

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 5th January 2017 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 M Smith (Chair), T Brooks (Vice), B Druitt, D Lock, A Trollope-Bellew, J Laver
C Morrison-Jones (clerk). SCC Cllr C Lawrence. 2 members of the public

1/17 Apologies of absence

Cllr K Kenyon

2/17 Public Participation

Higil Lea -member of the public expressed concerns regarding the camp site application and felt that there should not be development in that part of the village.

3/17 Police Matters

A Police report was sent, via email: Recorded crime figures for the whole of the Williton/Watchet beat area - DECEMBER TO DECEMBER 2015 /2016

<u>Offence group</u>	<u>Current year</u>	<u>Last year</u>	<u>% change</u>
Criminal damage	97	80	21.3
Dwelling Burglary	16	20	-4
Fraud and forgery	0	1	-100
Non Dwelling Burglary	38	33	15.2
Other offences	22	8	175
Racial/Religious crimes	1	2	-50
Robbery	2	1	100
Sexual offences	25	17	47.1
Shoplifting	9	6	50
Theft from person	2	1	100
Theft from vehicle	17	14	21.4
Theft of motor vehicle	9	7	28.6
Theft of cycle	2	3	-33.3
Violence against person	270	173	56.1
<u>Total Crime</u>	<u>583</u>	<u>449</u>	<u>29.8</u>
<u>Number of calls to police</u>	<u>2612</u>	<u>2489</u>	<u>4.9</u>

4/17 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Christine Lawrence started her report wishing everyone present a Happy New Year.

She relayed that recently a ward has been closed at Minehead hospital due to staff shortages, with the patients being moved to Williton. Whilst this proves that Williton is still a very much needed facility it is worrying that staff recruitment is so difficult in Minehead. Christine is planning to meet with the clinical policy group later in the month to discuss priorities.

At the end of January, Christine will be attending a meeting and receiving an update about phase 2 of the super-fast broadband roll out across the county – she hopes to have more information to bring to the next parish council meeting.

5/17 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported that the judicial review regarding the formation of a new council by Taunton Deane and West Somerset has been thrown out as expected. There is currently an ongoing consultation process (<http://www.yournewcouncil.org> for more details) before the final decision will be made by the Secretary of State.

Hinkley Point C is progressing with 1,500 workers already on site and 2,000 expected by June. Construction is currently focused on building the ancillary facilities necessary before work on the nuclear power station itself is started.

The West Somerset budget for 2017/18 is progressing well, figures for 2018/19 are not so positive. Devolution remains a work in progress, but no real changes to report presently.

Cllr Christine Lawrence left the meeting at this point

6/17 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

A Trollope-Bellew, agenda items 11 (as owner of playground land) and 15 (as a leader of WS)

7/17 Minutes, 3rd November 2016

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

8/17 Highways

- a) Gullies and drain by car park still blocked despite recent work by Highways (prior to leaving the meeting C Lawrence had agreed to follow this up)
- b) It was unclear what the diversion signs that had appeared in Crowcombe were related to (C Lawrence had also agreed to look into this)
- c) The dropped drains and holes outside the shop have recently been marked up with paint so hopefully repairs would be carried out
- d) Collapsed drain by Home Leigh House has been repaired
- e) On the road to Crowcombe Station, by the gate to Crowcombe wood) there is a tree leaning at 45° across the road. Agreed to contact owner to ask for removal (*subsequent to the meeting A T-B emailed to confirm he had organised this with the tree owner*)
- f) There is to be digging across the road at the top of the village, by Grimes Farm into Forge Cottage, from 20-22nd February by Wessex Water.

9/17 Consider action regarding the application for an exempt campsite on the field adjacent to Higil Lea

The owner of the land has applied to Freedom Camping Club for an exempt licence and Members of Crowcombe Parish Council and representatives of Falcon Rural Housing met with the applicant in December to understand better his plans for the use of the field adjacent to Higil Lea. It was agreed with the applicant that he would request an extension of the consultation period with Freedom Camping until the end of March (this extension has subsequently confirmed by the applicant). Councillors discussed the findings of the informal meeting and agreed to hold a meeting for parishioners at The Crowcombe Hall on Thursday 16th February at 7.30pm in order to outline the owner's plans in more detail to local residents, and to canvass their views before agreeing its response to Freedom Camping Club's original letter of enquiry at the next ordinary Parish Council meeting on 2nd March. M Smith agreed to place notices on the boards and in the shop keeping villagers informed and advertising the meeting on the 16th February.

