**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th June 2018**

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

**Clerk:** Zöe Godden

No members of the public were present at the start of the meeting.

**The meeting started at 19:30**

1. **Apologies:**  Councillors Comer and Wells.
2. **Declarations of Interests:** There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th May 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
2. **To receive reports from**
3. **County Councillor Anna Groskop** was not present.
4. **District Councillor Mike Beech** was not present.
5. **PCSO Tim Russell** was not present.

1. **Matter Arising for report:**
2. Highways and Drains – Update.

Councillor Knight informed members that Somerset County Council was waiting for a licence from Natural England, which was needed before the badger sett on the road between Cole and Hadspen could be removed. Natural England was dealing with a back-log, which accounted for the delay in receipt of the licence.

Councillor Knight reported that local farmer, Martin Jennings, had dug a new gully to aid the diversion of a spring that circumvented the current gully at Pitcombe Farm. Members noted their appreciation.

Councillor Knight also reported that there was an outstanding problem with a pothole near Pitcombe Farm that was causing concern, although Somerset County Council had said that it did not meet their criteria for repair.

1. **To review Planning Applications, Road Closures, Foot Path Diversions.**
2. Outcomes of applications considered at previous meetings:
3. **18/00649/FUL** - Erection of single storey building and repair of existing barn, Shatwell Farm, Shatwell Lane, Yarlington. BA9 8DL – **Granted with conditions.**
4. **18/00665/FUL & 18/00666/LBC** - The carrying out of internal and external alterations to include the erection of a single storey rear extension and demolition of outbuilding, Priddles Hill House, Lime Kiln Lane, Hadspen. BA7 7LX – **Granted with conditions.**
5. **18/00789/FUL & 18/00790/LBC** - The erection of a new boundary wall, Hadspen House, Hadspen Estate, Hadspen. BA7 7NG – **Granted with conditions.**
6. **18/00913/LBC -** Alterations to the Clock House and Barton buildings (Revised application from previously approved alterations under 16/02677/LBC), Hadspen House, Hadspen Estate, Hadspen, Castle Cary. BA7 7NG – **Granted with conditions.**

**Noted.**

1. New Planning Applications:

**18/01369/FUL –** The erection of a single storey building to be used as a gymnasium in connection with hotel/spa under construction, Hadspen House, Hadspen Estate, Hadspen, Castle Cary. BA7 7NG

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council recommended approval of this application.**

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

1. Other planning matters: To note receipt of an email from SSDC regarding development at Pitcombe Hill.

**Noted.**

1. Temporary Road Closures – None.
2. Path Diversions - None.
3. **Reports from Portfolio holders not covered elsewhere on the agenda –** No additional reports were received.
4. **Finance.**
5. To review the Budget vs Spend sheet.

**Noted.**

1. To note that Parish Council related passwords have been passed to the Chairman in a sealed and dated envelope to be opened only if required, in line with financial regulation 6.11.

**Noted.**

1. To consider contributing to the cost of the Clerk’s Principle membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks of £16.66.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council would contribute £16.66 towards the Clerk’s Principle membership of SLCC.**

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

The cashbook and bank reconciliation were checked by Councillor Waller.

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

1. To approve payments of:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Zöe Godden | Salary and expenses May 2018 | £226.50 |
| HMRC | Income Tax May 2018 | £ 50.00 |
| SALC | Affiliation fees 2018/19 | £104.19 |

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

1. **Council Matters:**
2. To note receipt of guidance from the Parish Council’s insurers regarding the addition of the recently acquired telephone box to the Council’s insurance policy and to agree any action to be taken.

The Clerk was instructed to find out how the telephone box could be marked so that it could be returned if stolen. The Clerk was further instructed to contact British Telecom to find out the replacement value of the telephone box.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

It was noted that the Parish Council owned the telephone box but not the land on which it was situated, which remained in the ownership of British Telecom.

1. To consider possible uses for the recently acquired telephone box and agree any action to be taken.

Councillor Knight reported that a request for volunteers to look after the telephone box, published in Pitcombe News, had not received any responses. Councillor Waller noted that accessing the telephone box in its current location was problematic because vehicles were often parked in front of it, blocking the door. It was further noted that the telephone box was in need of general maintenance. Members **agreed** that Councillor Knight should write an article for Pitcombe News to inform residents that the Parish Council was considering moving the telephone box to another location or selling it if a long-term use for it could not be found.

**(Action Cllr Knight)**

1. To consider how to deal with the issue of a burning straw pile at Lancombe Lane.

Councillor Knight reported that, following some investigations, it had been determined that the person who was burning the waste had a licence to do so. The waste would burn for another week, after which, the ash would be spread on the land. Councillor Knight planned to attend the Area East meeting on 13th June as District Councillor Mike Beech had agreed to raise this issue. Councillor Knight would report back to the next meeting.

**(Action Cllr Knight)**

1. To consider how to deal with complaints about use of bird scarers.

Councillor Knight had spoken to the farmer concerned, who had apologised for any inconvenience caused by the bird scarers. The scarers were being used to deter birds from breaking plastic sheeting used to cover silage. This was due to be covered with netting, removing the need for scarers. It was **agreed** to keep this matter under review.

1. **Correspondence/Publications received for report.**
2. Local Government Boundary Commission - to note the outcome of the electoral review for South Somerset.

**Noted.**

1. SALC – to note that Somerset County Council is conducting a survey of the way it runs day activities for adults with dementia or other functional mental health needs and to agree a member(s) to respond.

It was **agreed** that Councillor Comer could complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council as she had contacted the Clerk to volunteer to do so.

**(Action Cllr Comer)**

1. Barclays Bank – To note receipt of a letter informing members that the Crewkerne branch is closing on 7th September 2018.

**Noted.**

1. SALC – to note that NALC is conducting a survey relating to its policy position that it should be mandatory for planning authorities to adopt Community Infrastructure Levy schemes and to agree a member(s) to respond.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council supported NALC’s policy position in the matter and the Clerk was instructed to complete the survey accordingly on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk was further instructed to ask for clarity on how the situation had arisen, whereby planning authorities could choose whether to implement a CIL policy or not.

**(Action Parish Clerk)**

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.*

Councillor Currie reported that he had recently attended an event held in Cheddar by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England where, amongst other topics, the issue of Government plans to streamline the process for fracking was discussed.

Members discussed the need for a Parish Council meeting in August and **agreed** to cancel the meeting scheduled for 14th August. It was **agreed** that the Clerk’s August salary payment would be dealt with at the July meeting and that an additional meeting would be arranged if any planning applications were received.

Councillor Brook gave her apologies for the July meeting.

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

**The meeting ended 20:30.**

Signed Date