

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 2nd November 2017,
at Church House commencing at 7.30pm.

(in the format to be presented for approval at the next meeting)

Present :

M Smith (Chair), T Brooks (Vice-chair), A Trollope-Bellew, D Lock, B Druitt

C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

SCC Cllr C Lawrence

112/17 To receive any apologies of absence

Cllr K Kenyon

113/17 Public Participation

None

114/17 County Councillor's Report – SCC Cllr Christine Lawrence

CL reported on several issues:

- Winter road gritting information has been issued by SCC (a copy has been posted on the Crowcombe website).
- Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury has now re-opened
- A303 - the preferred route from Sparkford to Ilminster has now been declared.
- SCC Children's Services is due for its OFSTED inspection in November. Improvement is needed since the last inspection, which found services to be inadequate. SCC are confident in the improvements that have already taken place but are aware that there is an enormous amount to do to deliver the excellent services that are aspired to.
- Flu jabs are now available and CL urged anyone who was eligible to ensure that they have the vaccination

115/17 District Councillor's Report – WSDC Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew

ATB reported that he had visited Hinkley C on Monday. It is a vast site and 2,500 people are now working there. ATB suggested that there may be a possibility that he could organise a site visit for interested councillors.

Formation of a new council - there is still no decision from the Secretary of State

Development in the hamlets – Stogumber Neighbourhood Plan wasn't allowed include development in the hamlets as it goes against National Policy. ATB has written to the Secretary of State saying that he thinks hamlet development is good in rural area - he is currently awaiting a reply.

116/17 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

ATB - 119,120 and 122

Crowcombe Parish Council

Minutes, Thursday 2nd November 2017

Chairman Date

117/17 Minutes, 7th and 28th September 2017, to approve and sign

7th September, minute number 93/17 - 'Blue Ball' was amended to read 'Blue Anchor'

Both sets of minutes were then approved by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record

118/17 Highways

a) Updates

None

b) Any issues to report

i. Temporary Overnight Road Closure, Crowcombe Road

Temporary closure of Crowcombe Road, from the eastern boundary of the property named Borough Cottage, north-westwards for a distance of 40 metres. It was noted that the map showing the road closure incorrectly marked a quite different stretch of Village Road.

The closure order becomes effective on 20 November 2017 and the works are expected to last for up to 3 days.

ii. Speeding in the lanes

The matter of speeding in the country lanes in Crowcombe was raised, in particularly along the road from Stogumber and Crowcombe. It was considered that the majority of speeding vehicles were local residents. The clerk was asked to add a paragraph to the PC's CAW article highlighting the hazards of speeding in country lanes.

c) Any accidents in the parish to report

i. 4th October. Two car incident at bottom of Flaxpool Hill. Firefighters & Ambulance in attendance

ii. 5th October. Incident at the bottom of Flaxpool Hill. Police in attendance

iii. In September (date unclear) the road was blocked into the village at the crossroads.

iv. On the evening of October 31st, 2 cars were observed going past Ashfield Farm at very fast speeds with with 2 police cars following close behind with lights & sirens on

119/17 Footpaths

i. New footpath to school – update

The clerk has written to the School Governors to ask for support for a new path - they meet later in November and will consider the PC's request.

ii. Footpaths temporarily lost through field ploughing

A parishioner had spoken to MS about 2 public footpaths that had been disrupted as result of ploughing (at Lawford & at Leigh Mill). The parish footpath monitor has been and examined the paths.

ATB explained that the path at Lawford was rotavated first and has now been ploughed. The law allows landowners 3 weeks to reinstate a path after ploughing. ATB offered to monitor the situation

iii. TB reported that the wooden footpath fingerpost at Round Pool lane post is broken

SCC Cllr C Lawrence left the meeting at this point

120/17 Play Area

a) Updates

i. Schedule of repairs

The clerk reported that the Playground Inspection Company had not yet answered the proposal for repairs that had been previously sent to them. Councillors requested the clerk to write to the Inspection Company again saying that as no answer has not been received it would be assumed that

Crowcombe Parish Council

Minutes, Thursday 2nd November 2017

Chairman Date

the proposals were satisfactory and the PC will proceed with repairs suggested unless it hears back to the contrary.

ii. Grass cutting

The clerk reported that two companies had shown interest in providing a quote for 2018 so far. It is hoped to resolve the grass cutting contract for 2018 at the January meeting.

MS questioned who is responsible for cutting round the war memorial and church house. ATB confirmed that WS do these areas

b) Weekly inspection reports- any new issues to report

DL reported that he had handed over the inspection sheets to JL on 29th October.

DL also reported that on the swing bridge one of the slats is broken and needs replacing. MS offered to inspect, assess the issue and report back

c) Any other matters regarding the playground

i. The clerk reported that the annual inspection has been booked for February 2018

ii. Consider amending playground inspection sheets to include car park inspection:

Councillors felt that this provided an opportunity to revamp the whole inspection sheet to make it simpler to complete. The clerk was requested to create a draft inspection sheet with one comment and tick box per item, consult with TB and then circulate it to councillors for comment.

iii. No dogs sign for playground. MS stated he would attend to this

121/17 Finances:

a) Consider amendment to Financial Regulations to allow for HMRC payments by Direct Debit

Up until now any PAYE contributions have been paid by cheque via the Post Office counter. This is no longer possible from December 2017. The options for paying HMRC will be to post a cheque or to set up a variable direct debit. If this option were chosen, HMRC would be notified that a payment maybe removed from account by the person running payroll. Currently this is not allowed under the Financial Regulations adopted by CPC.

