

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 7th September 2017,
at Church House commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Present :

M Smith (chair), T Brooks (Vice), A Trollope-Bellew, D Lock, J Laver
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
SCC Cllr C Lawrence
PCSO Bolton

Police report:

PCSO Bolton reported that there were no major ongoing issues.
A lorry had been stuck at the Cedar Falls bridge due to following sat nav without due regard to height clearance. The bridge hadn't been damaged, but road had to be closed to reverse the lorry out. No significant issues with sightseers viewing the Flying Scotsman blocking traffic have been reported.

PCSO Bolton then left the meeting

91/17 To receive any apologies of absence

Cllrs B Druitt & K Kenyon

92/17 Public Participation

None

93/17 County Councillor's Report – SCC Cllr Christine Lawrence

Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, had written to SCC to congratulate the exceptional improvement that has been made in reducing delays for people leaving hospital. SCC has recently been rated by The Care Quality Commission as having over 87% of care facilities rated as either good or outstanding – this makes Somerset close to being the national leader in this area.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for this year has been published and the report looks at what people can do to age well and how Somerset can improve the life experience of older people. Christine also reported that both her and her husband had recently attended a finger post painting workshop and now possessed the necessary accreditation to survey and restore historic fingerposts. She encouraged people to attend the course and get involved with their local fingerposts. There has been no determination on the path yet at Blue Ball; there is a meeting scheduled at County Hall on 5th October with the aim of progressing this issue.

94/17 District Councillor's Report – WSDC Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew

There is currently no progress to report on the formation of the new council. Anthony reported that he and John Williams (leader of Taunton Deane) had recently visited the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, and, whilst an interesting meeting, no definitive answer was given.

Signed :, Chair Date :

Hinkley C is now not expected to start generating until 2027: Hinkley B is closing in 2024. One third of West Somerset's business rates come from Hinkley so there is a potential gap in income between closure of B and the opening of C.

Nothing new to report on the process of Devolution.

95/17 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

ATB - playground (98), Leigh Mill (101 b) & potential footpath to school (103)

96/17 Minutes, 6th July and 5th August 2017, to approve and sign

T Brooks added as apology of absence for 5th August meeting.

It was then agreed that both sets of minutes be adopted as a true record and the Chairman signed both sets of minutes.

97/17 Highways

a) Updates -to include

i. Refurbishment of historic finger posts

Two parishioners have attended the fingerpost workshop run by SCC and are keen to start with surveying the posts in the parish. SCC will provide basic personal protective equipment kit and some tools, but there is no funding for the purchase of actual materials needed (eg. specific paints and primers). Also, they could not fund manufacture and supply of any new components needed (new arms, finials etc). An estimate of costs of materials needed for basic restoration (no new components) has been provided to councillors for consideration for funding.

Councillors resolved to allocate a budget of £110 (ex VAT) initially, and review the budget once some work has been completed. Councillors thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

ii. Verge cutting in regard to sensitive flora and fauna

Highways have offered to meet up with the parishioner who highlighted the presence of the orchids to establish their exact location in regard to future mowing

iii. Parking on Tower Hill, Williton

Williton Parish Council thanked CPC for their support in this matter. Their clerk reported that a meeting was held with Somerset County Council, the Police and Williton Parish Council and, despite Councillors objections, both SCC and the Police are not prepared to issue parking restrictions in this area; it is their opinion that the parking is productive as a traffic calming solution.

iv. Hedge along Carters Lane/Pound Orchard

This has now been cut back

v. Road from Blue Ball to Little Quantock

West Somerset Highways responded that they were not aware of any works between Blueball and Little Quantock but confirmed that the Highway Superintendent will inspect the area. However, they suggested that colleagues in the Taunton Office do have signs and barriers erected on the Cokercombe Road which runs over the Quantocks past Triscombe Quarry while a decision is made on what works need to be carried out. Enquiries have been made to TD Highways but no response has been received as yet. However, the signs have now been removed.

b) Any issues to report

i. Temporary Overnight Road Closure - A358 Taunton Road Sampford Brett

Temporary Overnight Closure of (A358) Taunton Road, Sampford Brett from 410m east of the junction with Woolston Lane, eastwards for a distance of 130 metres.

