

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on Monday 8 July 2013 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Cripps (Chair), Bishop, England, Hallett, Willoughby, Messrs P Thompson & B Walker (District Councillors), PCSO Ceara Sturt and 2 parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Clls Lillywhite, Rowswell, Wakely, Mr C LeHardy (County Councillor).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Bate spoke of the flooding problems experienced in Love Lane last winter and said the drainage pipe is inadequate to cope with the volume of water. Cllr Rowswell is pursuing the request for a silt trap at the entrance to Love Lane, possibly with grant funding. Cllr Hallett proposed, and it was unanimously agreed, to ask her to request an extra gully in Love Lane as well.

POLICING

The PCSO was advised of recent anti-social behaviour in the village involving the theft of eggs which were then thrown against cars in Lambrook Road. She had looked at the parking of cars close to the Buttle Lane junction and could ask the Highway Authority to paint white lines there. If the registration number of the early morning speeding motorcyclist could be noted, this matter could be taken further.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

DC REPORT

Mr Thompson said that Sue Steele will be representing the District Council on a task force set up to investigate the flooding problems on the Somerset Levels. The District Councillors who were elected to run South Petherton Parish Council temporarily have now co-opted six Councillors so can now resign and leave them to co-opt the rest of the Council. Teresa Oulds, District Council Neighbourhood Development Officer, is looking into the feasibility study for the Pre-School to move onto the School site.

Mr Walker said the Full District Council Meeting for July had been cancelled and the next meeting will take place in September. As yet, there is no news on the Local Plan.

PLANNING

Permission has been granted for a single storey rear extension to Stephens, Church Street.

ACCOUNTS

Cheques were drawn for:

D Clarke – Clerk’s expenses	£307.96
Pinnacle Accountancy Services – Internal Audit 2012/13	£102.00

PARISH PLAN

Cllr Willoughby confirmed that the Recreation Field had been mown three times prior to the School using it but the Whacky Olympics had been cancelled due to the low number of entrants.

The Recreation Committee are pleased that Alec and Caroline Grant have joined them as Treasurer and Secretary and regular meetings will now take place on the first Monday of each month.

The Recreation Committee wondered if the Parish Council would consider increasing their grant but the Councillors would need to know details of other income before deciding on this.

A temporary notice had been placed at the entrance to the Field, prohibiting parking, and Cllr Willoughby was asked by the Parish Council to enquire about allowing parking on part of the field.

Cllr Cripps reported that branches had fallen onto the footpath at Cowleaze and these had been cleared by the landowner, who will be asked to consider whether other branches could pose a risk to footpath walkers and to liaise with Cllr Cripps.

The sale of the village shop to a private buyer appears to be going ahead.

LENGTHSMAN

The Lengthsman has been on holiday but will be back on 12 July to carry on with footpath trimming.

HIGHWAYS

It was reported that the stump of a dead ash tree is protruding into the road at Shells Lane and Cllr Cripps will ask the landowner to remove it.

Cllr Willoughby spoke of a pothole at the Lambrook Road/Piece Lane junction, which he will report on the website.

FOOTPATHS

Cllr England had noticed that the footpath from Home Farm to Washcross had not been cleared and it was confirmed that the Lengthsman would be doing this.

The Clerk was asked to inform the Dog Warden that the dog waste bins are not being emptied often enough.

ALLOTMENTS

It was confirmed that Mark Singleton's shed is now in position.

There are still some vacant allotments and there are problems with badgers eating some of the produce.

Cllr Willoughy asked if the bank at the top of the Allotments could be strimmed and Cllr Cripps said he would do this.

David Laws, MP will be visiting the village on Monday 29 July at 10.30 am, near the Duke of York.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.