

**Minutes of Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 21st March 2013 at Church House, Crowcombe at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs J Chipp, B Druitt, T Motture, D Lock, T Brooks, R Harbour and J Loader (clerk). Also in attendance was A Trollope-Bellew (WSC Cllr & SCC Cllr), PCSO Peter Bolton and 1 member of the public. Iain Saunders (FOCPA) part-time.

30/13 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

31/13 Apologies: J Hughes

32/13 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations: None

33/13 Public Participation: None

34/13 Police Report – PCSO Peter Bolton announced that Inspector Lisa Simpson was leaving and Shane Carey was the interim Inspector until a new inspector was recruited. Issues: only received 18 calls since the last report. Mainly minor – from attempted oil theft to bad driving, sheep on road, attempted burglary. Only 3 recorded crimes. Remember to look out for any suspicious activity and report it.

35/13 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Trollope-Bellew announced a 0% increase on the SCC element of the council tax. Been cuts of £94m over last four years. There will be an extra £4.8m to spend on adult & vulnerable children in care. £38m of capital will be available for schools and roads from the Government Development fund. Keep reporting pot holes. Hinkley Point has been given the Development Control Order – but the strike price has still to be agreed between EDF and Government.

36/13 District Councillor's Report: WSC have been given poor press recently. Funding is available until 1st April 2016. WSC are currently reviewing with TDBC towards the possibility of working together. Nothing confirmed to date. Government finally realised rural areas require more funding as they are poorly underfunded. WSC portion of council tax gone up 3.7% = £4.92 per year for a band D property. Front line services are protected through central government grant.

It was agreed the Chairman would attend the next JAC Area Meeting on 11 June to decide if this meeting is still useful for Crowcombe PC.

37/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 10th January 2013 – It was proposed, seconded and agreed the January minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed each page of the minutes.

38/13 Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 4th February 2013 - It was proposed, seconded and agreed the February minutes be adopted as correct. The Chairman signed each page of the minutes.

39/13 Matters arising from January and February Minutes: a) Road Accidents – none reported. b) Web Site – local groups had been contacted to find out if they were interested in being put onto the new website. Cllr Chipp agreed to contact Cllr Hughes to move this project forward. c) Highways & SID's – three councillors met with SCC Highways to discuss the position of SID's – waiting to hear back for suitable attachments to be found for units. d) Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Cllr Druitt had sent his form back. Agreed to ask Cllr Hughes if ATB had received and completed his form. e) Clerk to obtain list of the number of houses per tax band for Crowcombe.

40/13 Affordable Housing Development Update: Work had commenced. Clerk had received details from Falcon Housing about how to put your name forward for an affordable home. Notices had been put on the parish noticeboard and would be on the website soon. Agreed to bring plans to Annual Parish Assembly on 14th April. Clerk to put notice up if an email copy was requested.

41/13 Finances: a) **Payments:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks salary £353.53, Clerks expenses £30.00, Information Commissioners Office £35.00, SALC Affiliation £118.10 b) **Finances** – there were no queries regarding the financial situation to date. Current a/c £8,446.47, Deposit a/c £3,218.51, Amenities a/c £2,604.46 unrepresented cheques £777.21 Total funds £13,492.23 (Dec statements). c) Clerks Salary – it was agreed unanimously to increase the Clerk’s salary scale from SCP 22 to SCP 23 £10.498 per hour, effective from 1st April 2013. d) Internal Auditor – it was agreed unanimously to ask Kis Accounting again to carry out the internal audit for the year end.

42/13 Annual Parish Assembly – 14th April 2013 at 11.30am - a) Agenda – it was agreed to ask the local groups as listed in CAW to give a short 2 minute report on their activities if they wanted to. Clerk to contact groups. b) It was agreed unanimously to spend up to £50 towards drinks and nibbles for the meeting. Cllr Chipp to inform Jon Rose. d) It was agreed not to put separate advertisements in the paper this year.

