

**Minutes of the Winterborne Zelston Village Meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2019 at
Winterborne Zelston Village Hall, commencing 7.00pm**

Chair: Cllr Ross Jessopp
Present: Cllrs Ron Sorrell and Bill Newman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Attendance and apologies

Apologies had been received from Amanda Crocker, Lynn Lewis, Bonnie Randell, Geoff Hall.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2018

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

3. Matters arising

All matters arising are dealt with under specific agenda items

4. Parish Chairman's Report

Cllr Jessopp 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 is available on the Parish Council's web site and, on request, from the Clerk.

7. Flood & River Report

Winterborne Zelston Flood Warden's Report 2019

We were most grateful to the 25 residents who gathered for the annual river tidy in October and, although it began as a wet and windy day, a good job was done. There was a record amount of debris this year from the trees that blew down in the Spring/Summer and, because of the wind, the bonfire was not lit until the following week. Some thought must be given in future to the removal of weed as the Environment Agency's policy is to place it on the banks to allow any wildlife to return to the river bed.

Water was back in the river bed the first week of December and, although we have had a fair amount of rain this winter, the water table has remained low and the river levels have not raised any concerns.

There are a couple of tree branches down at the moment, but they are not causing a problem to the flow of the river so can be dealt with when accessible.

There is, however, a vast amount of silt in the pond area and I suggest that this problem should be looked at as soon as possible with a plan to maybe dig a channel through, as was done some years back, and also restore/re-establish the banks along the roadside.

Rita Burden

One issue highlighted was the potential need to deepen the river channel and reconstitute the banks. This would need the approval of the Environment Agency.

Action: Rita Burden to liaise with the Environment Agency initially to establish process.

8. Footpaths & Bridleways

Report to follow – Bonnis Randll.

9. Howewatch

Di Lewis reported that it had been a quiet year overall. Police Alerts were continuing to be circulated.

10. Precept

Discussion took place regarding the increase in the precept.

Cllr Sorrell stated that the increase was needed when the budget was set in October, firstly because of the requirement to allocate funds for grass cutting £1,200 for a new commercial contract as Simon Perry has now finished. In addition, a further £500 was needed for Asset Maintenance. Cllr Newman stated this increase represented, on average, as additional £21 per annum to the Council Tax bill.

11. Grass Cutting for Zelston

Cllr Newman advised the meeting that, during the year, a specification for grass cutting had been completed with a view to offering this for tender. He stated that the budget had been set on this basis. Fortunately, a volunteer within the village had come forward to cut the grass. The grass had been cut on 2 occasions to a very good standard and the Parish Council was very pleased to continue this arrangement and offered their gratitude to Bill Northey for his continued support.

It was agreed that the budget would be reviewed at the end of the year.

12. Road Signage

Cllr Newman advised the meeting that recent discussions with Highways Dorset had been encouraging and a meeting on site had been agreed to review the issue of the western exit. A report had previously been carried out relating to the junction by the pond, which resulted in no action being taken.

Action: Cllr Newman to progress the signage issue with Highways.

13. Springclean

It was agreed that a Spring Clean would take place.

Action: Cllr Sorrell to organise a date for the Spring Clean.

14. Open Forum

1. Travellers at Lane End, Bloxworth were an issue for cyclists. However, it was agreed that, as the problem was not within our parish, there was little that could be done by the village.
2. Laurels – the trees in the centre of the village have grown considerably in recent years and some residents feel that they needed attention. Cllr Newman agreed to contact an arborist to look at the situation and offer recommendations, whilst taking into consideration any likely impact on wildlife as well as the fact that it is a play area for children.

Action: Cllr Newman.

3. Della Jones advised that the Police Firearms Unit had now finished on her land in the village – she thought it had been successful and it was good to have had an increased Police presence in the village.
4. Best Kept Village – Di Lewis to complete the entry form. Deadline – 29th April.
5. Di Lewis thanked Cllr Sorrell and Newman for their continued involvement in the village.

There being no further business, the meeting closed 19:50pm.