criddle to explain the work needing doing. He agreed to consider the job and would prepare an estimate if it was something he would consider taking on. J Laver reminded councillors that, due to changes in CDM regulations, the PC would be considered the principle contractor and so would be responsible for site health and safety.

c) Playground Inspection January 2017

The clerk was authorised to book the annual playground inspection with the Play Ground Inspection Company.

d) Any other matters regarding the playground

None

117/16 Planning:

- a) **Update on planning application 3/07/16/012**, Flaxpool Garage. Extension to and conversion of redundant commercial building to holiday let – application withdrawn
- b) **Update on Planning Application 3/07/16/009**. Improvement to field access. Land adjacent to Steepy Piece, Crowcombe Hill, Crowcombe TA4 4AA - permission granted
- c) **Update on Planning Application 3/07/16/008**. Erection of rear single storey extension. 8 Brendon View, Crowcombe Road, Crowcombe TA4 4AG – permission granted
- d) **Update on Planning Application 3/07/16/011**. Change of Use and Conversion of Barn Roebuck Farm, Crowcombe TA4 4BN – ongoing

118/16 Consider Crowcombe's Top Five Priorities

Councillors agreed on the top three priorities for the parish with discussions re four and five ongoing

- 1) Footpath to School
- 2) Broadband - Fibre to Premises
- 3) Safer route to play area / village hall as no pavement past Hagley's Green

119/16 Vandalism in the Parish

- a) The Chairman reported that the bench at Market Cross, opposite the Carew Arms, had been thrown into the ditch. It was decided to monitor the situation and if it occurred again consider the use of ground anchors to secure the bench.
- b) It was noted that the stones around Market Cross are often moved out of place. One is already secured down - A Trollope-Bellew to consider anchoring the others if they continue to move
- c) J Laver raised the matter of the break into the Church in early October. The door to the private chapel was broken and a chair was taken

120/16 Bed Closures at Williton Hospital

This topic was discussed concurrent with the County Councillor's Report (min 108/16) and whilst it was understood that this was a clinically led decision there were concerns that if numbers of beds were reduced too far then the unit becomes unviable. If the six beds were considered not necessary for stroke patients, could they not be used for other patients, particularly with winter approaching It was decided to keep a watching brief and monitor the situation

121/16 Clerk's Report

- i. Mobile library service – Somerset Library Service will be withdrawing the mobile stop at Hagley's Green but retaining stop at the School as of January 2017
- ii. Planning Obligation (POG) funding – Crowcombe has £2000 held by WSDC that can be used for a parish project. J Laver offered to investigate the possibilities for creating a footpath to the school as this would fall within the scope of use for this money
- iii. Response to Referendum consultation – the clerk confirmed that the agreed response letter & email had been submitted
- iv. Sycamore tree in Church House Car Park – the Sycamore Tree will be inspected by West Somerset's tree specialist next week
- v. New bench – now up at the entrance to Hagley's Green, awaiting its commemorative plaque
- vi. ANOB winter walks-poster supplied to put up on board
- vii. There will be an Emergency Services training exercise Sunday 20th November, based at Crowcombe School. Posters will be put up around village
- viii. Highways winter service 2017/18. Salt will be available to be collected by nominated councillor (J Laver) on Saturday 3rd December between 9am and 1pm.
- ix. Repairs to fence in village hall car park – Simon Date will commence soon.
- x. A thank you letter to the PC had been received from David Freemantle for his nomination for the Chairman's volunteer award

122/16 Topics for future meetings

- i. Consider PCs response to the proposed formation of a new Council combining West Somerset and Taunton Deane
- ii. New footpath to school

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.55pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 5th January 2017 at Church House, commencing at 7.30pm