43/13 Play Area – a) Iain Saunders explained he had found a contractor to carry out the landscaping in the play area when required. Gravel had been delivered free but required volunteers to move it. Still to source other items – ie wooden posts. b) **Grant funding** – WSC had received the completed Planning Obligations (S106) Form requesting an available £3,500 towards the play equipment. Decision would be known on 8/9 April. If funding approved, three pieces of equipment could be purchased. Clerk required the quotation and invoice eventually to be addressed to the Parish Council. c) **Play Area Inspection:** agreed to have the whole area inspected rather than separately to save funds if possible. d) **Maintenance:** i) agreed to keep the inspection of the play equipment under the responsibility of the PC. ii) Interim spruce up of the play area was needed – FOCPA/PC to arrange a working party. iv) Agreed Mr King to continue to cut the grass from April till June on a temporary basis as he had his own public liability insurance which was necessary under council terms. Once the play area was finished a new maintenance programme was necessary. v) Mystery Park name – it was agreed to obtain quotes to either have the sign cut & burnt out on the wood, or a plastic sign on the entrance sign. Clerk to obtain quotes.

44/13 Minutes of the Planning Site Meeting - a) The minutes of the site planning meeting held on 3rd February 2013 were approved as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes. The PC had no objections to applications 3/07/13/001 Extension on the front elevation and new hipped roof to replace flat roof on rear extension at Bracken Cottage, CH. 3/07/13/002 Change of use from three bedroom first floor flat and separate accommodation units on ground floor to single three bedroom house with new entrance at the Old Mill Barn, Northam Mill, Stogumber. b) Applications T/07/13/001 and T/07/13/002 – maintenance works to trees at 2 and 3 Kings Oak, CH were approved. c) Application 3/07/13/002 new planning permission to replace planning permission 3/07/10/008 for the erection of a replacement dwelling at Denzel Cottage, CH was discussed. It was agreed unanimously to support the application. d) Application 3/07/13/003 – demolition of single storey extension and construction of new two storey and single storey extension at Brewers Water Farm, Crowcombe was discussed. It was agreed unanimously to support the application.

e) **Next Local Development Panel Meeting** - Cllr Harbour wanted to know if the PC could attend this meeting and to confirm the date. Cllr ATB agreed to find out and report back. Cllr Harbour suggested Crowcombe PC and Stogumber PC should attend as they had put a great deal of effort into their response to the Local Development Plan.

45/13 Bus Shelter Issues – The councillors discussed the various issues relating to the bus shelters. There were valid points raised which required attention which had been noted. It was agreed to get the pathway repaired with gravel, box around the bottom concrete area and provide a seat if funds allowed. Clerk to reply to Mrs Linda Silverman's email re history and issues as agreed at the meeting. Clerk to obtain quotes for works.

46/13 Queens Diamond Jubilee – Mile Stone – Cllr Lock had obtained a quote for £400 for the stone and lettering. It was agreed to confirm how much funding was remaining before agreeing to the work.

47/13 Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Draft Plan (2013/14 to 2014/15) – It was agreed to send any comments to the Clerk who would then forward as one response.

48/13 Civil Contingencies Unit Meeting Update – Cllr Chipp agreed to follow up responses.

49/13 Clerk's Report – a) Marquee request at Crowcombe Hall for 31st May was approved. Clerk to inform requestee and Cricket Club. b) Notification of a fire-spinning demonstration on 23rd May at Crowcombe Hall was noted. Adequate insurance and risk assessment was given.

50/13 Bank on Mark Herniman's Hill – ATB noted the Council's concerns regarding the roots and landslip at this bank. It was agreed ATB would keep an eye on this area and make any necessary repairs.

51/13 Condition of side road from Crowcombe Court / Broad Meadow - It was noted the road side was eroded and the bank and wooden fencing was missing. Concerns were raised with the safety for road users and pedestrians. Clerk to contact Highways to report issues. ATB would provide Bob Druitt with contact details for Peter Rowan at WSC Highways.

52/13 Matters with Permission from Chairman – a) Bob Druitt had attended a meeting in Taunton regarding the installation of the superfast broadband. Various points were raised regarding rural connections – following this meeting Bob Druitt was asked to attend the committee and help to oversee this project which had been awarded to BT. b) Crowcombe Hall – gate by car park – required some attention and grassed area by turning requires tarmacking/repairing. Agreed Bob Druitt would speak to Highways to discuss this area and who was responsible. c) Advertising Banners at the Cricket Ground were approved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20pm. The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Sunday, 14th April at 11.30am following the service of thanksgiving.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 9th May 2013 at Church House.