

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on Monday 14 December 2015 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Bishop (Chair), Cripps, Finlay, Lillywhite, Tevendale, Wakely, Messrs A Dance (District Councillor), C Le Hardy (County Councillor), Chris Tattersall (Wessex Water Environmental Investigations Programme Manager) and David McKay (Hydrogeologist).

APOLOGIES Cllrs Brunt, England, Mr C Raikes (District Councillor).

The Councillors were sorry to hear that Sarah Brunt's mother had passed away and send their condolences to the family.

WESSEX WATER PRESENTATION

Chris Tattersall and David McKay were welcomed to the meeting to speak about a study which is currently being undertaken on the Lam Brook.

Wessex Water abstracts water from the aquifer underlying the Lam Brook through two boreholes (drilled in 1940 and 1947) located at Compton Durville, with a licence to abstract 1,730 megalitres per year but usually takes less than half of this. They operate a sewage treatment works at South Petherton, from which effluent flows into the North Mills Brook just upstream of its confluence at East Lambrook. The status of Lam Brook has been assessed as poor, causing concern about life in the brook, the level of oxygen, pollution from phosphates and the amount of flow, so the Environment Agency has asked for an investigation to be carried out. This will be ongoing throughout next year and into 2017 and they would be interested to hear of any wells or boreholes in the area.

The Chairman expressed a vote of thanks for the presentation and the Parish Council will be given a further update at a later stage.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

DC REPORT

Adam Dance said the next full Council Meeting would be on 17 December and he wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

CC REPORT

The County Councillor's Report will be circulated by email and it was noted that the remaining County Council Budget is under severe pressure.

He was asked to investigate the drainage works which had eventually been carried out on Shepton Hill, after being postponed several times, but had only covered a small section of the drains which needed attention.

It was noted that the flashing lights outside the School have now been installed.

PLANNING

No objections were raised to an application to create a new opening and install external door to west elevation of Manor Barn, Littlefields Lane.

ACCOUNTS

Cheques were drawn for:

Mutts Butts – dog waste bags	£157.25
S Som Dist Council – Parish Ranger	301.92
T Rees – refund of Allotment deposit	25.00

PARISH PLAN

It was noted that parts of the village website require updating and Cllr Tevendale will offer to help with this.

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Cllr Finlay will update the Village Directory and Cllr Lillywhite said she would be happy to help.

HIGHWAYS

Cllr Tevendale said there appeared to be a marked increase in the number of tractors being driven through the main street. However, this is often unavoidable in a rural village.

ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Cripps had been strimming the untidy area at the Allotments and it is hoped to arrange a working party to clear it. Roger Cripps would be pleased to hear from any volunteers willing to help.

CHAIRMAN

Having acted as temporary Chairman, it was unanimously agreed that Jane Bishop take on this role until the election of officers next year and she agreed to do this.

AOB

Following a recent incident, Cllr Bishop reminded that carbon monoxide meters should be checked regularly and if the alarm goes off the Fire Brigade should be called.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.