

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

PRESENT Cllrs Rowswell (Chair), Bishop, Cripps, Hallett, Lillywhite, Wakely, Mr B Walker (District Councillor) and 6 parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs England, Lewis, Messrs P Thompson (District Councillor), P Maxwell (County Councillor).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident of Silver Street expressed concern about soil running off the fields and onto the road during recent wet weather. Silt has also been a problem in Lambrook Road and Washcross Lane. This matter will be taken up with the County Council.

Some residents of Brimgrove Lane attended the meeting to air their views about the behaviour of a small minority after the recent Shepfest at the Recreation Field and Cllr Rowswell had attended the meeting of the Lethbridge Trust to express disappointment about this.

The problem of dog fouling at the Recreation Field was also brought to the Parish Council's attention and it is felt that the play area should be fenced off again to prevent this.

Also of concern is the speed of cars and motorcycles along Brimgrove Lane.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rowswell declared an interest, as a relative of the applicant, in a planning application at Watts Cottage, Middle Street.

Cllr Lillywhite declared an interest in flooding at Washcross as her property was affected.

DC REPORT

Mr Walker will speak to Les Collett about reinstating fencing around the play area as, apparently, the District Council had requested the removal of the original fencing to comply with legislation.

For the third month running, there is unlikely to be a full District Council Meeting.

PLANNING

Plans were considered for the extension to the south aisle of St Michael's Church to house disabled toilet and kitchen. The Parish Council agreed that these facilities would be advantageous to the Church but did not feel the need was best met by the provision of an extension. They felt a solution within the current Church building would be more suitable. It was also felt that the village as a whole had not been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

There were no objections to plans to:

Convert garage into residential annexe and erect car port at Stone Masons Cottage, Shells Lane.

Erect two storey rear extension (revised drawings) to Watts Cottage, Middle Street.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS WORKSHOPS

Workshops on Neighbourhood Plans, organised by the District Council, will be attended by Cllrs Bishop, Cripps, Lillywhite and Rowswell.

ACCOUNTS

A cheque for £750 was drawn for South Petherton Parish Council for the Lengthsman's Salary.

PARISH PLAN

The next event will be the Bonfire Night celebrations to be held on 3 November.

Cllr Rowswell was disappointed that, following the disturbance after the Shepfest event, someone had sent a letter to the residents of Brimgrove which was worded in such a way that it looked as if it had come from the Parish Council.

A letter was received from Wessex Water, who will be undertaking a manhole survey at Cowleaze.

VILLAGE TROUGH

The Parish Council is grateful for Stella Lock's kind offer to take over maintaining the plants in the village trough and a letter of thanks will be sent to her.

LENGTHSMAN

It was agreed to purchase 5 litres of Round-up for the Lengthsman's use, to be stored by Cllr Cripps.

HIGHWAYS

Concern was expressed about an increase in the number of lorries using the narrow lanes at Hurcott and Boxstone and the Councillors wondered if drivers are finding the weight restriction sign at Lopen Head misleading.

Recent flooding at Washcross was discussed and the Clerk will ask the Highway Authority if the replacement of the pipe on the top road could have been a contributing factor to this. Blocked drains down the hill leading to Lambrook will also be reported.

The District Council has a supply of daffodil bulbs for the village and it was decided that these would be planted around the Village Stones, at the Recreation Field, on the banks leading to the Churchyard and at St Michaels.

FOOTPATHS

Cllr Cripps reported that it is possible to get around most of the major footpaths in the village with the Cowleaze mower.

ALLOTMENTS

There are some vacant allotments at present, which will be advertised.

DEFIBRILATOR

A defibrillator has been offered for use in the village and thought will be given as to where this could best be sited.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.