

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on Monday 12 December 2016 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Bishop (Chair), Brunt, Cripps, England, Finlay, Joy, Lillywhite, Wakely, Messrs A Dance & C Raikes (District Councillors), I Hawkins, A Rowswell, Ms J Fryer (Planning Agent), Police Beat Manager Toni Lines & PCSO Ceara Sturt.

APOLOGIES Mr C Le Hardy (County Councillor).

CASUAL VACANCY

The Parish Councillors were pleased to co-opt Andrew Rowswell to fill the casual vacancy.

POLICING

Beat Manager Toni Lines spoke of recent thefts from outbuildings in the area and she recommended the use of lights on timers and reminded people not to leave Christmas presents on view.

WESSEX WATER ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

Chris Tattersall and David McKay were welcomed to the meeting to update the Council on the conclusion of their investigation of the Lam Brook, which was driven by European legislation. They found that water quality is good in the headwaters but moving down to South Petherton the nutrient levels need to be addressed as ecological status is poor. Abstraction at the licensed volume is unsustainable as the amount taken out needs to balance the amount of rainfall filling it. It is planned to reduce the abstraction licence and the treatment processes on site are to be upgraded, which will begin in summer 2017 and be complete by summer 2018.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Brunt declared an interest, as a family member, in a planning application at Home Farm. Cllr Wakely did not declare an interest as he would have no financial benefit.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A concerning incident had taken place where a man and woman had approached children waiting for the Swanmead School Bus, asking personal questions. The Police had spoken to the pupils at Swanmead and Shepton Schools.

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

MATTERS ARISING

HIGHWAYS It was confirmed that the patching work had been carried out and Cllr Joy had been advised that the extension of the white line would be done.

TELEPHONE KIOSK The District Council advised that the kiosk is not listed and it was agreed to apply to adopt it.

DEFIBRILLATOR Cllr Joy said that £557 had already been pledged for her sponsored swim.

DC REPORT

Adam Dance said the refuse collection will be changing from fortnightly to three weekly and a weighted sack will be provided for the weekly plastic recycling. Anyone who is disabled can arrange for their refuse to be collected from their front door or place of storage by phoning 01935 462462.

Crispin Raikes said the anaerobic digester at Frogmary Green is to be discussed by Area North again now that it has changed from electric to gas.

CC REPORT

The County Councillor's Report had been circulated.

PLANNING

Jo Fryer explained that the application for two single storey dwellings on land to rear of Fairview, Lambrook Road is to be considered again, but without the Section 106 agreement, following a change in planning law. The Parish Council had no objections to the application.

Cllr Brunt left the room while an application was considered for change of use and conversion of agricultural building to residential annexe at Home Farm, Lambrook Road, and there were no objections to the application.

ACCOUNTS

Cheques were drawn for:

South Som District Council – Parish Ranger	£301.92
R Cripps – wooden stakes for Allotments	23.76

A letter of thanks was received for the £25 donation to Citizens Advice Bureau.

HIGHWAYS

The Clerk was asked to request that the silt traps are cleared out.

A blocked drain on Barrington Main causes flooding between Lopen and the turning to Davids Lane and this will be reported along with potholes outside Littlefields Farm.

The Parish Ranger cannot use the drain sucking machine but he can make arrangements for it to be used in the village at £11 per hour.

ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Cripps had purchased some wooden stakes to mark the boundary of the Allotments and Cllr Wakely offered some wire.

Rabbits continue to be a problem and the Ranger will be asked to clear the brambles.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9 pm, wishing everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.