

**Crowcombe Parish Council**  
**The Orchard, Biscombe, Churchstanton, Taunton TA3 7PZ**  
**Tel: 01823 601495**  
**Clerk: Claire Morrison-Jones**

Minutes of the Crowcombe Parish Council Meeting held Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st November 2018 at Church House, Crowcombe commencing at 7.30pm.

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

**Present:**

Cllrs T Brooks (Chair), M Smith, A Trollope-Bellew, B Druitt and R Druitt  
 B Martin-Vigor

Police report – PCSO S Thompson sent apologies for not being able to attend, but sent a report via email

- Recent reports of shed breaks around almost all of our outlying areas, with tools such as chainsaws & strimmers being targeted. I would like to remind people to make sure sheds & outbuildings are WELL secured, & any particularly valuable tools are marked, perhaps with postcode, & that serial numbers are recorded. Also, to ensure that stores of fuel are well secured!
- We have recently had an incident of an elderly lady who was relieved of quite a lot of money by unscrupulous individuals offering to remove fallen timber for her.
- Please, as a Community, I would ask that we keep an eye out for elderly or vulnerable people. Be vigilant and ASK QUESTIONS! If you have any specific concerns about anyone living in the area, who you feel may be targeted because of any specific vulnerability, PLEASE let us know.

**124/18 To receive any apologies of absence**

None

**125/18 Public Participation**

None

**126/18 County and District Councillor Reports**

SCC Cllr C Lawrence – no report received

WSDC Cllr A Trollope-Bellew

- One of the 1<sup>st</sup> benefits of forming new council: the budget for next year is predicting a surplus of £43,000 due to savings made
- The debate about county wanting to form unitary: Options are being explored, should have some more information in January.
- A meeting has been held with the National Park to consider extending NP area to include the Quantocks AONB. It was decided that no action to be taken until Glover report is published

**127/18 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations**

ATB – agenda items 132/18, 133/18 and 135/18

### **128/18 Minutes, 6<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The minutes for the PC meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **129/18 Casual vacancies on the council and the co-option of new members**

West Somerset have confirmed that the parish council is free to co-opt two new Members. Councillors unanimously resolved to co-opt Barbara Martin-Vigor, who signed the acceptance of office form and took her place on the council. Suggestions still needed for a candidate to fill the last remaining place

### **130/18 Election of a Vice-Chair**

Councillors unanimously resolved to elect Bob Druiitt as Vice-Chairman, who then signed acceptance of office form

### **131/18 Highways**

#### **a) Fingerposts – update**

The volunteers reported that there would be no more work now this year as the weather has now broken. There are five more posts remaining that only need painting. Kelston Forge's original quote could not be adjusted as it had been explained that to do 'part of the work' only would require many more return trips and end up costing more than the original quote. Councillors resolved to select three of the six posts that require repair and to ask Kelston Forge to proceed with those now (quoted cost £3,958): post 8 (Heddon Oak), post 14 (Steepy Piece) and post 6 (Stickle Crossroads )

#### **b) Updates on previously reported issues**

ATB reported on the AONB gateway signs. S Date has looked at the 3 signs in the parish. The one by The Coombe is rusty - suggested taking it down over the winter to restore / reweld with an estimated cost circa £100. TB to double check if the one near Higil Lea needs new posts. Councillors resolved to proceed with repairs

#### **c) Gritting arrangements in the parish 2018/19**

SCC informed PCs that there will be a reduced gritting service in operation for winter 2018/19 and that they will not be re-filling parish grit bins free of charge. TB & ATB attended a WSDC meeting to discuss a scheme to help parishes in the District maintain their self-help salting. The proposed positioning of the 1 tonne dumpy bags was raised as a concern. 8 dumpy bags were dropped in the parish last year -Heddon Oak, Lea Lane, Lea Mill, Triscombe and 4 on The Combe. ATB & TB asked if less could be put up on The Combe and those bags used elsewhere in the parish. WSDC may be able to fund for this year but parishes need to adjust precept budget for buying their own from next year (quoted price for a 1 tonne bag is approx £160) Parishes may or may not be getting small bags this year from WSDC. Crowcombe still have some left in parish from previous years, but plastic bags holding them are degrading. Councillors agreed to carry out an audit of small bags that are available in the parish from previous years.

#### **d) Any issues to report**

- i) pot hole by the Ashfield ANOB sign
- ii) hole on s bend by pound orchard entrance
- iii) the grips have been dug out between T junction at Lea crossing through to roebuck gate crossing.
- iv) drains not yet cleared out up The Combe

**e) Any accidents in the parish to report**

None noted within the parish, but have been a few at bottom of Greens Hill

**132/18 Footpaths**

**a) New footpath to school**

The planning application has now been submitted and the public consultation period closes on 1<sup>st</sup> November. So far eleven comments of support from members of the public and consultees have been lodged on the on-line planning portal.

**b) Any issues with footpaths to report**

None

**133/18 Play Area**

**a) Weekly inspection reports**

**i. Update on previously reported issues**

MS handed the inspections to TB for November, TB & BMV for December, BVM for January, RD for February, BD for March

**ii. Any new issues to report**

- It was reported that a lot of rubbish had been dumped by the air ambulance recycling bin and a dirty nappy had been left in the play area. Both cleared by MS during his weekly inspections
- Weeds were high on top of the tunnel hill.

