

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 2018 in Luxborough Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Duke, Cllr Henson, Cllr Sparling, Francis Nicholson, Martin Dewdney, Chairman D Powell and Clerk, D Wass

1. **Apologies for Absence** were given by R. Lillis, J. Higson, J. Tombleson and R. O'Hare and the reasons given were approved.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Dewdney declared an interest in the planning application as he is on the ENP Planning Committee and would leave the room when this item is discussed.

Francis Nicholson addressed the meeting and gave a report on the micro provider scheme. It has been decided that large contract providers for home care do not work as well in rural areas and smaller companies formed to assist people to live in their own homes are more effective. Social Services assess need and the County Council will provide the care required.

With regard to delayed transfers of care, commonly known as bed blocking, Somerset County Council is one of the most improved councils with social workers working in hospitals and then ensuring that the therapy and care needed happens in the home rather than in hospital.

David Fothergill, the leader of Somerset County Council, has been considering whether the County and District Councils should unite. The current arrangement creates structural difficulties. There are mixed reactions to this so far. To become unitary would result in considerable savings in admin costs. This is in very early stages at present.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st March 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Planning.

Cllr Dewdney left the room.

The Clerk read out an email from Duncan Hume of the Roundhouse together with a copy of a letter he had sent to ENP Planning department objecting to this proposal.

It was unanimously decided that this proposed new access is very dangerous due to the limited visibility and all councillors objected to the application.

Cllr Dewdney returned to the meeting.

5. **Chairmans Announcements.** The Chairman reported he had contacted West Somerset Highways regarding the bridge near the pub and asked for advice to prevent more damage. A representative of Highways made a site visit and recommended painting white lines on the side of the road to keep parking off the road, he felt a bollard would be too unsightly.

Resolution: The Clerk to write to David Peake of Highways and request white lines to be painted on the road with a copy to Martin Dewdney

The Chairman also pointed out two large potholes to the highways representative, one near Hazery and one on Fellons Way and requested these to be repaired.

6. Flood Group Meeting Report.

The latest West Somerset Flood Group meeting was held in Luxborough Village Hall on 25th April. The new head of Somerset Rivers Association, David Mitchell, was introduced to the group and much of the meeting was taken up with explaining to him at length the problems encountered in West Somerset and how most of them are unique to this area and differ from places like the Somerset Levels due to the geography of the area. An example of this is how flooding can occur with little or no notice on Exmoor and disappear as quickly whereas on the Somerset Levels rivers rise and fall much more slowly.

The next meeting will be held on 12th July.

7. Insurance Renewal

The renewal proposal from Zurich was approved by C Henson and seconded by J Duke and a cheque for £198.35 was signed.

8. Financial Matters

- Precept. The Clerk informed the meeting that the precept funds has been received from WSC on 26th April 2018.
- Annual Governance and Accountability Return. This form had been completed by the Clerk and the internal auditor, Mrs P. McGlynn, and was approved by the meeting and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman and will be forwarded in order to obtain a Certificate of Exemption. This will mean that an external audit of the accounts will no longer be required under the Transparency Code.
- An invoice from SALC was presented for the affiliation fee and a cheque for £51.77 was signed.
- An email from Function 28 who provide the website was read out which offered to install an SSL certificate onto the parish website at an annual cost of £49.99 plus VAT in order to comply with the new GDPR rulings. Cllr Dewdney offered to consult Somerset County Council on this for advice as to whether this is necessary.

Items of Interest

- Project Proposal to Support Rural Communities in West Somerset invited councillors to attend a meeting in Bicknoller Village Hall to discuss installing Electric Car Charge Points. Grants are available but cllr Dewdney pointed out that these only cover 75% of the cost. It was felt that this was not needed at present in Luxborough.
- There will be another temporary closure of the A39 Minehead to Williton road for two evenings commencing 21st May from 18.30 to 23.30.

- A request from Musgrove Park Hospital had been received for a donation to help raise money for a third MRI Scanner. It was felt that this is a very worthwhile cause that everyone can potentially benefit from and Luxborough PC should donate £50.

Proposed: Chairman. Seconded: C Henson.

A cheque for £50 was signed.

- A decision notice had been received from ENP Planning Dept regarding the retrospective application for a shepherds hut at Thorn Farm which was refused.
- The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 February at Williton Council Chambers were made available for all cllrs to read.
- Martin Dewdney reported on the new Council merger status. At present preparations are underway to form a shadow authority which will be active until the new council is formed next April. It is proposed to have 14 councillors instead of 28. Luxborough will come under Greater Exmoor ward led by Steven Pugsley. It is also proposed to form a shadow executive to work alongside the new shadow authority. The offices in Williton will remain in use and meetings will be held there as well as in Taunton. The new council website will be much more transactional with a lot more activities being able to be completed online.
- Cllr Henson reported that he had recently found a bag of refuse in the woods which had been pulled apart by foxes and in it were several letters with the householders name and address. He reported this to the council but was told that unless it was dumped on the road it was not their responsibility but the landowners.

Items for the next Meeting

There were no items brought up for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting and will be held after the Parish Assembly which will commence at 7.30pm in the village hall on 30th May 2018.