

Minutes of meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on Monday 9 December 2013 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Cripps (Chair), England, Finlay, Hallett, Lillywhite, Wakely, Willoughby, Messrs P Thompson (District Councillor), C Le Hardy (County Councillor) and 2 parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs Bishop, Rowswell, Mr P Thompson (District Councillor), PCSO Ceara Sturt.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dan Mason explained that it was necessary to apply to renew permission for an opening between the kitchen and garden room at Stephens as the work had not been carried out within the year.

Pete Sanderson spoke of the sad passing of Malcolm Lay, who had maintained the grass area around the Pavilion, MUGA and Children's Play Area and said the Recreation Committee would be making a donation to RNLI in his memory.

Quotes had been received for grass cutting at the Recreation Field and, before making a decision, a query will be raised as to whether VAT is included.

Insurance quotes for the Recreation Field are being obtained.

There is a problem of dog fouling on the Field so posters designed by the school children will be displayed and the Dog Warden will be asked to patrol.

The subject of car parking was raised again.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

POLICING

It was agreed to write to Sue Mountstevens, the Police and Crime Commissioner, expressing concern that the Police are planning to install CCTV to solve a neighbourhood dispute and asking if she can justify the expense to the rate payers.

DC REPORT

Mr Walker spoke about the five year housing supply and the fact that it is difficult to refuse planning applications while there is no Local Plan in place.

He said the part night lighting in South Petherton is causing some problems of anti-social behaviour. The District Council Street Scene Department now offers quotes for the type of work carried out by the Lengthsman.

Mr Thompson sent a message that funding is available from Awards for All towards outdoor gym equipment and the Recreation Committee will be made aware of this.

CC REPORT

Mr Le Hardy suggested arranging health checks from a visiting medical team, funded from the Health & Wellbeing Fund.

He said that, in view of the financial situation, parishes are encouraged to be more self-sufficient, carrying out any jobs they can locally.

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PLANNING

There were no objections to the application for listed building consent for an opening between the kitchen and garden room at Stephens, Church Street.

ACCOUNTS

A cheque was drawn for a £25 donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

PARISH PLAN

Cllr Willoughby reported on a recent Recreation Committee Meeting and said that matters discussed included maintenance, liability for the goal posts and designing a logo or letterhead. Planned fund raising events are an Italian evening and a Shepton Talent event.

Cllr Willoughby offered to email Recreation Committee Minutes to Parish Councillors but they said they were happy to receive his verbal reports.

LENGTHSMAN

Cllr Wakely asked if the Lengthsman could erect the footpath sign which has been pulled out at the end of Lambrook Road.

A query was raised as to ownership of the fence behind the Village Hall and this will be passed to the Hall Committee.

HIGHWAYS

Cllr Rowswell is organising a winter store at the Pavilion of items needed in times of adverse weather and Cllr Finlay had been given some road signs.

A query was raised as to how far away from public highways shooting is permitted.

ALLOTMENTS

As there are now several vacant allotments, it was decided to ask neighbouring Parish Clerks if they have a waiting list of interested persons.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.