

**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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm  
(in the format to be submitted to the next meeting for approval as a correct record)

Present : Cllrs B Druitt, D Lock, T Brooks, K Kenyon, M Smith, A Trollope-Bellew, J Laver  
C Morrison-Jones (clerk). PCSO P Bolton. 1 member of the public, Tony Motture

**88/16 Apologies of absence**

Cllr Christine Lawrence, Somerset County Council

**89/16 Public Participation**

None

**90/16 Police Matters**

PCSO P Bolton delivered a report on recorded crime figures for the whole of the Williton/Watchet beat area (revised figures received after the meeting are recorded here for accuracy)

RECORDED CRIME – AUGUST TO AUGUST 2015 /2016

Criminal damage, down 29%

Dwelling burglary, down 5%

Fraud and Forgery, down 100%

Non Dwelling burglary, up 17.6%

Other Offences ( unspecified ) up 125%

Sexual Offences, up 10.5%

Racially or religiously aggravated crimes, nil % (3 each year)

Shoplifting, up 60%

Theft from Motor vehicle, up 50%

Theft of Motor vehicle, up 83%

Theft of Pedal Cycle, up 100%

In most cases, the numbers used to calculate the % are very low-for examples total reported crimes year on year is 500 vs 573

Violence against the person, up 53.9% ( this is probably due to a different way of recording crimes year on year )

TOTAL CRIMES, up 14. %

FULLY RESOLVED CRIME RATE, down 6.4%

Many crimes are not recorded as they are not reported correctly - PLEASE report incidents via the 101 or 999 route, not by word of mouth via 3rd party as information gets lost or confused

A noticeably higher level of Policing may well be apparent at the moment. DO NOT BE ALARMED. This is due to an influx of Police Officers patrolling rural and farming areas to ensure a highly visible presence for a period of time during a specific Operation. Your local Officers, both Response and Neighbourhood, will patrol as normal

*PCSO Bolton left the meeting after delivering his report*

**91/16 County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Christine Lawrence was unwell and unable to attend the meeting

**92/16 District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported Taunton Deane have voted to form a new council with West Somerset. West Somerset Council votes next Wednesday. Although, as leader of West Somerset, he recommends this merger for financial reasons he will be sad to see West Somerset Council disappear. West Somerset is the smallest District Council in England by population but its services are spread over a large, mainly rural area, which stretches minimal resources to their limit.

The decision to commence Hinkley Point C has been suspended by Theresa May while the contracts are re-examined, but even if it does go ahead it is not anticipated that income will be generated until at least 2025.

### **93/16 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations**

DL, item 101 a)

MS, item 101 a)

AT-B, items 101 a) b) c) d)

### **94/16 Minutes, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

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

### **95/16 Highways**

BD noted that the Blue Ball to Triscombe Car Park road is in a very poor state. It was thought that this road is no longer adopted but ATB offered to ask David Peake what could be done.

TB reported that Water Lane had been closed for repairs.

### **96/16 Demolished wall adjoining car park**

AT-B reported that the West Somerset officer responsible for this matter is doing all she can but the insurance company is still stalling over authorising Council to go ahead with repairs. The estimate for repairs is £6,000 which is 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of West Somerset's maintenance budget so the work cannot be paid for by the Council without assurance that it will be reimbursed. The insurance company have been reminded of the liability they could face if the wall collapses further.

MS noted that a plan of action should be decided next meeting if no further progress has been made.

### **97/16 Broadband outside the village centre**

Prior to the meeting, information had been circulated regarding a meeting between British Telecom, Tony Motture and BD to explore the possibility of superfast broadband in the Crowcombe Heathfield area, which has been omitted from the Connecting Devon & Somerset plan.

Tony Motture requested that the Parish Council register an interest on [communityfibre.bt.com](http://communityfibre.bt.com) as he was felt that a Parish Council application/endorsement would hold more weight than an individual application.

JL asked if the West Somerset Railway supported the application but Tony Motture confirmed that they had not formally been approached yet.

MS expressed concerned that the Parish Council is an executive body with only one (part time) employee so would be unable to take on further workload. It was also felt that it would be better if the application was made from an address in the area under discussion.

It was resolved to nominate Tony Motture as a Parish Council representative with BT and register an interest but he would have no authority to make any form of financial commitment by the Parish Council.

It was also suggested that Tony Motture investigated alternatives to BT as is possible there were companies offering connection with no upfront investment required.

### **98/16 Consider grant request by CAW**

The Parish Council acknowledged the great work done by CAW but it was questioned whether, in order to keep production costs down, more people could receive their copies electronically.

It was resolved to give a grant of £50 to CAW and suggest that the electronic route could be more widely promoted.

