

Minutes of Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 2nd July 2015 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm

Present : Cllrs B Druitt, T Brooks, Martin Smith, Dennis Lock and Claire Morrison-Jones (clerk). Also in attendance were K Kenyon, J Loader, SCC Cllr C Lawrence and J Denton.

71/15 Apologies : Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Julie Long

72/15 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations : None stated.

73/15 Welcome to the New Clerk : The new clerk, Claire Morrison-Jones, was welcomed to the Parish Council and thanks were given to Jill Loader, outgoing clerk, for her time spent training Claire.

74/15 Co-option of New Member : It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to co-opt Kate Kenyon onto the Parish Council. The new member signed the declaration of acceptance of office form and counter signed by the clerk. It was agreed that the register of interests form would be completed and sent to the clerk within 28 days.

74/15 Signing of the Crowcombe Chest : Jonathan Denton recapped the details of the 'Memorandum of Undertaking' for the Crowcombe Chest Foundation between Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) and the community of Crowcombe. He confirmed that SCF will oversee the management of the fund but the Crowcombe Chest Custodians (CCF) will be the decision makers regarding the issuing of grants. Jonathan will be meeting with David Freemantle to draft flyers which will be distributed in the village on the 'go live' date of 1st August 2015. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign the Memorandum of Undertaking, which was duly done, and a copy of the signed document was requested to be sent to the clerk.

75/15 Public Participation : No public participation.

76/15 Police Matters : No police presence and no report had been submitted. Christine Lawrence, SCC Cllr, confirmed that Police will no longer attend a Parish council meeting and will only submit a report with a minimum of one weeks notice. She will be raising this issue at the next Panel meeting.

77/15 County Councillor's Report : Christine Lawrence stated she is now Chair of Somerset County Council. One of her charities for the year is The National Autistic Society and as such she reported that she had visited one of their homes in Highbridge for those who cannot live unaided and was very impressed with the care that they offered. More funding is needed for older people, schools and children in care but SCC is needing to make £20million worth of cuts over the next year so there will be cuts in funding, although no figures/areas have been finalised. Christine reported that the work to clear the gullies at Bagborough Corner has not been carried out as requested although cats eyes have been installed. The A358 'Green Hills' also need the gullies attending to on the left hand side towards Taunton-there is no schedule for this at present. The Superfast Broadband issues are continuing –BT have failed to complete 'phase 1' and SCC have yet to secure a provider for 'phase 2'. Exmoor National Park have secured 'Air Band' to complete 'phase 2'.

78/15 Minutes APCM 12th May to Approve and Sign : The minutes, point 63/15, were amended from 'speeding' to 'volume'. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the amended minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

79/15 Matters arising from the Minutes : Tony Brooks asked if the finger post on the cross road that was knocked down on 8/4/15 had been reported. The post belongs to SCC and it was reported by Anthony Trollope-Bellew.

Regarding the 30 mph posts that are rotting – SCC will replace with metal post, if wooden are required it was suggested that Quantock Hills ANOB were contacted for funding. It is proposed, seconded and agreed that the clerk request SCC to replace the posts with metal. This would enable 'speed watch' to attach their cameras to the posts which is not possible with wooden supports.

a) Any Road Accidents to report since May

29/6/15 car versus horse box at 'The Coombe'. No injuries reported, damage to the car.

7/4/15 red Astra crashed at Flaxpool Hill.

80/15 Highways – any issues to report/update : The issues with the gullies were covered in Christine's report

81/15 Finances:

- a) **Payments** : It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerk's salary £200.74, Clerk's expenses £57.50, Crowcombe PCC – APM donation £50.00, Crowcombe Hall – hire 10th June (interviews) £6.00, Woodland Southwest Ltd (grass cutting) £378.00
- b) **Receipts** : Crowcombe Lawn Tennis Club £25.00, Crowcombe Hall £50.00
- c) **Clerk's payroll procedure** : Jill's husband's accounting firm have been running the clerk's payroll free of charge up to this point. He is willing to continue for an annual fee of £240. Martin Smith volunteered to take over the payroll for the new clerk. It was unanimously agreed that he should do so. The question was raised regarding the statutory requirement to provide a pension by 2017. It was hoped that by that point an umbrella scheme may be in place for Parish Councils to operate under.
- d) **Clerk's training to approve** : SALC are running training days on 2/10 and 9/10 'The Essential Clerk – parts 1 and 2'. It was unanimously agreed that the PC would fund the clerk attending these.

82/15 Play Area :

- a) **Weekly Inspection Reports** : No issues raised
- b) **Play Area Maintenance** : No issues reported
- c) **Simon Date – tree felling update** : trees felled on 24/6/15. A seat was made out of the stump of the sycamore tree, facing the swings. The lime tree stump contained a wasps nest so it was burnt. Soil needs to be brought up to cover the hole left.

83/15 Planning Applications – Minutes of Planning Site Meeting 6/6/15 to Approve : It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

84/15 WSC – Top 5 Priorities : Last years priorities were not achieved. No changes were put forward so it was agreed to leave the Top 5 Priorities unchanged. It was agreed to request a progress report from District Council and to point out these requests have been repeatedly submitted.

85/15 Clerk's Report : Bus shelter update – no progress to report to date. New clerk to seek quotes for replacement and obtain a letter from the police.
Councillor training days for Julie Long are booked with SALC.

86/15 Matters with the Permission of the Chairman : Tony Brooks raised the issue of the damaged stones round Buttercross. It was agreed to ask Anthony Trollope-Bellew to replace with larger stones.

A member of the public (by letter) raised the issue of the overgrown hedge at Carters Lane, outside the car park. It was agreed the clerk would write to SCC to request it being cut back as it is currently forcing pedestrians to walk in the road and is causing a hazard.

Claire Morrison-Jones raised the matter of the clerk's travelling expenses. It was agreed that she would be reimbursed at a rate of £0.40 per mile for travel relating to Parish Council matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September 2015 at Church House, commencing at 7.30pm.

Chairman

DRAFT