

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on Monday 9 June 2014 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Rowswell (Chair), Bishop, Brunt, Finlay, Hallett, Wakely, Mr B Walker (District Councillor), PCSO Ceara Sturt, Police Volunteer Barry Knowles and Mr Chris Cooper of the District Council Street Scene Department.

APOLOGIES Cllrs Cripps, England, Lillywhite, Messrs P Thompson (District Councillor) & C Le Hardy (County Councillor).

POLICING

The PCSO advised the Parish Council of changes to the Policing Structure and introduced Police Volunteer, Barry Knowles, who will attend future meetings and take back any queries. Cllr Wakely asked if Farm Watch, which works very well, would be affected by the changes and the PCSO will make enquiries.

There have been shed break-ins and theft of tools from South Petherton Allotments, also rogue traders knocking on doors offering to do gardening work.

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

MATTERS ARISING

Speed Limit Cllr Finlay wondered if the 20 mph speed limit at the School is necessary and whether it would be enforceable by law. If it is not enforceable, the Councillors did not see any reason to have it.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Brunt, as applicant, and Cllr Wakely, as relative, declared an interest in a planning application at Home Farm.

PARISH RANGER SCHEME

Following the resignation of the Lengthsman, Chris Cooper attended the meeting to give a presentation on the Parish Ranger Scheme as an alternative. The scheme offers horticultural work, drainage, repairs, litter clearance at an hourly rate of £17 + VAT. There are two full-time rangers employed by the District Council, based at Lufton Depot, who have the use of a wide range of machinery.

The Chairman thanked Chris for attending and all present felt they would like to try this scheme, provided Cllr Cripps is in favour, possibly one day per month using funds due from the current lengthsman scheme.

DC REPORT

Mr Walker said an official statement about dualling of the A303 is still awaited, the latest information giving no mention of a grade separated junction at South Petherton Roundabout but showing one for Cartgate.

PLANNING

Cllr Brunt left the room while an application was considered for the erection of general purpose agricultural and straw store at Home Farm, Lambrook Road. There were no objections to the application.

Permission was granted for alterations to attached outbuilding to form additional living accommodation at Home Farm, Lambrook Road.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Western Power Distribution sent a sample pack of suggested items to keep in the house in case of power cuts, as follows:

Analogue telephone (digital cordless phones will not work during power cut)

Torch with batteries

Powerbank (for charging essential items such as mobile phones)

Rechargeable radio

Foil blanket

Reuseable hand warmer

ACCOUNTS

Cheques were drawn for:

R Cripps – dog waste bags	£157.25
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D Ogilvie – weed killer	10.17
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PARISH PLAN

The Parish Council was asked to consider matching the District Council grant of £500 towards a projector. Although the Events Committee have had a practice run, the Councillors would like to see a public viewing on the borrowed equipment to gauge support before committing. They would also like to hear if the School and PreSchool have been asked if this would be of interest to them.

Cllr Finlay advised that Debbie Bambury, who has a Facebook page for local weather, would be happy to change it to a village noticeboard.

The Councillors hope the Events Committee will organise another St Petroc's Fayre next year.

HIGHWAYS

Cllr Rowswell has reported a number of blocked drains and potholes.

There appears to be a drainage problem between Branstons and Lopen Head (in the parish of Seavington).

FOOTPATHS

The Clerk was asked to report that a new metal kissing gate at Cowleaze is not closing properly.

ALLOTMENTS

The Councillors wondered how much it would cost to lay on water to the Allotments and the Clerk will enquire.

Cllr Finlay suggested a Facebook appeal to get a working party together to clear vacant allotments.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

