

- 07/08/229 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Mackay (in the Chair), Westmaas, Gould and Chilcott.
- 07/08/230 **APOLOGIES:** none received.
- 07/08/231 **ALSO PRESENT:** CCllr Huxtable, DCllr Kingham and 11 members of the public.
- 07/08/232 **IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk to the Council
- 07/08/233 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** none received.
- 07/08/234 **MINUTES** of the previous meeting dated 8th January 2008 were confirmed and signed. The minutes of the December 2007 meeting had been signed at the January 2008 meeting.
- 07/08/235 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** CCllr Huxtable reported that the County Council budget would soon be set. The current proposal was for a 3.79% increase.
- 07/08/236 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** DCllr Kingham reported that various cuts, changes and reorganisation would need to take place. It was likely that a 4.5% increase in council tax was likely. The sale of a pool and the cost of gypsy families was also covered.
- 07/08/237 **HIGHWAYS:**
- Any updates on previous problems - the poor state of repairs was discussed.
 - School traffic and hazardous conditions for children walking to school - it was noted that in many places it is necessary to walk at least a foot in from the edge of the road because of eroded verges. The School's proposed 'walking bus' was also mentioned.
 - Problems arising - dog fouling on the pavements near the school is a problem. This, together with parking, eroded verges and so many parents in a hurry to drop their children off in the morning, presents a real problem for parents who walk their children to school. CCllr Huxtable suggested the Council consider kerbing some areas in the village. It was agreed that the Community Police be asked to monitor parking, particularly on the hatched area and in dangerous positions, by attending at the school at drop off and collection times.
 - Any other highway matters - CCllr Huxtable suggested that the Council consider operating Speedwatch. Clerk instructed to contact Shapwick and the Police to enquire about training and equipment.
- 07/08/238 **PLANNING:**
- 14/08/00001 Erection of replacement garage at 12 Brook Lane - it was felt that the very high roof is inappropriate for the situation, especially compared with the dwelling. Council objects to this application.
 - Any updates on previous applications
 - 14/07/00016 *Erection of part two storey, part first floor side extension to include garage etc* - Refused
 - 14/07/00017 *Erection of dwelling, garage and alterations to access - Land to the West of 3 Weares Lane* - Granted. To discuss matters relating to the applications regarding this site - The Chairman has spoken with the applicant and it transpires that the plans considered by the Council were not the correct ones. SDC to be asked about this.
 - 14/07/00018 *Erection of two chalet bungalows and formation of access - Land to the rear of 5, 7 and 9 Manor Road* - withdrawn
 - 14/07/00019 *Removal of conditions 2 & 3 of permission 14/04/00005 - The Brambles, Little Leaze Lane* - Refused
 - Planning contraventions - SDC had previously stated that they would rely on the Parish Council for information regarding contraventions of various sorts.. It was felt that most transgressions should be brought to the attention of SDC bearing in mind fairness, consistency and common sense. Councillors were asked to think about this prior to the next meeting.
- 07/08/239 **EMERGENCY PLANNING:** The Chairman had spoken with Mr D'Ambrumiel. This matter is progressing slowly.
- 07/08/240 **FIRE HYDRANTS:** The Clerk had spoken to the Station Commander at Bridgwater Fire Station. Catcott hydrants are checked annually. They are mostly fairly poor with regard to pressure and this is shown on the station's database. This ensures that as well as two appliances attending any fire a large bowser would also attend. This should prove ample. The bowser can also collect and deliver water in bulk and at sufficient speed up to a mile from a fire. It was, however, noted that there was little in the way of bulk water supply nearby.
- 07/08/241 **LOWER BRUE DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING 11TH FEB.** - to receive any report available. Nobody had been able to attend.
- 07/08/242 **SEDGEMOOR AREA WORKING PANEL MEETING** - 28th February 7.00pm, King Alfred School, Highbridge.
- 07/08/243 **PLAY AREA - SWINGS** - the go ahead for one cradle seat and two flats to be installed had now been given.
- 07/08/244 **WELLFIELD HERITAGE NOTICEBOARD** - CCllr Huxtable and the Chairman to liaise with regard to a suitable, nice, sunny evening for the official opening.
- 07/08/245 **RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTPATHS** - letter from Somerset Local Access Forum (SLAF) had been copied to all councillors. A couple of previous problems needed to be chased up. Cllr Mackay would contact Cllr Fraser.
- 07/08/246 **CONSULTATION RE: CODE OF CONDUCT CHANGES:** SALC had produced a response. Council was happy with this.
- 07/08/247 **FINANCE**
- Hall grant and safety lighting at School - The Council agreed to pay a grant of £135 for the use of the hall. Clerk to ask if the lighting on the way round to the hall could be improved using some of this money.
 - Appointment of external auditor - Moore Stephens have again been appointed as external auditors. No councillor has a direct connection with this firm or any of its employees.
 - Cheques for signature - Chq.037 J A Marshall (Clerk's salary and expenses) £273.20; Chq.038 Somerset County Council (Catcott School) (Grant for hall use) £135.00 were approved for signature.
- 07/08/248 **CPRE:** Somerset Matters was put for circulation.
- 07/08/249 **CLUSTER MEETINGS - CONCERNS:** A letter expressing the Council's concerns had been sent to the Chairman and Clerk of the Polden Hills Cluster Group.
- 07/08/250 **SALC, NALC, COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** Recent mailing was put for circulation.
- 07/08/251 **SDC, SCC:** Details of the Parish Reception had been received.
- 07/08/252 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION:** Somerset's Community Safety Newsletter; Climate Change Community Action.
- 07/08/253 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - 11th March 2008

Chairman Date