

**Minutes of Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs J Chipp (Chair), B Druitt, T Motture, D Lock, J Hughes (part-time), T Brooks and J Loader (clerk). Also in attendance was Christine Lawrence (SCC Cllr), Anthony Trollope-Bellew (WSC Cllr), 4 members of the public.

**113/14 Apologies:** Cllr R Harbour

**114/14 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** None

**115/14 Public Participation:** K Chittenden expressed his views about how war memorials are renovated and maintained in France and Belgium and whether the PC could do the same type of repair.

**116/14 The Crowcombe Community Chest** – the meeting held prior to the PC meeting discussed the possibility of Crowcombe village having a community chest and it being managed by The Somerset Community Foundation. The Chief Executive Justin Sargent had outlined their role. It was agreed that David Freemantle would arrange another meeting, to include the PC and residents, to give a more detailed outline on how this could be managed with costs. It was agreed to put a link to the SCF onto the village website.

**117/14 Police Report** – it was agreed to add in the Police Report once received from PCSO Peter Bolton – which reads: Between 11<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 there were 51 calls made to Police via 999 or 101 route for the patch which includes Crowcombe Parish. 29 calls were related to the Badger cull which is now completed. 6 calls were domestic / family related and not high level nor of any major concern. 9 calls were road related matters, either traffic matters or trees down, obstructions or delays. None were serious. 7 calls were information calls, suspicious vehicles, low level neighbourhood issues or firework related. There were 6 crimes during this period. None were serious and 4 were likely to be badger cull related. There have been sightings of (Transit type) vehicles with Irish number plates used by Irish males which were offering generators, garden tools, trimmers - some of these sightings were in the Crowcombe area. Please be aware and report any suspicious sightings / incidents to the Police.

**118/14 County Councillor's Report:** Christine Lawrence reported the a) **Health & Well-Being Fund** was still available to any good projects within Crowcombe – deadline was end of year. It was agreed to give a form to the school. b) There were still on- going issues with **BT** and the installation of superfast broadband within Crowcombe. A meeting had been set to discuss these points with Cllrs Druitt and Lawrence and would hopefully provide the answers the PC and County were looking for. c) The promised **SID** had not been forthcoming and it was hoped a person carrying out speed gun tests would be available for the New Year. The PC agreed they would be prepared to pay towards some traffic calming measures. Cllr Lawrence to inform Highways of their decision.

**119/14 District Councillor's Report:** Anthony Trollope-Bellow reported a) WSC would not be passing on the **Council Support Tax** to Parishes next year due to their financial deficit. This would affect Band D properties by 14p next year if the Precept remained the same. b) **The Community Mitigation Fund** via Hinkley Point was not available to those within Crowcombe parish, as the village was not directly affected by the EDF project. All applications had been turned down, except the Tropiquaria project

**120/14 Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014** – It was proposed, seconded and agreed the September minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

**121/14 Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were currently a) 22 subscribers to the website notification scheme. Please remember to inform other residents and get them to sign up. A reminder would be put into CAW. b) No road accidents had been reported since the last meeting. c) The handrails for the play area were almost ready to be fixed. Agreed to ask if Chris Lock could fix them asap. The seat at the cricket field had been found and would be fixed back into position by next weekend. d) Pound Orchard ownership – ATB and others to ask WI if they know when the ownership was changed. e) ATB agreed to find out from WSC who should be clearing gullies in car park.

**122/14 Highway Issues:** a) Cllr Lawrence agreed to chase up H/Ways regarding the barrier and hole in the culvert by Broad Meadow.

**123/14 Finances:** a) **Payments:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks salary £367.57, Clerks expenses £34.9, CAW contribution £40.00, Wiser Hosting £28.80, SALC – Budget Training for Clerk £25.00 b) **Receipts:** None c) **Finances to date:** Balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 was: Current a/c £10,021.01, Deposit a/c £3,221.33, Amenities a/c £2,680.94. Unpresented bankings £60.00 Balance £15,983.28. d) **Draft Precept for 2105/16** - The clerk presented a draft precept for 2015/16 for discussion. She had not received any information from WSC regarding the Tax Base figures to date so could not tell what a Band D property would pay should the precept increase. After discussion it was agreed to present a revised precept for the January 2015 meeting with the changes discussed to include play area equipment repair costs, election fees, war memorial fund and inflation.

**124/14 Play Area Update a) Maintenance of Equipment** - One side of the supports on the large swings had been identified as requiring replacement. After discussion it was agreed to get a local general builder to quote for these repairs and any other issues. **b) Clerk** to check the last annual inspection report to find out the life expectancy of the existing play equipment for future planning of funds etc. **c) Clerk** to issue a rota to all Cllrs for weekly inspections of the play area. **d) Annual Inspection** – clerk had arranged with The Play Inspection Company to come out in December 2014. **e) Friends of Crowcombe Play Area** – following a letter from FOCPA, the committee had officially disbanded at their AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014. It was agreed the remaining funds in the bank account would be put into the PC's Amenities A/C as follows: £200 would go towards two signs. £120.59 towards any maintenance. The PC had sent a letter of thanks to past and present committee members who had worked so hard in this project to produce a great play area. **f) Expenditure on Maintenance from Amenities A/c** – the clerk issued a statement on how the balance of the amenities fund had been spent over the last 3 years. Grass cutting, Tree maintenance & Miscellaneous totaled approx. £2367. Balance remaining approx. £313. **g) New Maintenance Contractor** - Woodlands South West had been successful in securing this contract as they were the most competitive and the clerk had received good references. The clerk would be meeting up with Matt Peaster next week to arrange for the grass to be cut and confirm any other works to be done.

**125/14 Planning Applications Received** – it was agreed to meet on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am to view planning application 3/07/14/008 – Rexton Gorse Cottage.

**126/14 Community Warden Scheme** – the clerk had emailed the Cllrs details of a Community Warden Scheme from David Talling, Holford Parish Council. After discussion it was agreed not to pursue this scheme which required a commitment for four years and extra costs the PC could not afford.

**127/14 Library Consultation** – It was agreed to ask residents to respond to this consultation which may affect the current mobile library service. Clerk to put a notice into the next CAW magazine.

**128/14 War Memorial Renovation** – Cllr Hughes updated the meeting following his discussion with Liz Peeks at WSC on how to renovate the existing war memorial with all the red tape that comes along with listed buildings etc. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Hughes would find out how much it would cost to have a new memorial, similar to the existing one with a view to it being placed on a new site. Further discussions would follow on how to proceed.

**129/14 Bus Shelter** – Cllr Hughes informed the meeting the bus shelter repairs were completed together with seating. The PC thanked Cllr Hughes for the time, cost and effort in getting this finished with his contractor.

**130/14 Bus Services Consultation** – this consultation did not affect the bus services to and from Crowcombe.

**131/14 Clerks Report** – a) **2015 Meeting Dates** were agreed: 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup> March, Annual Parish Assembly – Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, APCM 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Clerk to book Church House.

**132/14 Matters with Permission from Chairman** a) Motorcycles had been seen over the Quantocks back in October and which had not shown any consideration towards people walking. Should any disturbances or bad behaviour towards people be seen to contact ATB or AONB giving details of date, time, place etc.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 at Church House commencing at 7.30pm.