

- 04/05/172 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Westmaas (in the Chair), Mackay, Chilcott and Hamblyn.
- 04/05/173 **ALSO PRESENT:** CClr Huxtable and PCSO Neil Kemp and seven members of the public.
- 04/05/174 **IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk to the Council.
- 04/05/175 **APOLOGIES:** were received from Cllr Fraser (son's birthday).
- 04/05/176 **POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER:** *The Chairman invited PCSO Neil Kemp (8317) to address the meeting. Neil said that Policewoman Alison Gideon sent her apologies as she had to attend another meeting. He gave the following contact information: His mobile 07810 791 303; non emergency police number 0845 456 7000. He spoke of the crime rate in the country - Somerset West is the lowest! People not phoning in is a problem as crimes need to be logged. He expects to visit the village once a week. He answered various questions from the floor and was thanked by the Chairman.*
- 04/05/177 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** were confirmed and signed.
- 04/05/178 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** none declared.
- 04/05/179 **MATTERS ARISING ON MINUTES AND NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE:** None.
- 04/05/180 **HIGHWAYS:** Clerk to ask a representative of Highways to meet a councillor to look at problems in the village such as Langlands Lane.
- 04/05/181 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S SLOT:** CClr Huxtable reported that the Avon and Somerset Police would be requiring a big increase from the Council Tax in order to stand still. He outlined anticipated requirements from the County and District. A39 sign changes would soon be appearing. He mentioned the SCC grants and Council agreed to put in a further grant for £400 to renovate the Council noticeboards.
- 04/05/182 **PLANNING:**
- a. Village Design Statement - Cllr Westmaas reported on the meetings held to discuss this.
- 04/05/183 **RISK ASSESSMENT:** A risk assessment sheet provided by the Clerk was considered point by point. The insurance policy would be checked at renewal time. Some documents are in the Somerset County Records Office. More recent documents such as the Clerk's Contract of Employment could be copied to the Chairman once the new contract is completed. The Clerk would make a digital backup of Council files held on her computer. Employment issues will be sorted with the completion of the new contract (currently being reviewed). Financial issues: Expenditure - two councillors sign cheques and invoices/other paperwork as well as counterfoils; Cash flow - this to be considered at precept setting later in the meeting.
- 04/05/184 **FINANCE:**
- a. Cheques for signature - were approved as follows:- Chq.552 SLCC (half share of Clerk's subscription) £41.00; Chq.553 J A Marshall (Clerk's salary for December) £210.19.
- b. Appointment of internal auditor for current year - Council agreed to ask Mr Aggar to undertake this again. If he is not available to do so then the Clerk to make other arrangements.
- c. To set precept for next financial year - The Clerk had previously provided finance sheets for all councillors. These included income, expenditure and cashflow against the last precept. The Chairman explained to the public the decisions made in the confidential session of the last meeting which were contained in the minutes of that meeting. Following consideration of various matters it was agreed to set the precept for the forthcoming year at £5000.
- 04/05/185 **SALC:** Nothing had been received recently. Any paperwork received was in circulation.
- 04/05/186 **DUMPED CARS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS IN BROADMEAD LANE:** The Clerk apologised in that over Christmas and the New Year she had been late in requesting help from DCllr Kingham. Members of the public brought other problem sites to the attention of the council. It was noted that the CPRE publication "Fieldwork - December 2004" contained information on such problems. Section 214 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 was mentioned as was Section 216 of the same Act. These concerned situations

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“adversely affecting amenity” and referred to the “Untidy Land Notice”. This made such matters a criminal offence. It was also noticed that in some instances an unauthorised “change of use” occurred. Villagers to be asked to notify either the Clerk or a councillor if they are aware of places of concern.

04/05/187 **JUBILEE STONE:** It was confirmed that the new plaque has been satisfactorily coated. The Clerk has informed AJS how pleased we are and AJS has acknowledged.

04/05/188 **LAMP:** Nothing received.

04/05/189 **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND FOOTPATHS:** nothing to report.

04/05/190 **THE FUTURE OF COUNCIL HOUSING IN SEDGEMOOR:** Information in circulation.

04/05/191 **PARISH PLOT:** Great concern was expressed regarding the proposal to sign the parish plot as a place for the public to roam. The intention to include a kissing gate was felt to be totally inappropriate. The Parish Council is totally in disagreement with the intentions. It is understood that English Nature is not in favour either. It also transpired that English Nature is opposed to the bridge over Black Ditch. Cllr Mackay will speak to Stephen Parker about this.

04/05/192 **SCC PARISH SURVEY:** SCC had provided a graph resume of responses. For circulation.

04/05/193 **ANY OTHER REPORTS OR ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION:** Standards Board leaflet on dual hatted members; Somerset Direct and contact details for council services; Somerset By the Sea; Local Council Review; Clerks and Councils Direct; Local Councils Update; Vista (training leaflet).

04/05/194 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Gates to churchyard (listed building problems).

04/05/195 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING -** Tuesday, 8th February 2005

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