

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council which took place on Monday 11 February 2013 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Fowler (Chair), Bishop, Hallett, Willoughby,
Messrs P Thompson & B Walker (District Councillors), PCSO Ceara Sturt.

APOLOGIES Cllrs Cripps, England, Rowswell, Wakely,
Mr P Maxwell (County Councillor).

MINUTES The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Grit Bin It was confirmed that there is now a shovel in the grit bin.

Footpath Map Cllr Cripps has obtained three A3 copies of the parish footpath map, two of which have been framed and can be viewed in the Village Hall and the Shop and the third will be laminated.

Flooding Cllrs Rowswell and Fowler had met Mike Fear of the Highway Authority to look at the condition of the pavements, drainage problems and damage caused by floodwater and silt. The Flood Plan compiled for Porlock is being circulated and consideration will be given to producing a plan for any emergency.

Footpaths The County Council has installed a new pedestrian gate at Cowleaze to replace the kissing gate damaged by floodwater and also replaced the two stiles from Lambrook Road on the path to the rear of Cowleaze with a metal pedestrian gate and a metal kissing gate.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

POLICING

PCSO Ceara Sturt was welcomed to the meeting. She has attended Neighbourhood Watch Meetings and will patrol the village and come to Parish Council Meetings whenever possible. She can be contacted on 07825103300 or by email ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

DC REPORT

Mr Thompson advised that the Local Plan 2006 – 2028 has now been passed to the Planning Inspector.

The bus service to South Petherton Hospital is under threat.

Mr Walker said the District Council is supporting in principle the Western Gazette's campaign for dualling the A303.

CC REPORT

Mr Maxwell had sent a report, noting there will be a Flooding Summit in Taunton on 15 March. The Government has granted £5m to repair damage to roads caused by recent floods. The Library Service is under review and no closures are planned. An enquiry will be made as to the future of the mobile library.

PLANNING

Permission has been granted for the following:

Erection of ground and first floor extension to Stanley House, Middle Street.

Removal of horsechestnut tree, which has a Tree Preservation Order, at Conkers, Lambrook Road, as it is infected with Bleeding Canker.

PARISH PLAN

Cllr Willoughby had attended a meeting of the Recreation Committee on the Parish Council's behalf. Following the success of the Italian Evening, a Spanish Evening has been suggested. Other plans include Shepfest during the same weekend as the Fun Run, a Safari Supper and Whacky Olympics. Dog fouling continues to be a problem at the Recreation Field and the Clerk will contact the Dog Warden.

Cllr Hallett wondered when the trees at Cowleaze would be pruned.

He also noted a big difference in the size of drainage pipe from Love Lane to the main stream at Cowleaze.

LENGTHSMAN

Cllr Cripps will attend a Lengthsman Meeting on 18 February.

HIGHWAYS

Cllr Bishop wondered who is responsible for landslips which have occurred during the recent wet weather and what the insurance position would be for anyone working in the road to clear them. The same query was raised if people are asked to adopt a drain and keep it clear.

ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Hallett had noticed that more plastic is required on vacant allotments and it was felt the Lengthsman could do this.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.