

## MINUTES

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Luxborough village hall on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** D. Powell, A. Sparling, R. O'Hare, J. Tombleson, D. Yiend, C. Henson, F. Nicholson

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr Duke due to holiday, S. Pugsley due to prior meeting and S. Thompson due to clash of shift, L. Quinn due to no update available. The reasons given were approved.
2. **Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting** were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Chairmans Report.**
  - Following the resignation of our footpaths office Colin Blackburn who has left the village a new officer has been appointed, Nick Scrivens.
  - Play Area. Nearly £3,000 raised so things can now get moving and should start to progress a bit quicker.
  - Flood Group is still going strong and are doing a marvellous job.
  - Affordable Housing Group. An advisory group has been set up of which D. Powell is a member and it is looking very positive. Several landowners have come forward with possible sites two of which look very likely.
  - Gritting. There was no precautionary gritting last winter which caused a few problems one weekend but F. Nicholson anticipated that next winter it will be reinstated and also that bins will be filled but not bags supplied as they are too wasteful. F Nicholson advised to purchase more bins for next winter and to ensure money from the precept was set aside for this.
  - The two beech trees have been felled leaving one standing and we are hoping to get a replant in conjunction with ENP who are negotiating with SCC highways. The felled timber unfortunately was too diseased to be made into benches. The Clerk reported she is liaising with Robin Offer from ENP who in turn is in contact with the new Highways Trees Officer.
  - 4G has been tested in the village hall by EE and the equipment is still there but we have no information as to when the system will be active. D Powell is still chasing up Airband who need to put a transmitter on the pole up at Monkham still to enable wifi in the village hall. This should be carried out soon as conditions are dry enough. R'Ohare reported that another company is surveying the church with a view to put 4G on the church in a government sponsored initiative to cover the areas not covered by normal 4G. A survey of the church is being carried out next week. R'Ohare will report back to the PC.
  - There have been a few shed thefts in the area and a resident was targeted by conmen but apart from these incidents the parish remains mainly crime free.
  - The bridge at Pool Town was hit by a lorry and has been repaired, there is still a portion of the bridge left to repair but this was a separate issue and not covered by the transport company's insurance. This will be repaired at a later date.
  - The litter pick had a good response and the area looks much better.

- Story Start has commenced in the village hall and is going well and is now happening once a fortnight.
- We donated £50 towards the MRI scanner at Musgrove which is money well spent.
- We have our new merged council now – Somerset West and Taunton.
- The Chairman concluded by thanking the Clerk for her work, the members for their support and Cllr Sparling for attending the Exmoor Panel meetings and all her hard work. Thanks also to F. Nicholson and he would like the Clerk to send an email to Martin Dewdney and Richard Lillis thanking them for all their time and effort.
- The councillors unanimously thanked the Chairman for all his hard work over the year.

#### **4. Clerks Report**

- Following the resignation of James Higson, Doug Yiend has come onto the council and will be attending a course in June for new councillors run by SALC. It was agreed that the PC would cover the cost of £25.
- Planning throughout the year:
- 1 Loftbrook applied for a new entrance and hardstanding which was approved.
- Thorn Farm applied and was granted permission to remove the AOC on the farmhouse but it has since come to light that the farmhouse was built in the 1990s without permission as it was not on the correct site and the owners have now applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the house with no restrictions as the original restrictions would not apply.
- Monkham Farm has applied for a side extension which was approved.
- Old Stowey have applied for change of use of a pottery studio to residential which is undecided.
- Allercott Farm applied for retrospective permission for a timber yard on the side of the road which has been refused.
- Pool Farm applied for an extension which was granted.
- Following the series of thefts which brought to light the difficulties in reporting crime by telephone there is now an email system in place for crime reporting.

#### **5. Items for the next meeting. None**

**The meeting closed at 8.05 pm**

**Signed .....**

**Date .....**