

Minutes of the Winterborne Zelston Village Meeting held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at Winterborne Zelston Village Hall, commencing 6.30pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Attendance and apologies

Parish Cllrs Mark Leaper, Ron Sorrell and Bill Newman and the Parish Clerk, together with 5 members of the public were present. Apologies had been received from District Councillors Emma Parker and Jane Somper, also from residents; Caroline and Nigel Pugh; Sally Orr.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2017

The minutes have been available on the notice board in the village and on the Parish Council web site. They were proposed by Ron Sorrell to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Bill Newman and the minutes were signed by Cllr Leaper in the presence of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

Noticeboard repairs – this is still pending.

It was noted that the District Councillors were, once again, not present at the meeting. It was explained that Cllr Somper was unwell, but residents felt that both the District and County Councillors should attend more local meetings.

4. Parish Chairman's Report

Cllr Leaper read out his report. The full report will be available on the Parish Council's web site and, on request, from the Clerk.

5. County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor was not in attendance and no report was available.

6. District Councillors' Report

Although unable to attend, the District Councillors had sent a joint report. This was read out at the meeting and a full copy is available on the Parish Council's web site and, on request, from the Clerk.

7. Village Updates

Flood – It was reported that the river was running normally until Good Friday but has now risen quite drastically and has burst its banks in some places. There is a large tree down behind the island which is obstructing flow, but nothing can really be done about it at the moment. Overall there is no need to worry just yet. The drain opposite Spring Vale by the church is blocked with mud. This has been reported but, to date, no action has been taken.

Homewatch – Di Lewis reported as follows:

'Following a spate of incidents, mostly opportunist burglaries, in the village with break-ins to garages and outbuildings, a village meeting was attended by 20 residents to discuss a course of action and share good practice. This resulted in the local PCSO, Mike Sinnick, attending our Parish Council meeting in September to answer questions and give ideas of how best to protect properties. Having stated that rural North Dorset is a very low crime area, Mike went on to give advice about the use of CCTV, security lighting and general advice about reducing the risk of opportunist burglaries. Circumstances prevented the action decided at the public meeting being completed but I will hopefully carry this out by the end of April.

Police alerts are circulated regularly and continue to remind us of the massive rise in fraud and cybercrime. Anyone who wishes to subscribe to this should contact Di Lewis – dianasourus@btinternet.com.'

Public Footpaths and Bridleways – It was reported that the bridleways are clear. The major issue in the village and along the bridleways and footpaths is the dogs mess not being picked up and walkers not using the designated paths. There are dog bins around the village and at key locations, but walkers are still not picking up after their dogs. This problem is not unique to Zelston and without some way of enforcing the issue, there is little that can be done other than to continue to appeal to dog owners to be more responsible and think of other users of the countryside.

Trees – No report available.

Village Hall – It was reported that the hall is, unfortunately, largely underused but costs are covered by the few events held.

St Marys Church – no report available.

8. Village Appointments

Flood Warden – Rita Burden was happy to carry on in this role.

Home Watch – Di Lewis will continue in this role.

Trees – Bill Newman will take this on.

Bridleway – Bonnie Randall is happy to continue in this role.

Footpaths – Sally Orr.

9. Roads and Potholes

There is a large pothole towards the eastern end of the village but the whole road needs resurfacing. Cllr Hilary Cox will be asked to take this up with Highways. The Clerk has asked for a figure as to how much it is likely to cost but has yet to receive a figure. This will be pursued. *Post meeting note: A response regarding the cost of work has been received. To resurface the roads would cost about £40,000, this would be a 10mm material laid at 40mm deep. To surface dress the village (tar and chip) would be about £20,000.*

Della felt that it was a country road and need not be resurfaced, people will just have to drive slower.

Ron Sorrell – there are also sections where the road has broken up completely and needs resurfacing.

10. Parish Land

Once again, the residents have kept the Parish Land in tidy order and there continues to be discussion about the laurels opposite Camelot and Brookside. The tree opposite Springvale has been tidied so does not need to be felled at this time.

11. Community Transport

Zelston residents continue to benefit from the NeighbourCar Scheme organised by Bere Regis Parish Council. Anyone interested in using this facility or becoming a volunteer driver should contact the Parish Clerk.

12. Open Forum

Hopewillow and Redwoods – It is understood that there are now two dwellings where there was only one and there are two driveways - although there is only a caravan at the end of the second drive. There may

be issues regarding the access to Redwoods. County Cllr Hilary Cox is aware of the situation. Copy in Simon MP. Pauline Baxter is chair of the North Dorset Conservative Association.

Lyn Lewis commented that it was nice to have the village pub back.

Ron Sorrell – At the last village meeting there was strong feeling about the western exit from the village. We are still no further forward. It was generally felt that the village would like to go ahead with Road Traffic Order for white lines and go to the village with the signs. Bill Newman will do some mock ups of the signs and go to the village for their comments.

Thanks are extended to the existing parish councillors who represent Zelston and also to Di Lewis for all the work she did during her time in office.

There being no further business, the meeting closed 19:25pm.