**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th March 2018**

**Present:** Councillors J. Knight (Chair), C. Brook, L. Comer, R. Currie, C. Donald, R. Waller and A. Wells.

**Also present:** County Councillor Anna Groskop

**Clerk:** Zöe Godden

Six members of the public were present at the start of the meeting.

**The meeting started at 19:30**

1. **Apologies:** PCSO Tim Russell
2. **Declarations of Interests:** Councillor Brook declared a personal interest in item 6 ii a) as a neighbour to the planning application site. Councillor Comer declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 6 ii a) as a director of Hadspen Quarry Ltd. Members noted that Councillor Comer had been granted a dispensation to speak on item 6 ii a) on the grounds that granting the dispensation was in the interests of persons living in the council’s area. Councillor Comer would not take part in discussions or voting and would leave the room while these were taking place.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th February 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **To receive reports from**
5. **County Councillor Anna Groskop** encouraged members to take part in the County Council’s library consultation. Anna told members that driving skills and refresher training was available from Somerset Road Safety Partnership for the over 60s. Communities would need to find at least 10 attendees and provide and pay for a venue. Anna noted the problems caused by the road closure at Strutters Hill. She had asked County Highways to open the road at nights and weekends, but this was not possible due to safety concerns. The Chairman thanked Councillor Wells for successfully requesting additional diversion signage from County Highways.
6. District Councillor Mike Beech was not present.
7. PCSO Tim Russell had sent his apologies and submitted a report, which is attached to these minutes.

**19:36** - It was **agreed** to bring item 6 to this point in the meeting.

1. **To review Planning Applications, Road Closures, Foot Path Diversions.**
2. Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings:
3. **18/00060/FUL** – Erection of replacement porch to rear of dwelling and timber cladding to existing sections of dwelling to rear. Replacement of uPVC windows with powder coated aluminium windows, Twillbee Cottage, Mill Lane, Pitcombe. BA10 0PE – **Granted with conditions**

 **Noted.**

1. New Planning Applications:
2. **18/00415/CPO –** Hadspen Quarry Extension for the extraction of Hadspen Stone, Grove Farm, Lime Kiln Lane, CASTLE CARY. BA7 7NX

**19:36** - Councillor Comer took a seat in the public area. The Chairman allowed a Public Open Session.

Some members of the public were concerned about the impact of quarry activities on air quality, the risk of increased noise pollution and the possible effect of the proposed application on the water quality of a spring that provided drinking water to some local dwellings.

The applicants addressed queries from members of the public.

**19:59** – The Chair brought the Public Open Session to a close and Councillor Comer left the room.

In response to questions from members, Mr Comer confirmed that 18 people were employed at the Quarry and that there was enough stone on his land to keep his business running for approximately 12 years. Mr Comer explained that it was very difficult to accurately measure ambient noise as levels could be affected by many external factors.

Members noted the concerns of residents but felt that they were not able to make recommendations in relation to the technical points of this planning application with any competence.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council supported the application in principle pending responsive answers, to the satisfaction of the community, regarding all technical aspects of the application, including the possible impact on a spring located to the north of the site that provided drinking water to several nearby properties.**

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

**20:18** – Councillor Comer returned to the meeting and five members of the public left the meeting.

1. **18/00161/FUL –** The erection of cheese and butter production facility including meeting and welfare areas with associated parking, lighting, landscaping and drainage. White House Farm, Wyke Road, Wyke Champflower, BRUTON. BA10 0PU

Members had no comments to make on this occasion.

1. Other Planning matters: None
2. Temporary Road Closures: None
3. Path Diversions - None.
4. **Matter Arising for report:**
5. Highways and Drains:
6. Update – nothing to report.
7. To note problems with the diversion on Strutters Hill and agree any further action to be taken.

It was noted that the verges and road sides of the diversion route had become badly damaged as a result of the extra traffic using the small lanes involved. Councillor Wells informed members that John Nicholson from County Highways had confirmed that remedial works would take place on the diversion route once Strutters Hill was re-opened.

**20:22** – Councillor Waller left the meeting.

**20:23** – Councillor Waller returned to the meeting.

1. To note receipt of a Diversion of Highway Order from the Department for Transport relating to the stopping up of the A371 north of the junction with Shatwell Lane

**Noted.**

1. To consider a draft response to the Local Government Boundary Commission’s ward review consultation.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the draft submission as presented. The Clerk was instructed to submit the document to the Local Government Boundary Commission.**

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. **Reports from Portfolio holders not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

The finger post at the Nettlecombe Hill end of footpath WN22/9 had rotted off and was lying down. Councillor Brook agreed to report this to Somerset County Council.

**(Action Cllr Brook)**

Councillor Brook reported that a replacement kissing gate had been installed at footpath WN 22/13.

Councillor Currie noted that the gully on Pitcombe Rock, closest to the junction with the A359, still needed attention. Councillor Wells said he would remind John Nicholson from County Highways about this outstanding issue.

**(Action Cllr Wells)**

1. **Finance.**
2. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the budget vs spend sheet as presented.**

1. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for February 2018.

The cash book and bank reconciliation were checked by Councillor Waller.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the cash book and bank reconciliation as presented.**

1. To approve payments of:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Zöe Godden | Salary and expenses February 2018 | £251.88 |
| Viking | Black printer cartridge | £ 26.12 |
| Paul Vincent | Installation of kissing gate | £ 39.00 |
| Charles Brook | Materials for installation of kissing gate | £ 52.80 |

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the payments as presented and that Councillors Comer and Knight would sign the cheques.**

1. **Correspondence/Publications received for report:**
2. Highways England - Invitation to comment on the proposed A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council supported the proposed improvements.**

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. Highways England - Invitation to comment on proposals to improve the A358 between the M5 at Taunton and Southfields Roundabout on the A303 near Ilminster.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council supported the proposed improvements.**

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. The MG Car Club – To note receipt of information relating to the 2018 Kimber Classic Trial taking place on 7th April.

**Noted.**

1. SALC - Invitation to comment on proposals from DEFRA to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector, including fly-tipping.

It was **agreed** that Councillor Wells would complete the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

**(Action Cllr Wells)**

1. Niall Hobhouse – Invitation to visit Shatwell Farm in relation to an upcoming planning application and notification of an Open Day to take place on 7th April.

**Noted.**

1. SCC – Information relating to a revised Speed Indicator Device Scheme and to consider taking part.

Members did not wish to join the County Council SID scheme but instructed the Clerk to contact Bruton Town Council to ask if their SID scheme was still running and to ask for the results of the SID recently placed in Pitcombe Parish on the A359.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. South Somerset District Council – Invitation to attend the Annual Town and Parish Council meeting on Monday 23rd April; to agree any members to attend.

It was **agreed** that Councillors Knight and Wells would attend if possible.

**(Action Cllrs Knight & Wells)**

1. **Any Other Business:**

*Please note this item can only be used for statements of information and requests for items to be included on the agenda at the next meeting.*

The Chairman agreed to make enquiries about District Council representation for Pitcombe.

**(Action Cllr Knight)**

It was noted that the grit bin at the top of Lime Kiln Lane was nearly empty. The Clerk was instructed to ask for this to be refilled.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

Councillor Brook noted that it was important for parishioners to check up on elderly residents during periods of cold weather, such as that experienced recently. The Chairman agreed to add a comment to this effect to the next Parish Magazine.

**(Action Cllr Knight)**

1. **Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 10th April 2018 at 7.30pm**

**The meeting ended at 20:53**

Signed Date