

**Minutes of Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council Meeting
Held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th January 2019
Commencing at 7:30 p.m.**

Public Forum:

- **Footpath/Pavement Concerns:**

A member of the public (village resident) raised a “plea” to the Council in respect of the continuing decline of the overall state of the village pavement between the Hatch Inn and the village playing field. Although she was pleased to see this was an agenda item for this meeting, it was felt that concerns needed to be raised again. It was also felt that the state of the pavement/footpath continuing on from the playing field down towards the Ilminster end of the village, also needed to be raised. This was a cause for major concern and dangerous, to the point that it should be cordoned off and definitely looked at.

It was felt that it was almost impossible to push anything such as a wheelchair or child’s buggy along these sections of the footpath and therefore a large area of the village has become inaccessible and denied to sections of the community.

The member of the public also sought reassurance that the substance under the pavement between the Hatch Inn and the village playing field, was safe. Cllr Fowler confirmed that the substance under the pavement was not hazardous and is, in part, to do with the age of the material. However, it was not economic for utilities to dispose of. Cllr Graham confirmed that both Cllr Thorn (SCC) and Cllr Williams (TDBC) were aware of the situation and Cllr Williams had been able to establish that the substance beneath the pavement is sealed.

Cllr Graham thanked the member of the public for their input and confirmed the Council would also seek reassurance from Cllr Thorne (on his arrival to the meeting) that the issue will be taken forward.

- **Report from Nick Margison, Commissioning Manager, SCC Highways:**

Nick had been invited to the meeting to discuss alternative transport options for village residents in light of the very diminished public transport available. There is no daytime service and the Slinky bus operates within tight criteria.

Nick reported on the “Village Car Scheme” which is a way for rural villages such as Hatch Beauchamp to address the lack of public transport now being faced by many communities. There has been a big take up in West Somerset due to its rural and broad area.

This is a simple car sharing scheme and would need a constitution, co-ordinated by volunteers for residents who need access to vital services (G.P. appointments, hospital visits, shopping etc.) This would therefore fit a tight niche of people. There

are a number of these schemes in place and the benefit to local communities is massive.

Commitments:

- Start with village questionnaire – this would be a door-to-door service
- Need to set up a simple constitution. Tool Kits available on SCC website – “Community Transport Tool Kit”
- 2 - 3 people needed to co-ordinate the “mapping” of people asking for a journey, to the volunteer drivers. These may be difficult roles to fill as need a commitment
- Volunteer Drivers – expenses paid, no licencing issues
- Charges need to cover driver expenses e.g. up to 45p per mile and say + 5p to cover administration and phone calls

Cllr Marsden asked about Volunteer Driver Liability Insurance. Nick replied that no special insurance is needed. The scheme takes out its own insurance. Need to be firm with insurance companies and explain what you are doing. Villages can come together to increase number of volunteer drivers and reduce the rate.

Cllr Fowler asked if there was a need for a Committee? Nick replied that the only real need was for organisers, there is a minimum amount to do.

Nick left information about the scheme with Cllr Graham, who thanked Nick for attending and confirmed that he will keep in touch.

- **Report from TDBC Councillor John Williams:**

A358: Latest newsletter received before Xmas confirmed the final decision had been pushed back until March 2019. Things are moving on the A303 route. J25 is “key” to any road up-dates. At this time Cllr Williams does not know what the J25 proposals are, other than the contract has been met by SCC and work is due to start in March. Cllr Marsden asked what is happening about the J25 site? – Wessex Water need to finish what they are doing first before any further work can take place.

New Council Set-Up: The first budget set-up is looking good and is presenting a budget that is in credit. This is reliant on new ways of working with lots of efficiencies, but still providing good services to the public. There is a need to save 3.5m per annum. This is to come out of admin and back office costs.

Park & Ride Scheme: Current travel fee’s have been put up too much. SCC are working with First Bus to review their charges. There is a need to monitor take up figures.

Gigaclear: Working hard to ensure funding remains in place (31 - 34 m). Gigaclear are investing 64m, but cannot continue unless the sum of 31m remains in place. However, vibes are good.

Cllr Graham asked who is responsible for connecting Somerset & Devon? – Both SCC and Devon CC are responsible for providing 2 x councillors each.

- **Report from SCC Councillor John Thorne:**

Full version available as an attachment to these minutes. Cllr Thorne joined the meeting a little later with some additional information:

SCC will be reviewing the situation around gritting roads in winter, in May/June of this year. We may then learn if there are going to be changes, including how this will be paid for in the future.