Councillors discussed whether the Financial Regulations should be changed. Concerns were raised regarding just one person being given authority sanction an electronic transaction

Councillors resolved to amend the Financial Regulations to allow single person authorisation of a direct debit by HMRC but only whilst MS runs payroll. A review of the situation would take place when a new person takes over payroll administration. The clerk was tasked to draft an amendment the wording of the Financial Regulations to reflect the above resolution and send to MS for approval

b) Payments to approve

i.	Clerks Salary & expenses	£415.95
ii.	M Reinhold – finger post supplies reimbursement	£60.21
iii.	Wiser Hosting – website hosting	£28.80

c) Receipts received

19.9.17	WSDC	2nd ½ of precept	£4,620.00
---------	------	------------------	-----------

d) To approve bank reconciliation

The clerk reported that the available balance held by the council as of 19/9/17 to be £25,285.00, accounted for with unpresented cheques of £170.00 and £12,545.81 in the current account, £3,225.04 in the deposit account and £9,684.15 in the amenities account

e) Any other financial matters notified to the clerk prior to the meeting

None

Crowcombe Parish Council
Minutes, Thursday 2nd November 2017

Chairman Date

122/17 Planning

i. Application 3/07/17/010 at Leigh Mill Farm – update

The CPC response of objection to the application was submitted to WS following the September PC meeting. The clerk advised that PC will be alerted by WS if this application goes to committee for a decision, but at present no further information had been received from WS.

A lot of local interest has been shown against the demolition of the cottage, including a person placing an advert in CAW to alert parishioners to the situation.

ii. Any other planning issues brought to the attention of the clerk prior to the meeting

None

123/17 To Receive Reports from Members of Meetings attended as representatives of the Parish Council

DL (Hall Committee) reported that the Hall are cutting the hedges in the carpark. The bollard outside on the corner has been hit again and broken, DL repaired it. The fireworks are tomorrow night and the film nights going well. He suggested that maybe the PC could apply for fireworks funds raised for the playground next year?

ATB (West Somerset Flood Group). This group generally meets in the daytime which is a problem as many councillors work. Could the PC nominate a non-PC member to go to represent Crowcombe? Councillors agreed that the addition to the PC's CAW report that we are looking for a volunteer to attend on behalf of Crowcombe would be a useful way of attracting a volunteer

124/17 Clothes recycling bin in Village Hall car park

The PC had been approached by BIU (administrators of the clothes recycling bin in the Hall car park) to renew the SLA for another 3 years. Councillors questioned who are BIUs charity partners? Clerk was tasked to ask BIU who are their charity partners and what has the revenue stream from this bin been up to this point before considering renewing the SLA

125/17 Kesteven Recreation Ground – confirm date for Trustees meeting

Thursday 16th November

126/17 Clerk's Report

i. SCC, Highways: The depot open day will be on Saturday the 25 November 2017 to enable Parish Councils the opportunity to collect 10 x 20kg salt bags in advance of the winter season. This year Highways will only be filling salt / grit bins on a reactive basis (due to last year's mild weather), therefore SCC require to be informed by Friday 24 November the specific locations in the parish that require topping up. The SCC Highways leaflet "Your guide to winter services" has been posted on the Crowcombe website.

ii. Somerset Waste Partnership: Christmas and New Year collection dates have been released and will be posted on the Crowcombe website. Changes are summarised below

Monday 18 to Friday 22 Dec - No change

Monday 25 to Friday 29 Dec - All two days later, including Monday pickups on Wednesday 27 Dec and Friday pickups on Sunday 31 Dec

Monday 1 to Friday 5 Jan - All one day later, including Friday pickups on Saturday 6 Jan

iii. Somerset County Council - Chairman's Award for Service to the Community. Peter

Crowcombe Parish Council

Minutes, Thursday 2nd November 2017

Chairman Date

Menneer attended the awards ceremony on the evening of Wednesday 18th October and received an award

iv. Family Support Services & Children's Centres consultation: A Somerset County Council consultation on proposed changes to the way it provides support to children and families is now underway.

The proposals are for a Family Support Service that would bring together the Council's 'Getset' Service – which includes children's centre support for families and children aged 0 to 19 – and support from Health Visitors and the School Nursing Service.

More details, supporting information and a questionnaire are available online

www.somerset.gov.uk/familysupportandchildrenscentres The closing date for responses is 1 December 2017.

v. CAW: Maggie Inglis sends her thanks to the Parish Council for the grant given to CAW at the September meeting.

vi. Stogumber Parish Council held its referendum on the adoption of its Neighbourhood Plan. 115 votes were cast in favour (59.58%) and 78 votes were cast against (40.41%). As a result of this, Stogumber now has a Neighbourhood Plan which the District council will need to refer to when considering planning matters.

vii. Mr & Mrs Reinhold have so far surveyed 10 fingerposts in the parish. 7 are in need of repainting and some components replacing, and 3 just need a clean. They are also in the process of arranging a meeting with Andy Stevenson, the AONB ranger, to discuss the posts in the parish that fall within the AONB.

viii. MS reported that a book called The Night Stalker written by Claire Donoghue based on the Quantocks was now available

127/17 Topics for future meetings

Defibrillator: the clerk was requested to gather costings for January meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.42pm

Next Meeting:

4th January 2018 to be held at Church House, commencing at 7.30pm

Crowcombe Parish Council
Minutes, Thursday 2nd November 2017

Chairman Date