

**Minutes of a meeting of Durleigh Parish Council on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER at 7.30 pm in the Enmore Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** Cllr. John Vassalli, Cllr. J. Johnstone, Cllr. N. Smith, Cllr. N. Myers, Cllr. J. Day

**In attendance:** Tammy Weeks (Clerk), Cllr. M. Caswell, Cllr. G. Slocombe, Cllr. R. Lilley and Chris Sidaway (old Clerk) and two members of the public.

Representatives from Wessex Water, Simon Osborne and Nigel Coates, were also present for start of the meeting to give an update on development of the water treatment works.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr. A. Bown

**115/19 Wessex Water Infrastructure Update & Consultation**

Work is currently going to target; the old treatment works were cut from supply on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept and then a month was spent cleaning chemicals and making safe. October was spent on demolition and they are currently in the process of breaking up the 6-8k tonnes of aggregate that will be reused on the site. This stage will last approximately 3-4 weeks and then crushing of the aggregate is expected to be finished by the end of January 2020.

A number of days have been planned for the delivery of large equipment, for example tanks. These deliveries will not take place between school hours and not after 9pm. They have all been notified to the police and will be escorted. Planning of these deliveries has also taken into consideration any other planned roadworks. All contractors being used for the deliveries have viewed the routes so are aware of 'tight spots'. It was confirmed that the temporary bridge is high enough to accommodate the vehicles.

Simon Osborne has agreed to give a further update in spring 2020 and Councillors will be invited to site when completed. Target completion date March 2022.

**116/19 Public Question-time**

A member of the public raised an issue with a footpath; the footpath which goes east towards Bridgwater from Durleigh Hill and crosses a little brook (just past Floodgate Farm on the border with North Petherton). The bridge over the brook is completely collapsed making the footpath completely impassable.

Chris Sidaway stated that he had received an email previously on this subject and had notified the County Rights of Way Office. Cllr. M. Caswell volunteered to follow this up.

**117/19 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

## **118/19 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to single amendment of noting apologies from Cllr. R. Lilley.

**All agreed.**

## **119/19 Matters Arising**

There were none.

## **120/19 Chairman's Comments**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Cllr. Day to the assembly as the new co-opted Councillor. The Chairman also introduced Robin Leighton as a Parishioner who had come to see the Council, in session, as a potential co-opted Councillor.

The Chairman reported that an issue has been raised about the current venue for the Parish Council meetings not being accessible to all parishioners. Enmore Memorial Hall is 2.2 miles from the parish, along an unlit and unpaved road, which causes issues with parishioners being able to get here if they do not have a car. Other venues have been explored in the past but no other suitable venue could be found. It has, however, been suggested that the West India public house could be an alternative solution; it is only 0.5 miles from the parish along a well-lit paved road. The skittle alley is separate to the pub and has its own access. Cllr. Slocombe has spoken to the legal department at Sedgemoor Council who can see no issue as long as it is supported by SALC, as there are no other suitable locations within or close to the parish. Tammy Weeks, Clerk, has emailed SALC and is currently awaiting a response. All in agreement that this would be a more accessible venue if supported by SALC.

**Action:** Clerk to follow up with SALC and report back to Chair.

The Chair commented that the Clerk had recently attended a SALC Budget training session and asked for feedback. The clerk reported that the course was beneficial and was a good opportunity to network with other parish clerks and understand what community initiatives they are supporting/funding. Most were supporting community groups and many have funded public access defibrillators which the Clerk is keen to explore. Cllr. M. Caswell said that there may be money available to support such initiatives from the County Council. Cllr. G. Slocombe said that it has also been raised about installing a defibrillator at the shops in the Wyndam Ward, which is just outside the Durleigh Parish boundary, but are the 'local' shops that parishioners would use and easily accessible.

**Action:** Clerk to email County Council to investigate funding.

The Chair also reported that the majority of the Councillors will be attending Planning Training that is being hosted by Sedgemoor District Council.

## **121/19 Financial Matters**

1. The Clerk reported that the Bank balance at 30 Sept was £16,267.01 and tabled the monthly income/expenditure balance sheet for Members' information.
2. Noted that the Finance Sub Committee had met and approved a number of payments on 11 November. **All agreed.**

### **122/19 Planning Matters**

#### *Items for decision:*

**23/19/00009:** 14 Cothlestone Close – erection of single storey extension – no observation. **Action:** Clerk respond accordingly.

**23/19/00010:** Floodgate Farm, Rhode Lane – change of use of agricultural building – no observation, other than to note impact on traffic, which we expect to be assessed and reported on by the Highways Department. **Action:** Clerk respond accordingly.

#### *Items for Update:*

23/19/00002: Land to south of Quantock Road – major development by Persimmon – still under consideration.

23/19/00004 and 6: The Pheasants, Rhode Lane – various works inc. installation of sewage works and extension – permission granted.

23/19/0008: 2 Spaxton Road – alterations to bungalow and reinstatement of garage – under consideration.

### **123/19 Items from last Agenda and Meetings attended:**

1. **Highways and traffic:** Temporary closure of Rhode Lane expected to take effect from 18 Dec and works expected to last 3 days. Details have been posted onto Durleigh Parish Council website.
2. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Smith reported that the restoring of the footpath by Wessex Water after their work is good.
3. **Millennium Bench:** Reports that the Millennium Bench had become a focus for young people taking drugs and a young man was apparently living in a car in the vicinity were reported to the police and the PCSO has responded that he is aware of the situation and has spoken to one person. The PCSO will continue to do regular visits to monitor the situation. Cllr. Johnstone and the Clerk reported that when they visited the bench looked in good order with no littering in surrounding area.  
Bulbs will be distributed so that they can be planted in hedge banks/gardens that line the roads in the parish.
4. **Meetings Attended:** As noted in 120/19 above. In addition to this, the Chair attended the All Parish Council meeting on 8<sup>TH</sup> October. This included a commercial update and updates on planned recycling initiatives; new fleet of recycling vehicles and incinerator at Avonmouth to prevent plastic leaving the country. Also discussed were the enhancements planned to the Homburg Way roundabout which will include a pedestrian controlled crossing and cycle path.

### **124/19 Any other business**

The Chairman re-introduced Robin Leighton and enquired if he was still interested in joining the Council as a co-opted Councillor to which the reply was affirmative.

#### **Agreed unanimously.**

Robin Leighton was duly co-opted on to the Council and the Clerk issued Declaration of Office and Declaration of Interest forms to be returned at next meeting.

Finance Sub Committee to be formed; Chair, Cllr. Johnstone, Cllr. Smith and Clerk to undertake budget setting for 2020/21. Meeting to be arranged for December.

**125/19 Date and Venue of next Meeting**

The next Durleigh Parish Council Meeting will be held on:

**THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 @ 7.30 p.m. in the Enmore Memorial Hall, unless permission granted to hold at the West India.**

(There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:00 hrs.)

Signed..... Date.....  
(Chairman of Council)