

Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 29th November 2017 at 7.00pm

Chair: David Redwood (DR)

In attendance:

Chris Vallance (CV), Karin Valence(KV), Robin Longland (RL), Rosemary Redwood (RR), Geoff Merrick (GM), Dee Trevor (DT), Roger Trevor (RT), Jason Trevor (JT), Adrian Exton (AE), Anita Exton (AAE), Peter Mera (PM), Helen Mera (HM), Alix Brooke (AB), Bill Bryson(BB), Patsy Merrick (PMM) scribe

Agenda item 1: Apologies

Jacqueline and Andrew Duncan, Jeanne and Andrew Lakeman, Jo Trevor, Thomas Trevor, Valerie Burnham, Mac Lafosse, Judith Grix, Roger Grix, Angela Stevens, Rose and Pete Figgins.

Agenda item 2: Declaration of Interests

DR declared that he had no pecuniary interests.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting of 4th May 2017

PM proposed and KV seconded; it was unanimously agreed that these minutes were a correct and accurate record and were duly signed and dated.

Agenda Item 4: Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item 5: Approval of audited accounts as accepted by the external auditor BDO LLP

Proposed by DT and seconded by AE, all unanimously voted in favour. DR informed the meeting that henceforth we will no longer need to have our accounts audited by an external auditor due to changes in the legislation which affects our parish as being a "smaller authority".

Agenda Item 6: Budget and Precept for 2017-18

DR submitted that he could see no reason to change our precept however, RT questioned the need to maintain the precept at the same level as the previous year. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the sum in the bank was a reasonable contingency and the precept should remain unchanged at £1300. DR reminded the meeting that our banked savings may be used towards work on the footpath running along the side of the Old School House and/or towards a bench by the Millennium wood planted by RT.) DR suggested that the contingency money should be reviewed next year.

Andrew Lakeman very generously maintains the church graveyard and cuts the hedge of the cemetery. Andy Grey very kindly trims the hedges along the path next to The Old School. Both of these kind gestures save the Parish money and are appreciated by the parishioners.

AB proposed, KV seconded and it was unanimously agreed to maintain the precept at £1300

Agenda Item 7: Report on parish matters

Henstridge: Nothing new can be reported on this. South Somerset District Council has admitted that it is permitting aerobatic manoeuvres despite there being no agreement yet reached by SSDC and the airfield operator; it would appear that there is an impasse.

Travellers at Five Bridges: Nine or ten caravans and lorries have returned for their "winter season". Councilor Westbrook has been contacted but nothing has been resolved. RT pointed out that if they are forced out, with nowhere else to go, they could, for example, resite to his land and access road. Therefore caution in handling them is advised. RT requested that everyone in the village who uses his track should close gates, to prevent any unauthorised vehicles gaining access.

Speed Limits: Unfortunately, although many villages including Fifehead Magdalen would like 20mph limits, the Council is unlikely to approve them. Furthermore, the Council wishes to reduce the amount of road signage, not increase it. Volunteers are welcome to use hand held speed guns. KV and BB are happy to do so but the minimum number a village can have is four. Training for volunteers would be required.

Footpath next to The Old School House: DR has written repeatedly to the Senior Ranger, to ascertain the likelihood of repair and improvement. He has received no satisfactory response other than vague promises. RT has spoken to his tenant about barbed wire on the fence adjacent to the footpath (N36/1) beyond the Millennium grove. A strand of smooth wire will be fixed to the path side of the fence so that walkers are not at risk from grasping the barbed wire.

More footpath signs have been requested but none are forthcoming. Stile repair is in progress.

Agenda Item 8: Any other business

There was no further business.

Agenda Item 9: Date of next meeting

To be decided upon. Probably sometime in May.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

DR wishes to thank PM for taking and transcribing the minutes.