

## OAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Oake Parish Council held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018**, commencing at 7.00pm in Oake Village Hall

Present: Cllr Susan Davies (Chair); Cllr Adrian Dyke; Cllr Ian Ramus; Cllr Frances Gully; Cllr Christopher Hillier; Cllr Fern Dunn (arrived 7.20 p.m.) Cllr James Hunt (SCC); Cllr Roger Habgood (TDBC) Mr David Gliddon – Clerk and 4 members of the public.

**1. Public speaking**

A request was made for the trees/branches around Saxon Close to be pruned. The Chair would identify the landowner & inform the clerk who would then follow this up. Weeds blocking the drains were also an issue.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Louise Peace; PCSO Sharon Baker

**3. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations**

None

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

These were approved and signed by the chairman as a true record.

**5. PLANNING - none**

**6. Items for discussion/decision:**

**(a) Precept 2018/19**

It was agreed to request a figure of **£5,600** to allow for increased expenditure on items such as additional weedkilling.

**(b) Traffic Calming plans**

SCC Traffic and Transport had produced a revised plan which was discussed at length. It was agreed that the plan would be taken, by the Chair, to the School's Headteacher & Governors for consultation. It was agreed that the full reasons for the community's concerns over the plans would then be fed back to the project team at SCC.

**(c) Village Shop covenants letter**

It was agreed that, when Mr Robert Gully had obtained legal advice, the revised letter would be signed and delivered to the Saxon Farm landowners.

**(d) Village noticeboards**

Cllr Hillier identified the many reasons why a new noticeboard was required, including their poor condition and unsatisfactory location. It was agreed that a new location should be identified, with the vicinity of the School being the preferred option. Cllr Davies would discuss this with the Headmaster and report back at the February meeting. Funding would come from the Transparency Grant and the existing noticeboard would be used by Cllr Peace for youth group notices.

**(e) Citizens advice donation request**

Councillors agreed a grant of £100 which would be sent after the February meeting.

**(f) Speed Indicator Device reports**

The SID reports on the B3227 both east and westbound were discussed. 85<sup>th</sup> percentile traffic westbound was recorded at 40 mph and eastbound at 43 mph in the 30 mph zones. These figures had also been passed to the police speed enforcement team for action.

**(g) Merger of TDBC & WSDC**

Cllr Habgood outlined the reasons he felt the merger of the two councils should go ahead. After discussion it was agreed councillors would respond individually to the consultation which ends on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**(h) Void properties in Oake Close**

The Chair reported on a meeting attended at TDBC by herself and the Clerk. The vacant properties in Oake Close were being kept empty for good reason. It was likely that, due to major repairs to council owned properties in Pyrland and Rowbarton, relocation of tenants might be necessary.

**(i) Revised Meeting Dates 2018**

The revised dates were agreed, and the clerk was asked to invite the Mayor to our Annual Meeting in April.

**7. Report from SCC**

Cllr Hunt reported on new autism centres at Holway and Heathfield; increased funding for Broadband connectivity; Home First project which had freed up hospital beds; successful prosecution of Bristol Water for illegal roadworks.

**8. TDBC**

Cllr Habgood reported on the transformation project to improve customer service at TDBC; Firepool project; J25 plans & the A358 Review by Highways England and the 18-month trial pedestrianisation of St James St, Hammett St and East Street in Taunton.

**9. Matters of report:**

(a) **Police report** for December 2017 was discussed.

(b) **Neighbourhood Plan – next meeting being held on January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

(c) **Village Hall** – nothing to report.

**10. Finance**

(a) Payments: Clerk's Salary/expenses - £190.51; HMRC £40.00; Gillian Day £65.00 (Grass cutting Hillfarrance Green); Community Council for Somerset £1,258.50

**These payments were all agreed.**

(b) Financial update

Figures were circulated to councillors, approved and signed off by the Chair.

**11. Training**

Cllrs Gully & Ramus were to attend "Essential Councillor" Training at Creech St Michael Village Hall on March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**12. Matters of report**

**(a) Chair**

The Chair would inspect the gullies in Orchard Lane and report back to the Clerk on whether they had been cleared.

**(b) Members**

Cllr Ramus reported the gullies blocked on the road from Bradford to Oake, near the Hillfarrance turn. The clerk would report this to SCC.

**13. Correspondence**

The clerk had written to occupants in Hillfarrance requesting adherence to the NO PARKING on the Village Green & received a reply indicating that correspondence should be sent to their son in future.

**The meeting Closed at 8.25 p.m.**

Next meeting will be held on **Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7 p.m.**