

SAMPFORD BRETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th September 2017

In the Village Hall

Present: COUNCILLORS Mrs J. Swan (in the chair) Mr D. Drabble, Mr M. Blazey, Mr G. Day and Mr B. Doyle. County Councillor Mr Hugh Davies and District Councillor Mr Stuart Dowding. There were also 6 members of the public present.

Apologies: Councillor Mr Ian Armstrong.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Public Input: No one requested to speak.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Tower Hill Parking – A representative of Williton Parish Council together with Highways and the Police had a meeting re Tower Hill parking; Williton PC were told the Police and Highways were not prepared to do anything about the parking as they felt it was traffic calming.

Health Checks. Council agreed not to pursue this as too few parishioners will qualify for the checks.

Pavements still looked as though they had not been cleaned. Clerk will pursue this again.

619. District Council Matters

Hinkley recruitment event - at the Beach Hotel, Minehead. 28th September 2017.

Lottery: There have been 3 local prize winners but top prize still available.

Neighbourhood Plan: Stogumber Parish Council in the process of finalising their neighbourhood plan but it has been very time-consuming. Bicknoller

Parish Council are planning to go ahead with one. Parish councils do not have to have a neighbourhood plan but they are recommended and take precedence over village design statements. Councillor Swan to investigate the value of neighbourhood plan for Sampford Brett, bearing in mind that the WSC local plan designates the village as 'open countryside' where development is not normally permitted.

Planning enforcement – Parish Councils need to take responsibility as there are too few planning officers in Taunton Deane and West Somerset.

NHS Surgeries are now open in the evenings.

West Somerset ranks bottom in the government's social mobility index, which measures the likelihood of children from deprived backgrounds getting a good education and good job. Additional funding will be provided by the Government to improve education of deprived children. Councillor Blazey impressed on District Council that the money should go to the schools as that is where it is needed. There is a link on the Department of Education website.

Public Conveniences: £107,000 has been saved by the closures. Councillor Blazey asked how much revenue (e.g. from tourism) had been lost through closure of the public conveniences. Councillor Day expressed his disapproval of the closures.

620. County Council Matters

Councillor Davies expressed his thanks for re-electing him. There are 25 new members at County Hall. John Osborne, the Leader, lost his seat; the new Leader is David Fothergill. Councillor Davies is on the Quantocks Advisory Committee, Somerset Building Preservation Trust, Standards Committee and the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholders Group (SSG). He has visited A and B Stations; funding is available for projects under £1000 from A Station.

County Council plan to make quite a few cuts.

Park and Ride will close on Saturdays from the autumn, except in busy periods e.g. Christmas.

The new link road between Staplegrove and Obridge has opened.

Councillor Davies had taken Highways and Councillors to Sir Gilbert Scott Court to see the situation re parking.

374

Fracking is opposed by Holford, Kilve and other parish councils.

Work on the Tropiquaria park and ride is not scheduled to start until 2018.

Defibrillators – Invitation from the Clerk of Williton Parish Council to the training on 25th November at 9.30 at the Parish Office. Need to phone to book place.

A358 road closing for three nights 18th to 20th September at Sampford bridge; 6pm to 7.30am.

Hinkley Point A has a bit more community funding available; Cllr Davies will provide details.

The Police are still moving to the Council Offices, but not the library. Library is closing from the 16th to 23rd October to facilitate the installation of kiosks.

Schools are looking for new Governors.

A new Bus Gate is nearing completion at Monkton Heathfield.

621. Planning Matters

No 20 Sampford Brett has been approved.

Longlands barn has been approved.

Higher Thornes Farm holiday let – Parish Council has objected.

622. Defibrillators

SW Ambulance Services - full package costs £1800 (excl. VAT) for 4 years and includes annual training. After 4 years we have to pay again.

British Heart Foundation – we would have to pay £600 towards the defibrillator, provide the cabinet (c. £400) and pay for installation (c. £200).

Two models are available – Zoll AED Plus and iPAD-SP1.

CRISP will provide 50% of the cost of the defibrillator, provided we have an Emergency Plan.

Chair to undertake further research including CRISP funding and Hinckley Point funding.

375

623. Emergency Plan

Councillors had reviewed the draft plan and had no comments on its content. The Parish Council thanked Councillor Drabble for all his hardwork in preparing the draft plan. Cllr Drabble will prepare a flier to advertise the plan and seek volunteers for the emergency response team. The plan will be finalised after the response team has been identified.

624. FINANCE

The Clerk gave her quarterly report. The balance at the Bank as at the last meeting was £5588.87. Due to be paid were Clerk’s half year salary £617.50 and Village Hall rent £7 so the balance will then be £4964.37.

625. CORRESPONDENCE All had been circulated by email to the Councillors.

626. Matters by permission of the Chairman

Over the last two years, 12 properties have changed hands. It was proposed there should be a welcome evening for them. Cllr Blazey will organise but requires help.

Footpaths – nothing to report at the moment.

Route 60 plus (driver training) – Clerk to arrange a date.

Health Checks – It was decided to cancel as it was felt that there would not be enough people eligible to warrant a visit.

Although the Clerk had not received any request from the applicant of the Planning Application for converting stable to holiday let at Higher Thornes Farm, the Chairman gave him permission to speak. The applicant questioned the procedure used by the Parish Council to review and comment on planning applications. The chair explained that applications are circulated between councillors who make their comments. One person then collates the comments and drafts a letter for submission to the planning officer.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

.....CHAIRMAN.....DATE