

WEST HARPTREE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Page 10 of 16/17

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the Memorial Hall, West Harptree starting at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Mr R Ireland (Chairman), Mr C Gay and Mrs L Hillier.

Two members of the public attended.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were agreed as an accurate record. The minutes were proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed for adoption.

2. Chairman's Report

This is my third annual Chairman's report, and due to work commitments, I cannot actually be present tonight, but 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 alleviation works in the village now complete, it would seem that these have been reasonably successful. We are aware of continuing challenges with Ridge Lane, and are also keeping a very close eye on the works being undertaken by the Developers in Leacroft, to ensure this does not undo or undermine any of this progress. I would like to thank Peter Wood, who has spent a great deal of time actively monitoring, liaising with B&NES and updating the Council on this.

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 2016. After passing all the necessary independent inspections and reviews, the Plan went to referendum within the seven parishes on 16<sup>th</sup> February, and with a turnout of 24%, just over 90% voted in favour. The plan was officially "made" by B&NES on April 12<sup>th</sup> and is now in force. The Steering Group has now been officially

Initials .....

disbanded, and the Chairmen of the seven Parishes will meet periodically to manage any SIL monies, and to arrange policy reviews in due course.

The Recreation Ground is in excellent order thanks to the hard work and vigilance of Mike Taviner and Lauren Hillier.

We have had a number of concerns raised to us this year about speeding through the village, and after some lobbying, B&NES have allocated some money to review what could possibly be done in the future, however in these times of budgetary constraint there is no current guarantee that any forthcoming proposals would be enacted. We have had the missing 30mph sign replaced on the approach from Compton Martin and will continue to try and get the Police speed enforcement team to monitor the village periodically.

Thanks to some hard work by The Memorial Hall Management Committee, ably chaired by Len Salter, this historic and valuable village asset is still financially viable, but is sadly under-utilised, and on-going maintenance costs are a continual challenge. Len has also indicated that he will be standing down at the end of his current term, which will be a sad loss for the Hall. Ideas are actively being sought on how to make better use of the building, and there are also currently opportunities to participate in the monthly 100 Club draw to help raise funds, and also potentially win some money! 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 the village was also entered into the Britain in Bloom competition. This was judged on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016, and we were all pleasantly surprised to learn we had won a Silver Award. A certificate was received at the October meeting and thanks go to everyone who was involved in helping the village look its best last summer.

We continue to be fortunate with donations towards the cost of the plants for the Triangle, and with volunteer assistance to maintain that central village area.

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

Initials .....

the benefit of our village, and Jan Burdge who has the difficult task of keeping us all in order.

Richard Ireland  
9th May 2017

### 3. District Councillor's Report

I would like to start with a wide look around what has been happening this year. The Joint Spatial Plan includes Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council working together creating the West of England Partnership, not to be confused with the West of England Combined Authority.

The Placemaking Plan will see 13,500 houses built within B&NES between now and 2029. It is our duty to co-operate with Bristol City Council who need 4 times the number of houses required in B&NES with a smaller geographic area. This is going to prove difficult but we are almost there. Villages like this won't be affected.

It is the first time that the Joint Transport Plan has been carried out at the same time as housing is being considered. It is key to agree and improve the infrastructure including transport first before housing schemes are agreed.

The Core Strategy decided on how many houses were needed, whereas the Placemaking Plan has decided where they should go. At the moment, the Placemaking Plan is away with the Independent Inspector and we expect it to be signed off in July which is later than I had expected.

There will be unprecedented cuts over the next 4 years as we have to reduce spending by £47,000,000. A lot of the money is ring fenced so services can be maintained.

I am not the most popular person at the moment, one of the savings I would like to make is to amalgamate the One Stop Shop with the Library in Bath. A lot of the jobs are duplicated and as they are next door to each other it makes sense to me to join them together making huge savings. This is not popular.

Initials .....

We have bought the Old Lloyds Bank Building which is costing us 3%, it is let out and is returning 13% so it makes sense we are gaining 10% and have an asset for the future.

In future, there will be less government grants, business rates will have to go up and higher value jobs will be created. The Heritage attractions in Bath raise £18,000,000 a year.

It is the year of the elections, the first was the West of England Combined Authority Mayoral elections. I am pleased with the results and congratulate Tim Bowles on being the first West of England Mayor, he will represent B&NES, Bristol and South Gloucestershire Councils. The Mayor will be able to go to the Government for funding which will enable road schemes and housing schemes to happen quicker. We need to embrace the different way of working and the future looks exciting.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June, there will be a General Election and By Election in Bath. At the moment, we are in purdar which means that we can't make any decisions making things locally difficult.

The Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan has been fantastic, it has been an incredible amount of work for Volunteers and I would like to thank all those people who have given their time and expertise to help the future of the area and keep it how we want it. This is the first Joint Neighbourhood Plan and it has worked well, thanks again to all the Volunteers.

I would like to welcome the new Landlord of the Crown, it is now a very clean and tidy village pub. We hope that you will make a great success of it.

The Councillors are the unsung heroes of the village and you don't always get the thanks that you deserve. After 13 years of being your District Councillor and on behalf of the Community I would like to thank you very much.

Tim Warren  
9<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Councillors thanked Mr Warren for his praise and agreed that he was one of the best District Councillors we have had.

Initials .....

4. Council Accounts 2016/17

The Clerk distributed copies of a Receipts and Payments Statement, which gave details of the Council's accounts during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 (copy placed on Minute file). The Council had a credit balance of £6,690.48 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 7.50 p.m.

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