**c) i. Maintenance issues**

Woodland South West have provided a quote for the minor repairs noted at previous meetings. Councillors resolved to proceed with these as specified and also to request that the fallen tree in the corner of the wild area is cut up.

**d) Purchase of new equipment**

TB has met with several play company representatives to discuss a new swing unit and associated grass matting and will be meeting with others shortly

If the PC dismantles the old swings and concrete footings it will save money, and possibly the timber could be salvaged to effect repairs to activity climbing frame

If grants were to be applied for fundraising could take some time-councillors decided that they wished to get the replacement equipment installed before next spring. Councillors resolved to allow TB and BD to analyse the quotes received and go ahead with an order, for new swing unit & rubber matting below, with what is perceived to be best option (anticipated to be circa £6000)

**e) Tree survey**

Previously tree health had been assigned to Cllr J Laver. Now that he has left the council, the clerk advised that councillors should consider a professional tree survey of the oak.

Councillors agreed. Set the clerk a budget of £250 to get tree tested/surveyed

**f) Any other matters regarding the playground**

None

**134/18 Boundary Commission consultation on new ward boundaries**

The result of the consultation was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The parish council put forward a good, comprehensive case but were not successful in getting the proposed boundaries changed to include Stogumber. Crowcombe parish will, from May 2019, be in the South Quantock ward; a 2 councillor ward consisting of Bicknoller, Crowcombe, Tolland, Lydeard St Lawrence, West Bagborough, Combe Florey, Ash Priors, Cothelstone and Bishops Lydeard.

**135/18 War Memorial**

ATB reported that a plate can be made for £500-600 but it is not the best solution. The best solution is to insert a hard stone into the memorial, which is anticipated to cost circa £10,000. ATB offered to get someone to site to provide an accurate quote for this option. PC to act as lead fundraising body – groups in the village have been approached to contribute funds

**136/18 Defibrillator. Installation update**

The defibrillator was installed on the wall outside the village shop on 31<sup>st</sup> October. The defibrillator, together with its code and location, will be registered with the South West Ambulance Service. If anyone calls 999 reporting a potential cardiac incident within the advised radius of the defibrillator location they will be informed of the location of the defibrillator and the access code to open the cabinet door. As well as the operator at the 999 call centre staying on the line giving advice until the ambulance arrives on scene, the defibrillator itself gives clear audible instructions to the user on how to proceed and will only shock a patient if it detects the correct feedback from the sensor pads once they are placed on the patient. It will not give a shock to a patient whose symptoms are not suitable for the treatment to be given and the defibrillator requires no first aid training or knowledge to be used.

Thanks were again given to the Village Shop by councillors for the generous grant that enabled the purchase and installation of the defibrillator.

**137/18 General Data Protection Regulations. Consider privacy policy to be adopted by the Parish Council**

Councillors resolved to adopt both NALC template policies that had been previously circulated

**138/18 Code of Conduct – update**

The clerk reported that she had contacted SALC for advice regarding the differences between the SALC approved Code and that which is adopted by WS and was waiting for their recommendation after they had consulted with The Monitoring Officer at WS. Councillors agreed to carry this topic over until more information had been received

**139/18 Finances****a) To approve bank reconciliation**

The clerk had previously circulated the accounts that showed that the balance total held by the council as of 29/9/18 was £34,616.09, with £10,828 of that total amount being held in earmarked reserve funds. The accounts were unanimously approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman

**b) Payments to approve**

Clerk's Salary	Sept & Oct 2018	£589.50
Clerk's expenses & reimbursements	Sept & Oct 2018	£60.52
Clerk's reimbursements	Sept 2018 (Cheque already issued)	£84.98
Wiser Hosting	website hosting	£28.80
Centurion Electrical	defib electrics	£222.36

**c) Receipts received**

10.9.18	Crowcombe Village Shop	Defibrillator grant	£1249.00
11.9.18	HMRC	PAYE refund	£11.00
18.9.18	WSDC	2nd half of precept	£4875.00

**d) Any other financial matters notified to the clerk prior to the meeting**

Councillors resolved to add BMV as signatory to the parish council bank accounts.

**140/18 Planning**

**a) Updates on previously considered planning applications**

- **Application 3/07/18/010. Replacement of garage with the erection of 3 No. timber framed clad garages on land adjacent to Flaxpool Garage, Flaxpool Hill**  
Granted
- **Application 3/07/18/011. Internal alterations (retention of works already undertaken). Dairy Cottage, Crowcombe Road**  
Granted
- **Application 3/07/18/012. Variation of Condition No. 2 (approved plans) of application 3/07/15/005. Denzel Cottage, The Avenue**  
Granted

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

TB raised concerns regarding that houses at Higil Lea are not being allocated to people with a parish connection, as per the s106 agreement. The clerk was requested to write to WS enforcement to enquire if the s106 is being adhered to

**141/18 Clerk's Report**

- As of January 2019, the mobile library will no longer be stopping at Crowcombe Heathfield as there are less than 3 regular users  
The library service will work with the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) to provide a Home Library Service for anyone who is unable to visit a library. Follow the link below for further details:  
<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries-and-heritage/libraries-facilities/library-book-home-delivery/>

**142/18 Topics for future meetings**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 3rd January 2019 at Church House, to commence at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22.15