WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 27th September 2016

**16/32 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: Read (Chairman), Biccard, Harrison-Sleep, Knight and Middleton**

**Public: 3 members of the public, Cllr J Williams (TDBC)**

**Apologies: Cllr Lodge,**

**16/33 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**There were no declarations of interests.**

**16/34 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on 26th July 2016, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**16/35 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. **Road Safety issues (16/25)**

**The Clerk is still awaiting a response from Cllr Fothergill regarding the request that SCC considers undertaking a further speed monitoring exercise.**

**16/36 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**The problem of vehicles travelling at inappropriate speeds was again raised by parishioners present. It was agreed that the concerns would be highlighted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.**

**Bel Deering, the new manager of the RSPCA site, who was present, will reinforce to her staff the need to drive carefully.**

**16/37 TO DISCUSS VACANCY CAUSED BY THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR NICHOLLS**

**The Clerk confirmed that the Council were able to co-opt to fill the vacancy as following the formal notice of vacancy; there had not been a request for an election.**

**16/38 TO AGREE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PRECEPT CAPPING**

**The Government is currently carrying out a consultation exercise on precept capping of Parish Councils. Larger Town Councils are likely to face a capping level of 2%, any increases above which would require approval by way of a referendum. The Government is also seeking views as to whether to extend this principle to all Parish Councils.**

**The Council agreed that it would respond to the consultation highlighting the impracticalities of extending the capping principle to small Parish Councils and opposing the suggestion.**

**16/39 TO AGREE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO SCC CONSULcTATION- LISTENING, LEARNING, CHANGING**

**Following a discussion, The Council agreed a response to the SCC consultation. The Council did not think that Council Tax should be raised to protect key services and did not support the SCC Vision for Somerset.**

**The Council considered that the 3 main areas of public health that SCC should address were healthy eating, increasing physical activity and mental health.**

**16/40 REMOVAL OF BT TELEPHONE BOX AT SLOUGH GREEN – TO CONSIDER COUNCIL’S ACTION**

**The Council has been advised that BT is proposing to disconnect its service to the Slough Green telephone box.**

**It was agreed that the Council would request usage figures from BT but it was acknowledged that the service was no doubt being discontinued due to low usage.**

**16/41 NOTIFICATION OF 2016-2018 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD.**

**The Council accepted and approved the NJC 2016-2018 National Salary Award which took effect from 1/04/2016.**

**16/42 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

**The following cheques were approved**

**Clerk's** salary £265.12

**Clerk's expenses £ 17.90**

**16/43 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Planning Application 47/16/0011: Construction of a replacement seal pond with bird enclosure at the RSPCA wildlife centre.**

**The Council agreed to support this application as the proposal has the same footprint as the existing pond and there is no visual impact on neighbouring properties.**

**16/44 REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

**Report from Footpaths leader : No problems to report**

**Report from Trees/Conservation leader: Nothing to report**

**Report on Highway matters: The repairs to the collapsed wall of the watercourse at Griffin Lane have been completed**

* **Report from SALC representative: Cllr Harrison-Sleep was unable to attend the SALC AGM which took place on 17th September.**

**16/45 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

* **New recycling site measures**

**With effect from 3/10/16, restrictions will be introduced regarding the type of vehicle which will be allowed to bring household waste. A free permit will be required to use a single axle trailer with a car or to use a van or pick-up (without a trailer). Large vehicles, such as tractors, horse boxes or Luton vans will no longer be able to use the household recycling sites.**

**Further details can be found at** [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/permits](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/permits)

* **Changes to mobile library service**

**From January 2016, the mobile library will no longer stop at the Farmers Arms but will continue to stop at Slough Green**

* **A358 Camera survey work**

**As part of the information gathering exercise relating to the A358 improvements, cameras will be situated at various points to record the activity and pattern of usage on local roads and footpaths. Various options for the improvement scheme are due to be published in early 2017 for public consultation.**

**16/46 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 29th November 2016 at 7.30pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.05pm**