

SAMPFORD BRETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2017

in the Village Hall.

Present: Parish Councillors: Mrs J. Swan (in the chair), Mr D. Drabble, Mr G. Day, Mr M. Blazey, Mr B. Doyle. Also present was County Councillor Mr H. Davies and one member of the parish.

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Mrs D. Saunders and Mr I. Armstrong and District Councillor Mr S. Dowding.

Public Input: No requests had been received.

Declarations of Interest: All Parish Councillors signed dispensation forms in order to allow them to participate in the Precept discussion.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record after two amendments to County Council Matters, Minute 620:

- Hinkley Point A has a bit more community funding available (insert “A has” and delete “have”)
- Last item to read “New bus gate is nearing completion at Monkton Heathfield” (delete “Hamilton Road, Taunton”).

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The pavements have been cleaned on Tower Hill.

Councillor Blazey was thanked for organising the Welcome Evening for new villagers which was a great success.

627. County Council Matters

The Park and Ride at Silk Mills which was earmarked to close on Saturdays with the exception of the busy Christmas period , has been delayed until the New Year. Thereafter access to the Hospital will be via the bus station.

Drainage work on the A39 at Dragon’s Cross has been postponed until after Christmas.

Quantock Hills have received £1.6m grant for 26 projects – funds have come from National Lottery.

Devolution deal still on hold.

University for Somerset – this is a long term project expected to take at least 7 years or more.

Hinkley waste storage will require considerably larger buildings.

Community transport cuts have been deferred.

628. District Council Matters

Councillor Mr S. Dowding was not present but sent in his report for the Chairman to read.

Secretary of State, Sajid Javid MP is minded to approve the formation of a new Council incorporating the old Councils of Taunton Deane and West Somerset.

2018/2019 budget is looking as good as can be expected.

The West Somerset Lottery made £3783 for local good causes in October and £3647 in November.

There will be free parking in WSC car parks on Saturday 23rd December.

Taunton's status as a Garden Town will give it huge commercial impetus and is to be welcomed and will give rise to extra government funding.

There is a free Health and Wellbeing event on Wednesday 13th December 10 - 12.30 hrs at Minehead Job Centre in The Avenue, Minehead.

The move by Police into the WSC offices has been delayed by a last minute change of manning protocols by the Police. This was to have commenced in November and to be completed in early January 2018.

Tropiquaria park and ride is not expected to start until 2018. Need to put pressure on Hinkley Point to get the park and ride established. There are already 2,500 employees present at the site.

629. Finance

A letter had been received from Sampford Brett PCC requesting the Parish Council to consider a grant towards the cutting of grass and maintenance of the churchyard. **Councillor Blazey declared an interest and did not participate in the discussion.** The Parish Council resolved to grant £120 this year.

The Clerk gave her financial report and mentioned that she has not yet received an invoice for SALC membership despite chasing several times. This will be around £80 and is usually received in May/June. Clerk's salary for 2nd half of the year October 2017 to March 2018 will be approx. £600 and there will be another 2 payments of £8 for rental of the village hall.

After paying the above amounts and grant to the PCC for churchyard maintenance the balance in the bank as at 31st March 2018 will be approximately £4,800.

The Chairman gave an update on costs for a defibrillator and it was resolved to allow £1,000 in next year's budget for the cost of the British Heart Foundation Defibrillator.

After discussion it was resolved not to increase the precept again this year and to leave it at £2,200 for the year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

630. Planning Matters

A) Adoption of procedure for review of planning applications. Following discussion and minor amendments, this document was adopted by the Parish Council.

B) Application to erect a dwelling to the rear of 47 Tower Hill. Following discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council would make the following comments on the revised application:

- Acknowledge reduced risk to pedestrians, but remain concerned about their safety particularly on the blind right angle bend
- Option A is our preferred location for the pedestrian refuge
- The property is behind the building line which is detrimental to the character of the area
- The 2 mature beech trees in the adjacent garden must be protected during construction and are awaiting TPO's (have been verbally approved).

County Councillor left the meeting at 7.40pm.

631. Flood Channel Outlet

Clerk to send a strongly worded letter to Taunton Deane Council regarding serious erosion of the Orchard bank and field on the opposite side of the river caused by the outlet not being maintained by the Council. Send copy of letter to Rivers Authority, Environment Agency and West Somerset Council. The owner of the orchard has been in touch with the Council but nothing has been done. Suggest a joint meeting be held comprising the owners of the land concerned and the authorities as above.

The Chairman attended a flood panel meeting and they will keep in touch.

632. Emergency Plan

Chair to organise a meeting of potential volunteers.

633. Footpaths. Nothing to report.

634. Correspondence. All had been emailed to councillors.

635. Matters by permission of the chairman. Chair had attended a very well organised and informative visit to Hinkley Point that was arranged by District Councillor, S. Dowding.

DATES FOR NEXT YEAR'S MEETINGS.

Wednesday 7th March. 6.30pm. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING followed immediately by a short Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 6th June 6.30pm

Wednesday 5th September 6.30pm

Wednesday 5th December 6.30pm

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

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