The Order becomes effective on 18 September 2017 and the works are expected to last for 3 nights (18.00 – 07.30hrs).

c) Any accidents in the parish to report

An accident has been reported at the bottom of Greens Hill on the morning of 3rd September

SCC Cllr C Lawrence left meeting at this point

98/17 Play Area

a) Updates – to include

i. Schedule of repairs

ATB, TB and S Date (contractor) had met at the playground previously to discuss the repairs to the Multi Play piece of equipment. It is unclear how much concrete is surrounding the posts, which could prove problematic when trying to dig out the rotten posts. At present, it isn't known if the posts are rotten all the way down or just at ground level where damaged by strimming has allowed water ingress. The preferred option recommended by TB was for metal posts driven into the ground/concrete with metal 'cups' to support the posts. Potentially this could prove to be a more expensive option, but would probably give a longer-term solution to the problem as it would allow for easy replacement if the wood deteriorates in the future.

Councillors resolved to ask TB to proceed, and authorised a budget of £200, to cover investigative ground works, discuss findings with the working party and proceed with repair if the repair proposal passes the approval of the inspection company.

ii. Grass cutting

Councillors agreed that the grass cutting schedule for 2017 had not met expected standards. It was agreed that next year it would be necessary to notify cutters of critical dates that the playground need particular attention (eg half term, playground open day) in addition to the routine maintenance.

The clerk was tasked with trying to achieve quotes from contractors for the 2018 cutting season with the aim of resolving at the January meeting

iii. Additional keys to padlocked gates

MS had organised an additional set of keys to playground gates to be cut. These are to be held by the Vice-Chair (TB).

b) Weekly inspection reports – any new issues to report

Nothing to report

c) Any other matters regarding the playground

i. Consider Purchase of 'no dogs' sign for playground gate

As the faded sign, currently on the gate appears to be problematical to remove, it was resolved to purchase a 'no dogs' sticker to overlay sign that is already in situ.

99/17 Employment Issues

Following a satisfactory annual appraisal, Councillors resolved to move clerk up from SCP 21 to SCP 22 on the pay scale, with effect from 1st July 2017

100/17 Consider External Auditors report on 2016/17 audit

The clerk reported that the External Auditors, Grant Thornton, had completed the 2016/17 audit and have confirmed that the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and that no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that the relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met.

It was noted, under 'other matters not affecting our opinion which we wish to draw to the attention of the authority' that the advertised period for the exercise of public rights exceeded the required 30 working days and the authority should ensure in future the dates for the exercise of public rights are calculated to cover a period of 30 working days only.

101/17 Finances:

a) Consider CAW grant

In previous years PC has donated to support the production of CAW. No formal request has been received from CAW this year and councillors wished to support the contribution made by CAW to the community.

Councillors resolved to grant £50 to CAW this year, advising that future grants would be reliant on the PC receiving a request for funding, supported by evidence of basic accounts, as the PC has a requirement to maintain an audit trail of funds spent.

b) Payments to approve

Clerk	Salary & expenses	£323.03
HMRC	PAYE contribution	£46.80
CAW	grant to towards production costs	£50.00

c) Receipts received

21.7.17	HMRC	VAT refund for financial year 2016/17	£380.50
---------	------	---------------------------------------	---------

d) To approve bank reconciliation

The clerk reported that the balance total held by the council as of 31/7/17 to be £21,204.61 consisting of £8,422.77 in the current account, £3,224.98 in the deposit account and £9,683.99 in the amenities account

d) The Pensions Regulator – staging date & requirement to choose pension scheme - update

The staging date for the PC is 1st October. MS has explored pension options open to the PC. As PC had previously resolved not to pay contributions, the clerk has indicated that she will not be asking for a work place pension to be set up. MS will write to clerk to confirm what has been agreed.

