

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council which took place on Monday 13 June 2016 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Bishop (Chair), Brunt, Cripps, Finlay, Lillywhite, Wakely, Mr C Le Hardy (County Councillor) and one parishioner.

APOLOGIES Cllr England,
Messrs A Dance & C Raikes (District Councillors).

CASUAL VACANCY

Cllr Tevendale's resignation had been received and the necessary notice has been posted on the board. If the District Council does not receive requests for an election from ten electors for the parish by 1 July, the Parish Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option .

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr Halsey had sent a report, from which it was noted that there are several street representatives in place but more volunteers are needed. The first meeting will take place in July. In May, apart from the suspicious man in the car talking to children, there had been two more reports of suspicious incidents but both were found to be ungrounded.

PARKING AT RECREATION FIELD

Mr Bruce Barton, Chair of the Recreation Committee, was welcomed to the meeting to discuss parking provision at the Recreation Field. The plan is to keep the gates open to allow vehicles onto the hardcore area, which has been measured and a quote obtained for post and rail fencing around it. Enquiries will be made as to whether the County Council is likely to have any more hardcore available from road resurfacing. The Recreation Committee will apply to the District Council for 50% funding, the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute towards the project and several other sources of funding were also suggested.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council had heard that there were moves to restrict agricultural vehicles through Lopen and the Councillors made the County Councillor aware of their concerns in this respect. Mr Le Hardy said he aims to ensure that this will not happen as any diversion would be costly to farmers and the food they produce.

The County Councillor was asked to request a sign deterring HGVs from Greenway Lane.

PLANNING

No objections were raised to a planning application for a loft conversion and internal alterations at The Pound, Middle Street.

Permission had been granted for:

Erection of a single dwelling on land north of Brimfield.

Erection of two dwellings and garages on land OS 2733 Shells Lane.

ACCOUNTS

The 2015/16 Accounts and Annual Governance Statement were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Cheques were drawn for:

J Bishop – Flowers for retiring Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	£18.00
YPH – Hire of skip at Allotments	540.00
Pinnacle Accountancy – Internal Audit of 2015/16 Accounts	138.00

PARISH PLAN

The Queen's 90th birthday celebration at Cowleaze Meadow was well attended and a great success and a letter of thanks will be sent to the Events Team.

HIGHWAYS

Cllr Bishop said the drainage problem in Silver Street had not yet been resolved.

Potholes opposite the Shop and at the top of Silver St will be reported and the Highway Authority will be reminded about a broken drain lid in Littlefields Lane.

FOOTPATHS

Cllr Cripps reported that, following concerns about a broken stile on the path to Barrington, a kissing gate or Bristol gate will be installed by volunteers. The paths have not yet been trimmed and he is chasing this up.

ALLOTMENTS

The condition of the Allotments is disappointing and it is noted the ragwort is creeping back.

Allotment holders will be reminded of their obligations and the Parish Council will take steps to deal with the vacant ones.

An Open Day is taking place at the South Petherton Allotments on Sunday 17 July from 2 – 5 pm, with refreshments and a plant and produce stall.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

