

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 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the Memorial Hall, West Harptree starting at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Mr T Warren.

One member of the public attended.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were agreed as an accurate record. The minutes were proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed for adoption.

2. Chairman's Report

This is my 5<sup>th</sup> annual report, and yet again we have experienced another exceptionally busy year for all involved.

We sadly accepted the resignation of Lauren Hillier this year; due to personal circumstances she felt she could no longer offer the time and commitment that she had in the past. I would like to thank her for all of her contributions and wish her well for the future. After the necessary period when no election was requested, the Council considered two prospective candidates for co-option. Whilst both offered different abilities and skills, after consideration Jon Mitchell was co-opted and became a Councillor from April. Whilst Jon is a reasonably new resident of the village, he brings with him a wealth of experience in dealing with Local Authority and Planning issues, and I am sure we can put this to good use in the future.

The Recreation Ground is in good order, thanks to the hard work and vigilance of Mike Taviner, with some remedial work planned for later this

Initials .....

Spring. We have also agreed to investing some of the Dilly Meadows CIL money in replacing the surfaces beneath the equipment, in order to

keep this valuable asset in good order for future generations.

As indicated last year, the bulk of the Memorial Hall Committee stood down in the Autumn, but following on from a successful barbeque event at the Hall, a number of people came forward to fill the vacant positions. This new committee has already undertaken several reviews and updates to policies, and is working hard on ideas to increase the usage of this historic and valuable village resource. Thanks must go to Paul Hutton, as the Parish Council representative, and to all the other committee members for their on-going time and efforts.

We successfully lobbied B&NES regarding the originally planned changes to the village centre and access from Dilly Meadows, resulting in the removal of an additional footway along the Church Wall, which would have made Bristol Road impossibly narrow at this point. We also obtained agreement that the footway to be built upto and around The Crown would be of sympathetic paving material protected by bollards, and not just another tranche of tarmac – this has been supported by the Licencee, who has also offered to maintain this in due course.

Thanks to Peter Wood's on-going efforts, we actively monitor road and flooding issues and generally manage to obtain remedial action from B&NES where needed.

We are fortunate to receive continued donations towards the costs of planting The Triangle, which looked the best that it has done for many years last summer, and I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who have assisted with the on-going upkeep. We also organised another successful litter pick this Spring, and my thanks go to everyone who assisted with that too.

With the imminent arrival of the GDPR regulations, we are actively working towards compliance, but are still waiting for conformation from Central Government, NALC and ALCA about what small Parishes such as our actually have to do, as some potential solutions we have investigated would appear to be prohibitively expensive.

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Finally I would like to thank our District Councillor Tim Warren and all Parish Councillors who continue to work hard on behalf of the Parish and give all of their time freely, and to Jan Burdge who continues to keep us all in order.

Richard Ireland

8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### 3. District Councillor's Report

As always council finances have been somewhat challenging; more so this year than ever.

With rising costs from adult and children's social care, this has put a huge strain on the budget.

Excluding school funding which is handed directly to each school, the care budget will soon account for around 80% of all council money.

We have invested an extra £3.9m in adult social care and £3.1m in Children's services.

With these extra pressures, it means over the four years of our administration, we will have dealt with £59m of pressures. Some of this will come from savings, and some will come from added income.

We are working hard to gain more from our heritage services for example the Roman Baths have increased visitor numbers, we are receiving an extra £2.5m in business rates due to joining the West of England combined authority, we have also formed our own housing company which is providing more homes and extra income for council.

The Joint Spatial Plan was agreed by council. This is a high level plan that sets out the long term plan and broad locations for new housing and business in the area.

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This plan will run until 2036.

Alongside this the West of England are producing a joint transport plan which sets out the transport needs which will be needed to support the growth in housing and business.

Current proposals include completion of the Avon ring road and potential mass transit routes between Bristol, Keynsham and

This is just a very brief update, and I'm always happy to meet up and go through anything in more detail if anybody would like to do so.

Tim Warren  
Cllr for Mendip Ward  
Leader of Bath & Northeast Somerset Council  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

#### 4. Council Accounts 2017/18

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 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 (copy placed on Minute file). The Council had a credit balance of £15,167.56 at the end of the period. It was proposed and seconded, all other Councillors were in favour that the accounts be accepted.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Chairman .....

Date Signed .....