Cllr Thorne was made aware of the member of the public's concern over the state of the pavement in Hatch Beauchamp. Further discussion took place. Cllr Thorne confirmed there is a Highways Capital Grant with £10m in funds available. Both Cllr's Thorne and Williams said they would work together to see what could be done and if access to this fund would be an option. If so, then monies would need to be spent by the end of March 2019.

AGENDA:

Present: Cllrs: D Graham (Chair), H Scott, R Fowler, T Murphy, S Fiander, D Davies, G Marsden
Clerk: C Pitman
SCC Cllr: J Thorne
TDBC Cllr: J Williams
Chair of Village Hall Trustee's: S Williams
4 members of the public

2652: **Apologies:**
None.

2653: **Declarations of Interest:**
None.

2654: **Minutes:**
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th November 2018 were approved as a correct, with one amendment (corrected) and signed by the Chair.

2655: **Financial Matters:**
RESOLVED:

The following schedule of cheques were approved for payment:

Chq No:	Payee:	Reason for Payment:	Amount:	Notes:
909	DTD	Up-keep of War Memorial	£50.00	Stones/Membrane
910	R. Fowler	Replacement Notice Board Keys	£8.99	
911	T. Wright	Up-keep of Road Signs	£246.04	
912	D. Graham	Wix – new Village Website	£86.40	
913	C. Pitman	Nov/Dec'18 Salary	£357.10	4hpw at 10.301 per hour x 52/12 = 178.55 x 2

2656: Recruitment of additional councillors:

The Council had received a late apology from Benjamyn Toms. Cllr Graham confirmed that both Ben and Caroline Noble had expressed an interest in their applications going forward. Therefore, Caroline was asked to give a few minutes talk on why she would like to join the Council and what she could bring to the village.

Cllr Graham also confirmed that Ben would be happy to start straight away.

Caroline was then asked to step outside the room whilst the Council voted on both her and Ben's election.

Cllr Graham proposed that both Caroline and Ben be elected onto the Council and this was unanimously agreed by members.

RESOLVED:

That both Caroline Noble and Ben Toms be elected onto the Council with immediate effect.

Clerk to arrange signing and witnessing of both Declaration of Acceptance of Office Forms.

2657: Updates from previous meeting:

a) **Defib:** There were now two main types of Defib packages considered to be appropriate options:

- ❖ South West Ambulance Service (SWASFT) offer a fully supported package on a four-year agreement. They would loan the defib and provide support to maintain it, including electrodes and batteries through expiry or use and storage equipment. The package also includes annual training. Total cost of Support Package Scheme is £1,800.00 excluding VAT. This is renewable every four years.

- ❖ Primary Care Supplies offer a similar package (equipment wise) together with defib training, for a “one off” cost of £1,548.00. excluding VAT. The estimated life of the device is 8 years.

Cllr Marsden asked if the school were happy to house the defib on one of their external walls? Cllr Williams (TDBC) has retrospectively been able to confirm that the school is not a listed building and therefore no planning application will be necessary.

Cllr Fowler asked if there were any recommendations from TDBC? Cllr Williams confirmed that there are a large number of defibs on the market, however a grant has been set up to fund such expenses borne by local parish councils and asked to be informed once the main grant application has started.

A member of the public suggested holding a fund-raising event once a year to raise money.

RESOLVED:

To proceed with the SWASFT four-year loan package.

Clerk to contact school to confirm and request official approval that they are happy to site the defib on their outside wall on the right-hand side of the main entrance door.

Clerk to start British Heart Foundation Grant process.

- b) Phone box:** Currently being painted by Sterling – they have the complete paint “kit”. Cllr Graham confirmed that the preferred preference for re-siting the phone box was just inside the playing field. Will need planning permission, which will cost approx. £300. Mr Stephen Williams (as chair of the village hall trustees) was happy for the trustees to contribute 50% of the planning application cost.

RESOLVED:

Mr Williams to take this proposal to the trustees and report back.

- c) Sterling:** Cllr Graham has a meeting on Friday 18th January with Cllr Williams re noise. Growing concern within the village and local houses that the business is growing, producing more activity and thus more noise. One property in particular is very concerned due to the owner’s nature of work. However, the Environment body felt justified in approving a Noise Abatement strategy following steps taken by Sterling. The above property is now taking private legal action against Sterling. The PC has asked Sterling to notify whenever there is likely to be exceptional noise or noise outside of working hours.

- d) Somerset Emergency Community Contacts (SSECC):** This is a list of emergency contact details held by SCC’s Civil Contingency Dept for when an emergency situation is announced. The list has been up-dated in the light of the recent gas leak within the village. Discussion around the

viability of holding a more local list of volunteers with specific skills. This to be looked into in more detail and brought back to the next meeting.

