

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 10th December 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Vice-Chair & Meeting Chair), Rachel Dickinson, Nigel Wilyman

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

5012 APOLOGIES Cllr Brian Cannell, NSC Ward Cllr Nigel Ashton, Colin Medus (NSC Liaison),

5013 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

5014 LAST MEETING MINUTES (November 12th 2018) were agreed, and signed by Meeting Chair & Clerk.

5015 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE None

5016 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Speedwatch: The regular sessions continue have the effect of slowing traffic through the Village. The police have also conducted some speed checks.

5017 PLANNING

Decisions Due: Lorraine Field - 18/P/4021/FUL to vary condition 21 of decision 17/P/1339/F. **18/P/4346/FUH** Nutshell fence. **18/P/4638/FUH** & **18/P/4639/LBC** Old Rectory House sun room. **18/P/4658/FUH** Castle View Walton Bay Single storey side extension.

Approved: 18/P/4276/FUL Lorraine Field plot 15.

5018 PARISH MAINTENANCE

End Gully on B3124 at Rear of Home Farm Cottage: Camera investigation done. Work plan awaited.

Village Gateway Preparation: Verge work done. Gateway to be funded via 2019-20 budget - see Minute 5021 below

B3124 Speed Calming:

Summary of NSC response re white line edging, to Portishead as under:

The positioning of speed limit signs at either end of the village do not comply with current Government guidance for the installation of a 30mph speed limit. As a visual message to drivers that they are in a village, a measure of density is needed to give some minimum standard as to the frequency of the houses over the extent of the speed limit. On the basis of the minimum number of houses and length of speed limit, an average density of at least 3 houses per 100 metres over the extent of the 30mph speed limit is recommended. This minimum density should generally also apply for each 100m section, but particularly for the first 100 metres of the speed limit at each end of the village, to reinforce the visual message for drivers. This recommended measure of density, over which the speed limit should apply, should be reserved to cover the main body of the village only. The signs to the east of the village are some 241 metres from the main body of the village and to the west 56 metres. At Weston-in-Gordano the signs were relocated to fit this criteria, which had a positive impact of driver behaviour. If sign relocation is not an option, speed readings (£210 each) within the present and 'ideal' sign positions would indicate what actual speeds are. If the speed reading indicates compliance with a 30 limit lining or gateways would be sufficient: if they do not, then in order to maintain the 30 limits locations we should implement traffic calming measures to force drivers to comply with the speed limit, this could be in the form of Road Humps, Narrowings, VAS plus gateways and signing and lining. Alternatively the 30 signs could be repositioned and a buffer speed limit of 40mph installed (at the present easterly 30 sign and 100 yards further west than the present westerly 30 sign). This would be supported by additional lining similar to that on the approach to the speed limit in Weston-in-Gordano.

Members discussed this issue and concurred with the key points circulated by Cllr Cannell. It appears that formal traffic calming measures such as white verge lines at the Village entrance points will result in the moving of the 30mph speed limit significantly closer to 'where the gateways start' rather than

relating to 'where the Village starts'. The issue is particularly significant at the Portishead end: it will negate efforts to make the gateway to Hackswood safer, and take away the possibility of speed checks by Plum Tree Cottage towards Portishead as the checks would be outside of the new 30mph limit.
Clerk to relay this to NSC.

B3124 30mph Plumtree Roundel Currently visible.

5019 OTHER MATTERS

Broadband: Cllr Ralston provided digests of the current problems at Gigaclear and of the TrueSpeed offer. There are continuing uncertainties re a revised Gigaclear timetable. The Gigaclear expectation for our area is to announce the spine installation (will this be down the B3124?) in January 2019, with plans for the spurs off this spine being announced in April 2019. Connecting Devon and Somerset, for whom Gigaclear are the main contractors, continue to support these plans, and continue to believe the completion timetable by the end of 2020 to be achievable.

Given that TrueSeed, uniquely, offer fibre to the home via leases on Western Power and BT poles rather than via underground excavation, they reckon to connect homes with about six months of work starting. There is no up front cost from the community, but TrueSpeed will not commit to starting a community installation until they have a sign-up of 30% of that community to the project. We are not clear as to the minimum size or housing density of 'that community'. The consumer commitment is to an 18 month fixed price contract at £47.50 per month, which includes broadband at a full upload and download of 200mb/s (the full 1000mb/s will be available at a higher monthly cost) and a telephone line, which can carry the customer's existing telephone number. The Village Hall (and a school if there is one) are provided with a free service. TrueSpeed are a local company, based in Keynsham. They have some £75million of backing, which includes involvement from Aviva. Several surrounding parishes are signed up or fully operational. It appears that, given the size of our community, neither option is going to provide us with a 'quick fix'. *Clerk will put a piece about this alternative broadband offer in the January Cross Tree Chronicle and on website.*

TrueSpeed will attend the January 14th meeting to explain their fibre-to-the-home broadband service - an alternative to Gigaclear: the more residents who can attend the better.

5020 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No Cllrs reports

5021 FINANCE

2019-20 Budget: Members in noting the draft for preliminary discussion, accepted the external heads such as insurance, hall fees etc. They noted the three heads below for specific comment. The draft budget will be formally discussed at the January meeting. Notes on the figures are as below. The electronic precept data is awaited from NSC before a formal draft can be prepared.

Clerk's pay: *This draft indicates £11.77 per hour. Local comparison and the new national scales indicate £14 per hour. The meeting was minded to pay the Clerk the £14 they felt was deserved.*

Village Gateway: *The B3124 gateways are provided for - Clerk to seek formal quotes and to our Parish Maintenance contact for a quote to erect.*

Solsoft: *Solsoft are looking to see if they can reduce their fees to less than cost in order to help the PC's budgetary constraints.*

Clerk to prepare alternative scenarios for the January meeting, to take account of these notes.

2018-19 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers and noted.

Cheques: 768 HMRC re PAYE £88.20 769 Hall Hire £9.00

The meeting closed at 8.40pm