

OAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Oake Parish Council held on **Thursday 8th February 2018** at 7.00 p.m. in Oake Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Susan Davies (Chair); Cllr Fern Dunn; Cllr Chris Hillier; Cllr Ian Ramus; Cllr Louise Peace; Mr David Gliddon (Clerk); & 5 members of the public

1. Public speaking

None

2. Apologies

Cllr Adrian Dyke; Cllr Frances Gully

3. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

Cllr Peace – Village Shop

4. Minutes of the meeting held on January 11th, 2018

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record by the chair.

5. PLANNING

None

6. Items for discussion/decision:

(a) Traffic Calming/crossing plans

- It was agreed that the plans drawn up by SCC were unsuitable with too much signage and an inappropriate crossing
- Councillors agreed to request the two signs “school 20 mph when lights show” but that one sign should move nearer the roundabout
- The Clerk will notify SCC of the decision

(b) SID financial contributions from Parish Council

After discussion it was agreed that the council would not contribute to funding the SID on the B3227 from April 2018.

It was agreed that the Speedwatch team would pick up this route alongside their work in Oake. Cllr Dunn volunteered to join the group and would contact Roger Earthrowl. The Clerk would contact the Somerset Speedwatch team if no progress was made on Cllr Ramus’ application to join the local team.

(c) Village Shop

- Rob Gully had informed the council that the shop committee did agree the covenants letter. He has been back to a family friend, who is a solicitor, to answer the Council's question around what needs to be done if the owners of Saxon Farm are happy to agree not to enforce the covenant.
- Representatives of the shop committee spoke to update the Council as follows:
 1. A positive meeting had been held with the Post Office re: future contracts
 2. A covenants letter would be drawn up and hand-delivered to Saxon Farm and posted to Persimmon Homes.
 3. The Shop committee had met with the Hall committee and agreed on possible alterations to the hall to accommodate the shop, if the covenants are legally agreed not to be enforced.
 4. As a backup plan, the Clerk was asked to investigate whether the Council could/would borrow money to buy the current shop.
 5. The Barn conversion has been discounted as a viable option.

(d) Village noticeboards

After discussion it was agreed to defer decisions until the shop location had been determined. Cllr Hillier was thanked for his hard work on this project.

(e) Annual Parish Meeting

The Mayor, Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey, is very happy to attend our APM in April. Cllr Davies agreed to meet/greet & accompany as required. Cllr Dunn agreed to organise refreshments on behalf of the WI. This year's Mayoral charities are: **Hestercombe Gardens Trust & Stand Against Violence. The council agreed to donate £50 towards these.**

(f) Councillor emails

SALC advice: It can be helpful to have a dedicated Parish Council email address – however this would only be advisory and is in no way compulsory.

It was agreed that councillors would decide for themselves and inform the clerk of their preferred email address.

6. Reports from SCC & TDBC

None

7. Matters of report:

(a) **Police report** for January 2018 was discussed with items relevant to Oake noted.

(b) Neighbourhood Plan

A very long but successful meeting had been held with Jane Birch, from Somerset Community Council, on February 1st, to help develop our household survey for the whole of the parish. She will work on delivering a draft over the next 2 weeks; another meeting would then be held to ensure the correct questions were asked. Councillors were requested to attend the next meeting, date to be advised, or make comments on the draft survey.

(c) Village Hall

It was noted that the lounge had not been cleaned prior to the meeting.

8. Finance

(a) Payments: Clerk's Salary/expenses - £190.51; HMRC £40.00; Taunton & District Citizens Advice £100.00; SALC/NALC affiliation fees £193.87; SALC £55.00 (training costs); Community Council for Somerset £40.00

These payments were all approved.

(b) Financial update - Closing balance per cash book as at 04/02/2018

£19,677.58 (including £1592.50 CIL funds; £7,598.50 Neighbourhood Plan funds; £911.19 Transparency fund)

9. Training

Councillors would like training on planning matters when available.

10. Matters of report

Chair

- street/drain cleaning & tree pruning Oake roundabout had been carried out
- the new Hillcommon Road Signs had been installed

Members

- **fingerposts would be registered when the weather improved, and the logging app was available**
- **footpath signs to Hardacres Yard much improved**

The meeting closed at 8.13 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on March 8th, 2018