- e) **Parish Council Laptop:** Cllr Graham reported that the aim of up-grading the current laptop was to make the work of the Clerk as efficient as possible. The previously identified Samsung laptop and possible keyboard appear not to be compatible and therefore Cllr Graham will look into how this could be resolved, before looking further into other alternatives.

2658:

Reports:

- a) **Cost of supporting new village website:** Discussed in item 2660

2659:

Maintenance of village:

- a) **Pavement between Hatch Inn and playing field:**

Cllr Thorne having now joined the meeting was asked if there was anyway of accelerating the condition of the whole of the pavement from the Hatch Inn towards the Ilminster end of the village. Cllr Thorne has asked Skansa to come and look at the pavement. There is possible funding available through a Highways Capital Grant, which currently has a funding figure of around 10 million pounds. Cllr Thorne confirmed he would look into this as the funding is available until the end of March 2019.

Cllr Thorne also confirmed there is to be a review around the gritting of the roads in winter. Review is to take place in May/June, when we should learn if changes are to be made.

Gigaclear – awaiting a briefing and will update after this. Cllr Graham said that this was in both Cllr Thorn's and Williams's hands to do what they can.

Cllr's Thorn and Williams left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

2660:

Village Hall: Cllr Graham asked Mr Williams what was happening with the planning application, and to what extent have the trustee's been able to reflect on the Parish Council's comments? Mr Williams confirmed that on the 24th December there had been a Recommended Conditional Approval, with a 3-year start date from the 24th December. More detailed information has been provided by Mr Williams as an attachment to these minutes. Mr Williams is hoping the council's footpath officer will support the village hall to move the existing footpath currently located in the playing field play area where the swings are. Cllr Fiander agreed on behalf of the council. The next stage is building regulations - this meeting to be chaired by an independent. Mr Williams then asked for questions from the members:

- ❖ Cllr Graham re-quoted comments from the PC meeting in November re use of the hall in respect of recreational potential. Mr Williams replied that the hall will have several areas for different activities. The hall will be split into four sections. The hall will be able to

accommodate softball but not badminton. The plan is on the village website.

- ❖ Cllr Marsden asked about an outside gym. Ashill have one with self-paid lighting. Discussion followed around take up of use for this sort of facility within the village.
- ❖ Cllr Fowler asked what constituted a “start date? This is literally when diggers move in or, for example, the moving of one piece of play equipment.
- ❖ Cllr Graham felt strongly about the state of the MUGA. There are members who are willing to help, just need to know how? Mr Williams said there needs to be an investigation into what type of usage the MUGA needs to provide – what does the village want? The MUGA falls within the remit of the village hall trustee’s – not the PC.

Mr Williams confirmed that the play equipment has not been deemed as unsafe, however the trustee’s want to enhance the play area and there are grants available to hopefully do this.

2661:

Precept: Cllr Graham reported that the council were in a good position re the projected budget forecast for the end of this financial year. The council will be in a healthy position if they need to do something quickly. Therefore, the proposal was for a “no change” in Precept demand. There were some queries from the members as follows:

- ❖ Cllr Fowler asked for clarification around projected IT spend. This figure includes potential software upgrades.
- ❖ Cllr Fowler queried provision for village website. This is to cover further costs.
- ❖ Cllr Fowler confirmed there is approx. one tonne of salt stored in the village if the PC are to be asked to cover future costs of salting/road gritting. Needs checking to see if this salt is still usable. Cllr Davies to speak with Maureen James, who is holding the bags. There are also approx. 50 spare box nets available and villagers should be encouraged to use them. This info could be added to the village face book page and parish magazine
- ❖ Cllr’s Fowler and Scott queried the projected rise in clerks’ salary cost due to a request to increase hours worked from 4 per week, to 6. After a long discussion it was agreed to increase the clerk’s working hours to 5 per week, to be reviewed at the May meeting. The clerk was asked to keep a record of working hours to bring to this meeting

There was an observation from the floor that the presented budget was not balanced. Cllr Graham answered that the council had considerable reserves in the form of cash balances and would remain in a positive position through 2019 and 2020 even if the whole budget and contingency were spent.

2662:

Items for next meeting:

- ❖ New rules for speed indicator (SID)
- ❖ Somerset Wood Scheme – for circulation
- ❖ Proposal for the Union flag to be flown permanently
- ❖ Footpaths – some deterioration reported
- ❖ Deterioration of side of road at Hatch Court – PC to contact Cllr Thorne re possible access to the Highways Capital Grant
- ❖ Letter Box at The Manse – not a public post box

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10:00 p.m.

Signed: