

LUXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 31st October 2018 in Luxborough Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman, D. Powell, Vice Chairman, A. Sparling, Cllr Duke, Cllr Henson, Cllr O'Hare, M. Dewdney, R. Lillis, Clerk, D. Wass

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr Tombleson due to absence , Cllr Yiend due to illness, PCSO Thompson and PCSO Legg due to work commitments. The reasons given were approved.
2. **Declarations of Interest** were received from M. Dewdney and A. Sparling regarding the planning application.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2018.** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Planning Application 6/20/18/104 Monkham Farm.** Mr R. Maddock. Single storey side elevations.

M. Dewdney and Cllr Sparling left the room. Councillors fully support this application and feel that the proposed works would be a visual improvement the property.

5. **Recent thefts and Police Response.** A report was read out from Sue Thompson and Matthew Legg which included the two reports of recent thefts in the village. It was stressed that unless victims call 101 then incidents will not get logged. Cllrs expressed concern about the lack of response from 101 and the amount of time left hanging on the phone and the difficulty in getting through at all which makes reporting suspicious activity and thefts very difficult if not impossible. The Clerk is to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner highlighting these problems with the 101 system as the crime figures do not reflect what is actually happening as crimes cannot be reported. It was suggested that communication by email would be much more convenient than by telephone.

In addition to the recent thefts from gardens and outbuildings, on Tuesday 30th October a local elderly resident was targeted by two conmen who persuaded her to drive to Roadwater post office and withdraw £250 to pay them for cutting up a fallen tree which they had never touched. The description given was of two men, one in his forties driving a light coloured estate car or 4 x 4 and any sightings of them need to be reported.

6. **Pool Town Bridge Clearance of Vegetation.** It was agreed that a group of volunteers would meet one Saturday morning in November to clear the vegetation around the bridge. It was also reported that earlier today a lorry had hit the bridge with his trailer causing a lot of damage. Witnesses had given a very clear description of the lorry and its registration number and had reported it to the police and the haulage company. The Clerk to follow this up and contact West Somerset District Highways and the

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haulage company and to write to Mrs Quinn thanking her for her vigilance in reporting this.

7. **Airband Update.** The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Airband finally and that a survey would need to be carried out on the village hall to ensure that the system would work in that location. The survey is booked for Tuesday 13th November between 12pm and 4pm. If successful then Airband will carry out the installation, supply the equipment and maintain the service at no cost to the village. Cllr Duke also reported that EE have finally confirmed that 4G should be available in the vicinity of the village hall by January and then in the Churchtown area after that.
8. **Beech Trees Update.** The large beech tree was felled today and the second one will be felled tomorrow (1st November) and the third tree cut back as well. N. Gregory is taking all the timber away and will save any parts of the trunk that are healthy for the village. The first tree had significant disease nearly all the way up the trunk affecting much of the inside of the trunk indicating that the fungus was very advanced. A review of the third tree will be made by SCC once the other two have been felled to see if it is deemed unhealthy also and needs to be felled as well. SCC will not fell healthy trees so unless this tree is proved to have signs of disease it will be left in situ.
9. **Chairmans Announcements.** The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended a meeting in Timberscombe last Monday night which was called by S. Pugsley to discuss the cutbacks regarding gritting. Mr Pugsley had written to SCC on behalf of the Exmoor Panel Parishes requesting more assistance than is proposed with the result that some of the routes would be reinstated but unfortunately not the one in Luxborough. Mr Pugsley is to write again on behalf of Luxborough but is not very hopeful of the outcome. What will happen in the future regarding gritting in our parish is that there will be no precautionary gritting but when the Highways Warden (D. Powell) reports an incident then gritting will be carried out. The Clerk was asked to put a notice on the website requesting residents to notify the H. Warden of problems regarding ice and snow on the roads in order that he may notify highways as soon as possible.

With regard to the salt bins and bags of salt the District Council has said that it is reasonably confident that for this winter they will be able to maintain at their cost what we have at present and they have a map showing the location of the salt bins in the parish.

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10. Financial Matters. No financial matters to report. The estimated bank balance as of 31st October is £3,129.

11. Items of Interest.

- There will be an event on 22nd November at Porlock village hall to celebrate the historic signposts achievement over Exmoor and to thank volunteers.
- A poster advertising free training courses for W. Somerset residents had been received and will be displayed on the village notice board by the Clerk.
- A report from the Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of Somerset West and Taunton was read out.
- An Options Appraisal Report following the Housing Need Survey was read out. This will be discussed at the Exmoor Panel Meeting next week. The survey revealed that more rental property is required in the area and it was suggested by Cllr O'Hare that perhaps removing the holiday cottage occupancy restriction to allow a more permanent rental would solve this problem without the need to build more houses as several holiday cottage owners would prefer this option.
- M. Dewdney informed the meeting that money is available for projects such as the play area from the Somerset Community Foundation, contact is Val Bishop. The Clerk to pass details on to the Play Area Committee.

12. Items for the next meeting.

- Prior to the next meeting it was agreed to assess the timber from the felled beech trees to see if any and how much of it can be made into benches for the village.
- The precept will be discussed and agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed

Date

DRAFT