

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 21st March 2018.

Present: Cllrs. R. O'Hare, J. Duke, C. Henson, A. Sparling, J. Tombleson, Chairman D. Powell, Clerk, and Mr C Blackburn

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN.

Apologies for absence were received from J. Higson due to work commitments. The reasons given were approved.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th FEBRUARY 2018

Resolved: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Mr Colin Blackburn addressed the meeting to bring to their attention the damage occurring to the bridge by the pub. He pointed out that the frequency of incidences of damage had increased in recent years and that the County Council Highways Dept would no longer be willing to repair any damage that was not considered dangerous. Mr Blackburn asked that the Parish Council consider any steps that might be taken to reduce the incidence of 'bridge strikes'. The council after discussion decided that the damage was a result of large vehicles being unable to negotiate the somewhat tight corner safely due to vehicles being parked adjacent to the telephone box.

Resolved: The Chairman to speak to David Peake of Highways to see what he can suggest.

Mr Blackburn then left the meeting.

4. PLANNING. Planning Application 6/34/108/12. Thorn Farm. Change of use of agricultural land to site one shepherd's hut holiday accommodation unit and one converted livestock trailer accommodating toilet and shower.

This application was supported unanimously.

5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Play area update. Following the recent public meeting to discuss this the play area committee will be going ahead with the renewal/replacement of the existing condemned play area. A living willow den will be built on 24th March on the playing field. The play area committee are looking into obtaining more funding. The play area site may be moved to another site on the field.

6. REPORT ON EXMOOR PANEL MEETING

The Chairman had recently attended an Exmoor Panel meeting and reported that Speed Indicator Devices can be provided to those villages that request one for two weeks at a cost of £100 per installation.

Porlock Parish Council have produced a Coastal Strip Issues Document which contains a lot of very interesting information.

Rural crime – the poaching problem is ongoing and the police are joining forces with Devon police and are trying to obtain more automatic number recognition sites. It is a problem to police such a large and mainly isolated area.

The new council will be formed in the near future and there will be 58 councillors instead of 84 in West Somerset. The need for a councillor will not be based on area as at present but on the number of people resident (2,063 electorate on average per councillor) which means that each councillor could potentially have a huge area to cover.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk requested a cheque value £25 be signed in favour of SALC in regard to a councillors training course recently attended by Cllr Duke.

Resolved: The cheque was signed by Cllr O'Hare and Cllr Henson.

The Clerk produced the latest bank statement showing a balance as at 28th February of £3,010.52.

8. ITEMS OF INTEREST

There will be a road closure in the lane from Pooltown to Newcombe Farm from 26th March for four days.

There will be an overnight road closure on The A39 in Carhampton with effect from 18th April. The works are expected to last for 4 evenings from 18.30 to 23.30 hours (excluding 20th April to 24th April).

The Clerk had received a telephone call from the owner of the old Blacksmiths Shop opposite New Mills regarding his lack of broadband connection. It was felt that this is not a matter for the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.