The two members of the public left the meeting at this point

10/17 Finances:

- a) **Payments to approve**

Signed :, Chair Date :

i. Clerk's salary, expenses and reimbursements	£448.15
ii. HMRC – clerk's PAYE	£76.60
iii. Information Commissioner, data protection registration	£35.00
b) Receipts received	
Crowcombe Cricket Club, contribution to fence repairs	£40.00

c) Expenditure to date

The clerk reported that the balance total held by the council as of 30/11/16 to be £20,051.55 consisting of £14,171.92 in the current account, £3224.76 in the deposit account and £2683.67 in the amenities account, with un-cleared cheques totalling £28.80

11/17 Play Area

a) Weekly inspection reports

It was noted that the moles were active again. J Laver had been unable to find a contractor who was willing to work in a playground. It was agreed to flatten the mole hills on a weekly basis whilst carrying out the inspections.

b) Playground rubber grass tiles – update

Mr Criddle had not responded to the invitation to provide a quote for the works but T Brooks had obtained a quote for the labour and any disposal costs from an alternative source (PC to source and purchase new mats).

Councillors were reminded that, due to changes in CDM regulations, the PC would be considered the principal contractor and so would be responsible for site health and safety. Councillors agreed the J Laver should take the lead on the project as his qualifications and insurance would cover the situation outlined above.

Councillors agreed to proceed with repairs, one piece of equipment at a time, with a 'break clause' after the first piece of equipment to allow for standard of work to be assessed.

c) Consider grass cutting arrangements for 2017

The clerk was requested to obtain a quote from the current contractor and T Brooks, who had identified another interested party, would obtain a second quote.

d) Any other matters regarding the playground

None

12/17 2017-18 Budget / Precept setting

The clerk had previously prepared and circulated amongst members a budget for 2017/18. In addition to the normal ongoing costs to the Parish Council, it was noted that a significant sum would need to be raised in the next financial year to cover the cost of re-laying/re-placing of the grass mats under equipment in the play area. Councillors unanimously agreed to request a precept of £9240 which would result in a 5% increase for a band D property.

13/17 Planning:

**Consider application T/07/16/001 on 2 Kings Acre, Crowcombe Heathfield TA4 4BX
Application to carry out management works to 7 Sycamore trees protected by Tree
Preservation Order**

After considering the plans, councillors resolved to support the application as it appeared that the proposals were valid tree management practice.

**14/17 To Receive Reports from Members of Meetings attended as representatives of the
Parish Council**

J Laver reported on Watchet, Williton and Quantock Vale Area Panel which he attended on 6th December. He felt that it was a useful meeting to attend and was surprised at the lack of support from other parishes. He will attend the next Panel meeting

A Trollope-Bellew left the meeting at this point due to a declared interest

15/17 Consider PCs response to the proposed formation of a new Council combining West Somerset and Taunton Deane

The clerk had previously circulated copies of the leaflet from West Somerset outlining the reasons behind the decision taken by both councils.

As previously explained by A Trollope-Bellew in District Councillor reports last year the councils faced three options:

- 1) Continue with the current work share agreement
- 2) Merge into a new council
- 3) Keep separate identities and facilities

Option 1 & 3 were agreed not to be viable and councillors resolved to offer their support to the two councils with the merger. Clerk to respond

A Trollope-Bellew re-joined the meeting

16/17 Consider PCs response to the consultation regarding Stogumber Parish's Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors had previously commented on the draft plan and were pleased to note that the points raised had been taken on board and were now reflected in the plan. Clerk to respond offering support to Stogumber PC

17/17 New footpath to school

J Laver reported that he currently had no information on this project and he would endeavour to update councillors at March meeting

18/17 Demolished wall adjoining car park

It was reported that work on repairing the wall is due to commence on 23rd January (weather dependant). Councillors thanked West Somerset for their persistence in pursuing the claim with insurers.

19/17 Broadband in the Parish

The Chairman reported that the cabinet at Hagleys Green was installed at the end of 2016 and is due to go live in two weeks' time. It is expected that this will provide a faster service to villagers that are currently feeding from the other cabinet – when it is live the available speed can be checked on the BT website. The Chairman will keep villagers and councillors informed.

B Druitt left the meeting at this point

20/17 Clerk's Report

- i. WS are holding a meeting on 11th January regarding the proposed merger between TD and WS. Clerk & Chairman invited to attend
- ii. Sycamore Tree adjacent to Church House car park. The tree has now been inspected by WS and no problems have been identified.
- iii. An anti-fracking letter that had been received by the clerk was circulated to councillors for consideration as to whether it was a topic for future agendas
- iv. WS have confirmed that the telephone box in the village is to be removed, due to lack of use. The PC was offered the option to purchase the box for re-purposing but as it is a modern cubicle not a red older design this option was declined by councillors
- v. The updates to the PC pages on the village website have now been completed to comply with the Transparency Code
- vi. West Somerset have now adopted the new Local Plan which runs through until 2032

21/17 Topics for future meetings

- i. Re-instate the agenda item ‘accidents in the parish’

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10 pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd March 2017 at Church House, commencing at 7.30pm