

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 March 2018,
at Church House commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Present :

Cllrs M Smith (Chair), T Brooks (Vice-chair), A Trollope-Bellew, B Druitt, J Laver, K Kenyon, R Druitt (after item 30/18)
SCC Cllr C Lawrence
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
2 x member of the public

24/18 To receive any apologies of absence

Cllr ATB had sent apologies for his expected late arrival

25/18 Public Participation

50 or so properties in the village are supplied by the estate private water supply and rely on Wessex Water for sewerage services. A parishioner reported that they had contacted Wessex Water to complain regarding the high cost of this service

To compare, the parishioner asked what the cost would be if he moved to Wessex as a dual supplier (water and sewerage services) and they were advised £435 for water & sewage services for two low users. They currently pay Wessex Water £631.25 just for sewage services. The parishioner wanted to draw the PCs attention to this matter in the hope that parishioners in a similar position could be made aware.

MS reported that he had spoken to Wessex Water and they suggested fitting a meter to see what water in is used (even if the water in is not supplied by Wessex water) and therefore estimate water out more accurately

Hopefully word of mouth will spread this matter around the village

1 x member of the public left at this point

26/18 County Councillor's Report

SCC Cllr Christine Lawrence reported on several matters:

- OFSTED report into SCC Children's Services. Following the recent OFSTED rating, the seven-point programme for children's services is now being updated to set out the milestones required to reach 'Good'
- Family Support Service. The decision to deliver SCC new Family Support Service has now been formally made, with the aim to develop integrated Family Support Services with the vital Health Visiting Service already commissioned by SCC. More information can be gained from publichealth@somerset.gov.uk
- Secondary School Admissions. 97.5% of children have been offered a place at one of their top three secondary school preferences, a slight increase on last year. In total 93.5% received their 1st preference
- Single Use Plastics. SCC councillors have unanimously agreed to work towards the withdrawal of single use plastics across all its sites
- Somerset Rivers Authority. Discussions have continued with DEFRA in respect of the SRA becoming a self-precepting body

- National College for Nuclear. The NCN, which opened on 7th February, is now providing a state of the art nuclear training facility. Bridgewater and Taunton Colleges are the principle delivery agency.
- Libraries Consultation. This consultation continues and it is important that people engage to provide comprehensive feedback

ATB arrived at this point

27/18 District Councillor's Report

WSDC Cllr A Trollope-Bellew's report covered several topics:

- Somerset Rivers Authority, work is progressing towards it becoming a separate precepting authority
- Plastic Recycling. China stopping taking recycled plastic does not affect Somerset as none has been sent there. Recycling is sorted at kerbside and all that is taken is recycled. However, 50% of what currently goes in household black bins is recyclable (this is especially true of food waste). People should separate waste more
- New Council Formation. Still waiting for SOS decision re the formation of new council. It is hoped that a decision will be made soon.
- New Warding. A letter should be received soon with a map showing proposed new wards and giving the public a chance to comment on the proposed new ward boundaries. Current arrangement is 84 wards over West Somerset and Taunton Deane, the new council is proposed to have 58. Crowcombe is proposed to be a 'cross boundary' one to be joined with Bishops Lydeard and Bagborough. These proposals would have to be approved by the Boundary Commission

28/18 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

ATB-33/18 (landowner), 32/18 (landowner)

MS- 35/18 (member of the shop committee)

29/18 Minutes, 4th January and 3rd February 2018, to approve and sign

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

30/18 Casual vacancy on the council and the co-option of a new member

Dennis Lock retired from the PC in February. MS reported that he had sent a letter of thanks to DL for long service to PC.

