

WEST HARPTREE PARISH COUNCIL

**Provisional Minutes to be approved at the next Annual Parish Meeting**

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at the Memorial Hall, West Harptree starting at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr R Ireland (Chairman), Mrs R Wakeley (Vice-Chairman), Mr C Gay, Mr P Hutton, Mr M Taviner, Mr P Wood and Mr T Warren.

APOLOGIES: Mrs L Hillier

No members of the public attended.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were agreed as an accurate record. The minutes were proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed for adoption.

2. Chairman's Report

This is my second annual Chairman's report, and it has been yet another exceptionally busy year for both the Councillors and Clerk.

In the recent past, the village has suffered from flooding, but with the majority of the alleviation works in the village now complete, it would seem that these have been very successful. Despite severe rainfall on a couple of occasions this Spring, water was directed effectively away from the village centre, houses and roads. The last phase of planned works around the Memorial Hall will be completed by B&NES this financial year, and we have been assured by Charles Gerrish, B&NES Cabinet Member for Finance, that the required funds have been ring-fenced. I would like to thank Peter Wood for his on-going time and effort in liaising with the B&NES contractors and keeping us regularly informed of progress.

The Placemaking Plan is part of B&NES Planning Strategy, and the Parish Council worked very hard to promote the wishes of its residents that the allocated 12 – 14 houses should be built on the preferred sites chosen in the village referendum. These sites were accepted by B&NES into the draft Plan, and others were also added by land owners or their agents. The Placemaking Plan is now undergoing independent scrutiny as part of the adoption process, but in the interim Outline Plans for one of

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these additional sites at Leacroft was submitted. Despite robust objections by parishioners, the Parish Council, our Ward Councillor, and an email from Jacob Rees-Mogg, the B&NES Committee permitted the application. Whilst this was obviously very disappointing, and both Councillors and residents became disillusioned with the whole process, the positive side is that this meets our current allocation for the foreseeable future, so West Harptree's allocation has been fulfilled. The Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan has been created by Councillors and residents of the seven involved Parishes and the Draft was formally launched on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. It is now in its 6 week formal public consultation phase, and everyone is encouraged to read and comment on it. It contains a number of policies that support development in a manner that will be acceptable to the communities and businesses of the valley. The results will be reviewed by the Steering Group, amendments made if necessary, and then formally submitted to B&NES and then an Independent Examiner for review. There will then be a referendum within the seven Parishes, and if accepted becomes part of B&NES Planning Policy for the area.

The Recreation Ground is in excellent order thanks to the hard work of Mike Taviner and Lauren Hillier, and thanks to Tim Warren, we have received money from the B&NES Councillors Initiative Fund to assist in the necessary repairs to the deteriorating safety surfaces around the play equipment.

Thanks to some hard work by The Management Committee ably chaired by Len Salter, and several donations, funds were raised to enable the replacement of the Memorial Hall roof. This is an historic and valuable village asset that is sadly under-utilised, and on-going maintenance costs are a continual challenge and there are currently opportunities to participate in the monthly 100 Club draw to help raise funds. I would like to thank Councillor Paul Hutton, who is also a Trustee of the Hall, for his regular updates.

Thanks to the support of a number of local residents we have just had another successful litter picking morning, and following a presentation by Jon Wheatley, Peter Wood has entered the village into the Britain in Bloom competition. The church clock has been repaired with the bell now ringing as it should, a replacement defibrillator has been supplied to the village thanks to Clive Setter, and we continue to be fortunate with

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periodic volunteer assistance to maintain the Triangle.

Finally, I would like to thank Tim Warren and all the Parish Councillors, who continue to give freely of their time and put in a lot of hard work for the benefit of our village, and Jan Burdge who has the difficult task of keeping us all in order.

Richard Ireland

10th May 2016

### 3. District Councillor's Report

Thank you for your support.

Richard does an incredibly good job with the help of other Councillors, I just don't think people realise how much work goes on, especially this year with the flooding project.

It has been a difficult time with the budget cuts with a deficit of £48 million. Under Devolution we are hoping to do a deal in which we could access £1 billion of investment over the next 30 years.

A few months ago we had the Mayoral election, it is no secret that I do not like the Mayoral model as I felt it would be a distraction to the smooth running of the Council. I would have preferred to keep the present system. The Mayoral Referendum was successful as far as I am concerned as 80% of voters agreed to keep the existing system.

The West of England Devolution package is ongoing and would deliver the highest investment per head of population of any Devolution deal in the country. We will have to see where it goes, the decision will be made at the end of June.

More locally, the Leacroft House application delivered a very disappointing result. It has fulfilled the obligations under the Placemaking Plan as a RA2 village. West Harptree is definitely an RA2 village and not an RA1. I would like to thank the residents for their  
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support with the Placemaking Plan.

Again, the Joint Spatial Plan is ongoing, this is where we discuss future development.

I would like to thank Richard and others for the months of work carried out in creating the Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan. It will give strength and keep the character of the valley.

Thanks again to everyone in West Harptree for their support. Now we can carry on and look forward to next year.

Tim Warren

10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

4. Council Accounts 2015/16

The Clerk distributed copies of an Income and Expenditure Statement, which gave details of the Council's accounts during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (copy placed on Minute file). The Council had a credit balance of £5,792.90 at the end of the period. It was proposed and seconded, all other Councillors were in favour that the accounts be accepted, subject to audit.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman ..... Date Signed .....