

Minutes of the Belstone Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room

Present: Ann Norman, Peter Cooper, Jon Pike, Paul Boyce, with Michael Ash in the Chair. Robin Hill (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Susan Norrish

42 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 11th July 2017, previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

43 MATTERS ARISING: There has been no further information on the changes to the opening hours of Belstone Post Office. Notice Board repair ongoing.

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

45 URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIRMAN: None

46 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Eastern Links** next meeting Thursday 14th September, Throwleigh Village Hall.
- ii. **Council Merger** Information about the merger has been distributed to all Councillors. No response from the Council.
- iii. **DNPA** Local Plan Consultation – no response.
- iv. **Invitation from the Mayor of Okehampton** to Okehampton Parade and Civic Service.

47 CLERK'S REPORT:

- i. **Himalayan Balsam** The clerk has received information from Stephen Granger regarding Himalayan balsam on the common. This has been passed to the Commoners.
- ii. **TAP Funding** Jon Pike and Clerk Robin Hill will look into making an application to cover ditching and drainage work.

48 FINANCE:

- i. **Current state of finances and petty cash:** Current Account £995.65. Reserve Account £1996.57 plus 4p interest. Petty cash £2.10 in arrears.
- ii. **Payments made:** None
- iii. **Payments to be made:** The clerk claimed £20 reimbursement for the Garden Gift Token bought as a gift to the internal auditor, Simon Herbert. It was agreed unanimously to make this payment. Proposed Ann Norman seconded Peter Cooper.
- iv. **Audit:** The external audit has been successfully completed.
- v. **Council Diary:** Checked and signed.

49 PLANNING:

- i. **Proposed: Stable at Pt Field No 5827 Belstone.** After discussion No Objection/Neutral View was agreed unanimously.

50 HIGHWAYS:

The Clerk contacted the new highways officer Darryl Jagger who came to the village 11th August 2017 and walked round, with several Councillors, the principal areas of concern regarding flooding. Darryl Jagger has asked for information from Skanska on the lengthsman and gully cleaning, as there is little evidence that this has been carried out. He did consider that the heavy rain back in August was a

'flooding event' and it would have been difficult to stop it happening. A section of pipe outside Moor Plot is to be replaced plus a couple of manhole covers to make them easier to clean. When ditch cleaning is carried out top priority will be a section between Well Park and Little Meadow. There was considerable discussion about how flooding in the village could be avoided in the future. Marion Walpole, owner of a business that was flooded, was understandably particularly concerned that something should be done. Ideas included the villagers being more proactive and take greater responsibility for drains in the area of their properties. The Council decided that initially we should make sure that we get our fair share of gully cleaning and ditching and that we keep in regular contact with Darryl Jagger to make sure things get done. The Council will consider TAP Funding as a way of getting additional ditching and drainage works.

51 OTHER MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

- i. The Council agreed that the Peter Wood seat can be re-sited in a slightly different position when it is put back and that the original site will then become redundant.
- ii. The Westlake seat is in a bad state of repair. The Clerk will check the records to see who is responsible for its upkeep.

52 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 17th October 2017

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Signed Dated
Chairman