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

The required mandate form was completed and signed by MS and DL to enable JL to be added as an authorised signatory on all Parish Council bank accounts. JL to present his completed individual identification form to a branch of NatWest together with 2 forms of ID.

101/17 Planning

a) Consider application T/07/17/001

Application to carry out management works to one oak tree and one beech tree included in West Somerset District Tree Preservation Order T/3/58. 4 Kings Acre, Crowcombe TA4 4BX
Councillors resolved to support the application

ATB left the meeting at this point due to a declared interest

b) Any other planning issues brought to the attention of the clerk prior to the meeting
i. Application 3/07/17/010

Demolition of dwelling and outbuildings and erection of 1 No. dwelling, double garage and store and associated works

Leigh Mill Farm, Leigh Lane, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 4BL

MS reminded councillors that last year an application was received for a substantial extension on this property. A site meeting was held and the PC resolved to object to the proposal. This was contrary to the Planning Officer's view and therefore the application went to committee for consideration. JL attended committee meeting on behalf of the PC – the application was approved

Application 3/07/17/010 has now been lodged for full demolition of the dwelling and outside buildings, to be replaced with a new build and garage. The supporting documents indicate that pre-planning advice was sought in January and agreement in principle was given.

Councillors resolved to reach a response to this application at this meeting as a visit to the property was carried out last year and therefore councillors were familiar with the site.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the loss of the original cottage and the size and style of the proposed replacement.

It was unanimously resolved to strongly object to application on the following grounds:

- The proposal is disproportionate, overdevelopment of the site
- The proposal is not in keeping with the area, being out of character for the location

- Due to the location and nature of the plot, Building Control difficulties are expected to be experienced with regard to drainage
Clerk to respond to WSDC

ATB re-joined meeting

ii. Borough Cottage, Crowcombe

JL reported that the response received from the listings officer was that Masons Shed was not listed as it was not part of the dwelling when building was listed. JL had further asked how is the listing now divided up as now integral as part of the dwelling. It may still be referred to the Enforcement Officer as the Listings Officer is considering her response

102/17 To Receive Reports from Members of Meetings attended as representatives of the Parish Council

None

103/17 New footpath to school – update

The clerk apologised for the fact that the letter to the School Governors asking for support has yet to be actioned. Councillors resolve to carry over this item to the next meeting.

104/17 Kesteven Recreation Ground

MS alerted councillors that the Cricket Club have indicated that they will be writing to ask the Kesteven Trustees (the PC is the corporate trustee for the Kesteven charity) for written acknowledgment of their longstanding usage of ground and future protection of the financial investment that has been made by the Cricket Club. This matter would be dealt with by a meeting of the Kesteven trustees, separate to the PC meeting.

105/17 Clerk’s Report

- i. Whilst carrying out a review of the council’s insurance it was discovered that the car park was not specified on the insurance documents. Clerk to contact Came & Co, insurance brokers, to ensure that the current cover covers the area
- ii. Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan referendum will be held on Thursday 5 October 2017
- iii. The Parish Council’s nomination of Mr Peter Menneer for the Somerset County Council, Chairman's Award for Service to the Community has been completed and submitted by The Chairman
- iv. Future dates for Dunster Area Panel meetings
 - Monday 30 October 2017 (instead of 17 Oct)
 - The meeting in January 2018 will remain as Monday 22 January 2018
 - Monday 9 April 2018 (instead of 3 April)
- v. SCC have published the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) summary and qualitative report and can be accessed at www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/jsna

106/17 Topics for future meetings

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Next Meeting:

2nd November to be held at Church House, commencing at 7.30pm

Signed :, Chair Date :