The Monitoring Officer at West Somerset was informed and notices were posted of a casual vacancy. WS have confirmed that they have not received a call for election so therefore the PC is free to co-opt

Rachel Druitt had expressed an interest to join. Councillors resolved to co-opt RD and she signed the acceptance of office form before taking her place on the parish council

31/18 Highways

a) Any issues to report

- i) TB-rubbish is still at Stickle as reported in January. Clerk to re-report to WS
- ii) Pipes at Leigh are blocked. Although designed as an Irish bridge, the pipes entrances are blocked and no water is flowing through pipes at all. Clerk to rereport to highways again explaining that pipes under road are blocked. Pipes need to be empty to allow water to flow through them
- iii) Pothole on bend opposite the village hall.
- iv) Pothole by fingerpost at Ashfield
- v) Sunken gulley by bus stop (Taunton side)

b) Any accidents in the parish to report

None

c) Fingerposts- update and request to increase funding to cover renovation costs

Renovations are currently being done by two volunteers. They have asked for an increase in budget to cover additional materials that are required. Councillors resolved to put an additional £100 (ex VAT) into the budget and requested another progress report for next meeting. Clerk to research possible grant funding options for the project

32/18 Footpaths

a) New footpath to school

ATB had received and circulated to councillors a quote from Barons for £3,176 (ex VAT) plus an approximate cost of £1,000 for fencing (depending on whether fencing is needed on both sides of the path or just along one side). Councillors considered that it was a reasonable price for the work that needs to be done. ATB reported that he had already had some trees pruned back as had to be done before nesting season. WS have confirmed that in order to be eligible for s106 money the path needs to be for recreational use, health and wellbeing for the parish, not just for children walking to school.

Clerk was requested to apply for the release of the £2000 s106 money held for Crowcombe by WS and to submit a grant application to the Hinkley C mitigation fund

b) Any issues with footpaths to report

None

33/18 Play Area

a) Consider annual playground inspection report

The Inspection highlighted a high risk (red warning) on the upright supports for the flat swings. The swings have immediately been taken out of action with warning tape and a notice and councillors agreed to remove the swings & chains to more effectively prevent their use. TB & BD offered to take down swing seats and put up new sign.

Long term it will be necessary to remove the whole unit and consider installing a new swing unit. Councillors resolved to gain quotes from play equipment companies for new piece of equipment (clerk to work with TB)

Cladding on tunnel - a slat has fallen off and needs replacing. BD & TB to inspect when up at play area attending to the swings

Spinner bowl. The welded repair to the hole made previously has failed and needs redoing (TB to investigate)

Rubber matting has come apart by the basket swing (JL to contact installer to rectify)

b) Weekly inspection reports – any new issues to report

Covered in above agenda item

c) Revised weekly inspection sheets

TB reported that he had not yet re-drafted the inspection sheet but will do before the next meeting and circulate amongst councillors

Inspection rota was confirmed as March -TB, April -JL, May-RD, June-BD

c) Any other matters regarding the playground

None

CL & 1 member of the public left the meeting at this point

34/18 Finances:

a) Consider CPRE membership request

CPRE have objected to the planning application concerning the field adjacent to Higil Lea and have sent a request to CPC to join the CPRE

Councillors resolved that the PC shouldn't affiliate with an organisation and agreed to decline the request

b) Payments to approve

i) Clerks Salary & expenses

£384.03

ii) Playground Inspection Company	£78.00
iii) Church House, room hire	£99.00
c) Receipts received	
20.12.17 Tennis Club Ground Rent	£25.00
22.1.18 Crowcombe Hall Ground rent	£50.00

d) To approve bank reconciliation

The clerk reported that the available balance held by the council as of 31/1/18 to be £23701.74, accounted for with £10,790.89 in the current account, £3,225.46 in the deposit account and £9,685.39 in the amenities account

e) Review of Internal Controls document

The previously circulated document was considered and approved

f) Review of Schedule of Risk Assessment

The clerk had previously circulated the relevant document. JL was appointed to take responsibility and regularly assess for deterioration of the oak tree in the playground as he is qualified to undertake the risk assessment

Clerk to update the circulated schedule to reflect the above with a view the revised schedule to be approved by the PC at the Amy meeting. JL to report back to May meeting as to current status of the tree

g) Review Assets Register

The previously circulated document was considered and approved

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

i) Councillors resolved to add RD as a signatory to, and remove Dennis Lock from, the PC bank account.

ii) Councillors resolved to re-appoint the previous year's internal auditor, K Smith for the 2017/18 internal audit

35/18 Planning:

a) Consider support for an application for additional fingerpost signage for village amenities to be located at the bottom of Crowcombe Combe

MS informed councillors that Highways (the owners of the verge) have now objected to a finger post in this position so the proposition will have to change. The aim of sign is help those coming down the combe who normally automatically turn left to Taunton to access the village amenities. Councillors suggested that could either an additional finger be attached to the existing metal post or could a brown information sign for village amenities be applied for?