### **99/16 Finances:**

#### **a) Payments to approve**

- i. Clerk's salary, expenses and reimbursements

£1042.87

ii. HMRC – clerk’s PAYE	£66.40
iii. Woodland South West, grass cutting	£408.00
iv. SALC, chair’s & vice-chair’s training course	£60.00
v. CAW grant	£50.00
vi. Stone & Garden, play sand for sandpit (cheque issued 25.7.16)	£181.60
vii. Sustainable Furniture Ltd, bench, plaque & ground anchors	£415.00
viii. WSDC, no dogs sign	£10.20
<b>b) Receipts received</b>	
Crowcombe Tennis Club, ground rent & fence repairs	£65.00
Crowcombe Hall, ground rent & fence repairs	£95.00
NALC/DCLG Transparency Fund Grant	£659.32

**c) Expenditure to date**

The clerk reported that the balance total held by the council as of 29/7/16 to be £17,355.57 consisting of £11,665.59 in the current account, £3224.29 in the deposit account and £2683.29 in the amenities account, with uncleared cheques totalling £217.60

**100/16 Play Area**

**a) Weekly inspection reports**

No issues reported.

**b) Consider woodchip alternative to replacing rubber grass tiles**

The clerk had prepared costings for woodchip surfacing and when members compared these to the estimates previously obtained for rubber mats it was felt that rubber mats would be the better option to pursue, possibly with the work staged in two phases if costs proved too high. Resolved to obtain 3 quotes for rubber mat installaton to present to the November meeting

**c) Other repairs highlighted by annual inspection – update**

TB reported that still repairs were needed to the ramp on the multi play piece of equipment

**d) Moles**

JL reported that he had been unable to contact the mole catcher.

However it was felt that the moles were not currently a problem so it was resolved to wait and see if they returned before taking any further action

**e) Oak tree inspection**

JL reported that he had taken photographs of the tree in question and would arrange for one of his colleagues to inspect the tree and prepare a report when the leaves have dropped

**f) Any other matters regarding the playground**

None

**101/16 Planning:**

*MS, AT-B and DL left the meeting at this point due to declared interest*

*TB (Vice-chair) took the chair for this item of the meeting in the absence of MS*

**a) Consider Planning Application 3/07/16/009. Improvement to field access. Land adjacent to Steepy Piece, Crowcombe Hill, Crowcombe TA4 4AA**

After considering the application, councillors resolved to support it. Clerk to respond to WS

*MS & DL re-joined the meeting*

*MS resumed the chair*

**b) Consider Planning Application 3/07/16/008. Erection of rear single storey extension. 8 Brendon View, Crowcombe Road, Crowcombe TA4 4AG**

The Parish Council had previously carried out an informal site visit where the agent for the applicant had explained the current application and explained that although the previous applications had been granted permission, construction costs (due to a close by culvert) had

proved to be prohibitive. This application was designed to gain the space required by the applicant with a more reasonable budget.

Members resolved to support the application. Clerk to respond to WS

**c) Consider Planning Application 3/07/16/011 Change of Use and Conversion of Barn Roebuck Farm, Crowcombe TA4 4BN**

The Parish council had supported the previous (but subsequently withdrawn) application for this barn. It was noted that the new application had been formulated in response to concerns by the planners. Members resolved to support the application. Clerk to respond to WS

**d) Update on application 3/07/16/007 Sunnybank, Crowcombe Road, Crowcombe, Taunton TA4 4AE. Installation of floor tiles in utility room including under tile electric heating**

Clerk reported that permission had been granted

*AT-B re-joined the meeting*

**102/16 Clerk's Report**

- i. Clerk reported that she has now taken on the parish of Combe Florey, taking her total to 5. Multiple parishes would continue to offer value and 'economies of scale' to Crowcombe
- ii. The sand purchased after the last meeting has been delivered and spread in the sandpit
- iii. The Sycamore Tree adjacent to Church House car park has been reported to WSDC and the clerk is awaiting further communication
- iv. The transparency fund grant applied for by the PC in July has been granted and the laptop, scanner/printer, mouse and software has been purchased
- v. WSDC local plan consultation – letter was sent to WSDC regarding proposed development numbers as agreed at the last meeting
- vi. The repairs have been done by Highways on the road signs reported following the July meeting
- vii. The rubbish dumped at Roundpool Lane has been reported, clerk to chase re its removal
- viii. The sign at the entrance to the playing field (as noted at the Kesteven AGM) has been updated
- ix. An A4 'no dogs' sign has been purchased for the cricket pitch (as noted at Kesteven AGNM). DL to pass onto the Village Hall committee to put up
- x. The nomination for David Freemantle for the Chairman's Award for volunteering has been submitted
- xi. The External Audit is completed and has attracted no fee as turnover for 2015/16 was just below the £10,000 threshold

**103/16 Consider electronic communication of agendas**

MS suggested that in order to save time and money that the agendas could be sent out electronically to members.

It was resolved that agendas and the associated documents should be sent to members electronically and the hard copies of the information would be given to councillors at the meeting to enable reference during the meeting itself.

It was also agreed that the clerk to send electronic copies of agendas and notices to the chairman to print out and place on the notice board, in a timescale to comply with statutory requirements

**104/16 Topics for future meetings**

None

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.25pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 at Church House, commencing at 7.30pm