**LONG LOAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Long Load Parish Council held at **the Village Hall, Long Load on Tuesday 18 September 2018.**

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**Present:**

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| Cllr Michael English (Chairman)  Cllr Richard Collis  Cllr Olwen Herridge |  |

Cllr Neil Bloomfield (County Councillor)

Mrs Angela Cox (Acting Temporary Clerk)

2 residents of the village

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Harvey and Patrick Collins and District Councillor Graham Middleton.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors at the meeting.

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meetings held on 17 July were confirmed as correct records of the meetings and signed by the Chairman.

1. **Matters arising**

It was noted that all matters arising from the previous meeting were included on the Agenda.

1. **DC/CC Reports**

Cllr Neil Bloomfield reported that Gigaclear had reduced their prices and were offering Broadband connections for £35 per month. He confirmed that he would circulate the details by email.

Cllr Neil Bloomfield advised that South Somerset District Council had a new Leader: Miss Val Keitch. He also noted that the Council would shortly be going through a Local Government Association Peer Review and they had taken on a number of agency staff in the planning department to help with a backlog of applications. Councillor elections would be held in May 2019.

He also reported that Somerset County Council had agreed £13.5m budgets cuts the previous week to balance their budget and avoid issuing a Section 114 Notice which meant that all but statutory spending would be ceased. He expressed his concern that this could impact on the new bus service subsidy, the South Somerset Citizens Advice Service funding and the Young Carers scheme. Other service cuts included hedge cutting, gully clearing and winter road gritting. He also noted that he had resigned as Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee as he was concerned the County Council had not attempted any serious income generation to make up the budget shortfall. He concluded by explaining his reasons for leaving the Conservative group and joining the Liberal Democrat group.

1. **La-Lade Caravan Site**

Cllr Michael English said he has been in email correspondence with Emma Baker, an Environmental Health Officer at SSDC regarding the caravan site. She had accepted the change of ownership and would be sending the new owner a new site license application form. She had also noted there may be a planning issue at the site and had passed the information to them to investigate.

Councillors briefly discussed their options and it was agreed to pursue the planning office regarding the business use at the site in case of a future Certificate of Lawfulness application.

1. **To appoint a new Parish Clerk**

Cllr Michael English advised that there had been three applicants for the post of Clerk to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Chairman and at least one other Councillor interview two of the candidates at the earliest opportunity and appoint the successful candidate at the next Parish Council meeting.

1. **To appoint a Parish Councillor as a Trustee of the Village Hall**

It was noted that one local person had recently been appointed to the Village Hall Committee but they were not aware that they had been appointed as a Trustee.

Cllr Michael English said that further information on the expectations of the role was still required before an appointment could be made from the Parish Council and so it was agreed to defer this to a future meeting.

1. **Future of the Village Bier**

Cllr Michael English said that he had approached 3 local museums to ask if there were interested in taking the Bier into their collections but all 3 had refused because they had either insufficient storage space or had biers in their collections already.

Councillors briefly discussed their options including selling on Ebay, through a local auction house or giving it to the Diocese and it was agreed to defer the decision to the next meeting when more Councillors would be present to make the decision.

1. **Correspondence and Planning Applications**

The following correspondence was noted:-

* Newsletter from the Police and Crime Commissioner
* Circular and brochure from Creative Play
* Nat West Bank statements for July / August 2018.
* Circular / letter from Nat West relating to foreign currency

There were no planning applications submitted within the parish.

1. **Parish Website**

Cllr Michael English called for a vote of thanks to Cllr Roger Harvey for his work on the new Parish website. It was noted that Cllr Harvey would provide an update at the next meeting.

1. **Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

The Acting Parish Clerk explained that following the sudden death of the previous Clerk, certain key Council documents could not be found and so it was prudent to adopt the NALC standard Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to protect the Parish Council. Councillors were in agreement with the adoption of the two documents.

1. **Accounts**

It was noted that cheques had been drawn as follows:-

1. £30.00 to South Somerset District Council for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) training for 3 Parish Councillors (cheque no. 407).
2. £22.68 to Cllr Patrick Collins to repay him for his personal payment to CJ Howe for weedkiller (cheque No. 408).
3. **Public Participation**

Mrs M White asked if it would be appropriate to request a Tree Preservation Order for the large oak tree on the allotments. It was agreed that whilst the Allotment Committee existed this would be their decision.

1. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 18 September 2018**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday 16 October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Long Load.

1. **Any Other Business/Items for next meeting**

Cllr O Herridge expressed her disappointment with the communication between the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the local Police beat team regarding an incident in the village. Following advice from the PCSO she had found a better channel of communication through their website at <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/>

Cllr Michael English tendered his resignation from the Parish Council due to other demands on his time. It was noted that Notice of Vacancy would be posted on the village noticeboard as soon as possible.

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|  | ..……………………………………Chairman |
|  | ……………………………………..  Date |