Councillors resolved to express a view, in principle, for better signage for village amenities

b) Any other planning issues brought to the attention of the clerk prior to the meeting

None

36/18 To Receive Reports from Members of Meetings attended as representatives of the Parish Council.

Some councillors recently went on a site visit to Hinkley. It is a massive operation and the visit was very informative. Thanks were given to ATB for organising the tour

37/18 Clothes recycling bin in Village Hall car park

BIU have confirmed that the monetary value of donations from the bin is £76.60 over the last 6 months, but it is still unclear of how much of this went to the air ambulance. Councillors agreed that they were happy for the bin to be left in place, but not to sign up to a 3-year agreement in case situation changes

38/18 Defibrillator

JL reported huge support from villagers. Research suggests that defibrillators are not used frequently, but if it saves one life it is worth it. The shop is the preferred location as it is central. MS

to raise the issue with the shop committee regarding a grant application to fund purchase and installation

39/18 SCC Library Services Consultation

Consultation ends in April.

Williton library and the mobile library are not under threat and these seem to be the most significant to Crowcombe

Councillors requested that the clerk respond to the consultation acknowledging that SCC have some uncomfortable decisions to make but CPC does not support the closure of local libraries

40/18 Draft Somerset Strategic Housing Framework Consultation

Councillors resolved not to produce a formal response

41/18 Confirm dates for:

a) Parish Council meetings for next municipal year

Councillors agreed the following meeting dates for the 2018/19 municipal year

Thursday 3rd May 2018	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 5th July 2018	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 6th September 2018	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 1st November 2018	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd January 2019	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 7th March 2019	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting

b) Annual Parish meeting

MS reported that it doesn't appear to be possible to combine with the PCC as it doesn't fit in with Church service rota this year

April appears to be the favourable month. MS to liaise with clerk for a suitable time /date

c) Kesteven Trustees and User Group Annual Meeting

Councillors agreed for Clerk and MS to arrange for a Sunday morning in June that is convenient for parties invited to attend.

42/18 Clerk's Report

a) Police report

General Crime: Crime is on the up year on year. There are a multitude of reasons for this but it is likely to include the reduction in the number of front line officers, the improvement in ways in which crime can be reported, and the force's commitment to ethical crime recording. You can be assured that if there are any developing crime series occurring in the area, the beat team will do all they can do to tackle it, target it, reduce it and utilise a multi-agency approach to find solutions

Rural Crime: We have over the recent weeks been experiencing a spike in rural crime, particularly around the theft of scrap metal, & batteries

Crime Statistics: Can be found by following the below link:

<https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/AW052/crime/>

This relates to crime covering the entire beat area.

b) Rexton Lane closure

Rexton Lane from the junction with Lower Vexford to Leigh Farm, south-westwards for a distance of 370 metres, to commence on 15 March 2018 and last for 2 days. While the closure is in operation an alternative route will be signed on site.

c) SIDs

A SID (speed indicator device) briefing event is being held on Wednesday 14th March for councillors to inform parishes how the new SID 'hire' scheme is proposed to be rolled out across the county

d) Waste crime consultation

Consultation, run by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, on proposals

to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector (This includes fly tipping).

https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste/crime-and-poor-performance-in-the-waste-sector/supporting_documents/Waste_Crime_Cons_English.pdf.

The consultation closes on 26 March 2018.

e) General Data Protection Regulations legislation

the new General Data Protection Regulations legislation is still making its way through Parliament. SALC have advised that they will be offering training on the GDPR in the coming months and are currently discussing with two district councils the feasibility of providing a data protection service within those district areas - there may be opportunities to explore this further with other districts. SALC will be keeping parish councils updated as new information arises

43/18 Topics for future meetings

Prior to the close of the meeting, Cllr K Kenyon tendered her resignation from the PC with immediate effect due to increasing work pressures.

Clerk to advise WS of the casual vacancy and issue the statutory notice

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm