

EAST HARPTREE PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH APRIL 2018

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE THEATRE, EAST HARPTREE @ 7.15pm

	<p><i>Present:</i> Eight members of the public, Cllrs King (Chairman), Jennings, Waldron, Carver, Coombs, Jones and Darvil, Cllr Warrens (B&NES) and Alan Butcher (Clerk)</p>
1	<p><i>Chairmans welcome.</i> The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.</p>
2	<p><i>Apologies for absence.</i> None were received.</p>
3	<p><i>Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous meeting:</i> Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2017 were agreed with a minor amendment and signed as a true record.</p>
4	<p><i>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting:</i> It was noted that the Waldegrave Arms had now re-opened.</p>
5	<p><i>Chairmans Report:</i></p> <p>At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2017 (the AGM) Peter King was re-elected as chairman with Andrew Jones as vice chairman. The final Parish Council vacancy was filled during the year with the co-option of Pam Lambert Carver onto the council.</p> <p>A total of 24 planning applications were considered during the year being an slight decrease on the previous year. The Parish Council has spent a great deal of time dealing with problems which have arisen as a result of works on the Kielder, Church Lane site. The removal of hedges and trees on the site in disregard of planning conditions and substantial excavations with large lorries travelling through the village at school times, the disposition of mud and contaminated soil on the roads and a seeming total disregard for local residents led to many complaints and much correspondence between the planners and the Parish Council with the site being issued a “stop” notice by B&NES for a short time in the autumn. The Parish Council has now received an application to vary the original permission and will be considering that application after this meeting. The Pinkers Farm, Middle Street site has yet to commence but the Parish Council continues to monitor the discharge of planning conditions and, in particular, those relating to the surface water entering and leaving the site.</p> <p>As a result of these developments, the Parish Council receives a proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy which by mid-2018 will yield £8,500.00 with further sums to follow as developments proceed. Additionally, the Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan villages receive a</p>

proportion of the funds and East Harptree is also able to bid for funds from the CVNP to further support village projects. During the year the Parish Council through the Playground Refurbishment Committee has supported the Playing Field with the Playground Refurbishment project and was pleased to commit £8,000 of CIL monies to the project at its meeting in March. The council continues to support the playing field financially by way of an annual grant.

In considering planning applications the Parish Council seeks to ensure that matters such as parking, which have a big impact on the narrow roads around the village are properly addressed. The council has always taken the criteria for parking included in the CVNP when considering applications but, due to a technicality, the lesser parking provision included in the B&NES Local plan now takes precedence. The council continues to urge B&NES to retain the criteria included in the CVNP. Having said in last years report that the Place Making Plan and CVNP had been finalised, the Joint Spatial Plan prepared by the West of England authority has meant that B&NES have to update the Local Plan as there is a requirement for 100,000 new homes to be built in the next 20 years including 700 in rural areas. The Parish Council has responded to an options consultation and a HELAA review where sites have been identified in the village. This is ongoing and although the location of the sites are in the public domain, the comments about the sites both by B&NES and the Parish Council are currently “confidential”. The Parish Council is uneasy with this which is a requirement of B&NES.

The Parish Council monitors parish highways and byways and reports problems and defects to the local authority highways department. As well as potholes, there have been several instances of blocked drains and gullies which cause local flooding. Work continues to ensure resilience in the event of flooding in the village. The Parish Sweeping Agreement remains in place and the sweeper continues to do an excellent job in this regard.

The Parish Council were disappointed not to have been consulted on the infrastructure works involved with the provision of broadband to the village. As the works are within the Mendip Hills AONB the provider, Truespeed, should have consulted with the council as to their proposals. The Waldegrave Arms was confirmed as an Asset of Community Value and refurbishment works have been completed allowing the “Walde” to re-open.

The Parish Council supported an initiative on the Future Strategy for the village, thanks to Sally Claverley for her work on this and also the Newton project which aims to provide community space within the church. A hearing loop has been installed in The Theatre thanks to a grant from B&NES and some good work by Richard Coombs

The website continues to give details of meeting minutes, financial information, councillors interests, etc. and the village email list allows the council to contact parishioners directly about matters of import. The Parish

	Council received its requested precept at the start of the year. I would like to thank councillors for their work and assistance during the year.
6	<p><u>Other reports as received.</u></p> <p>Cllr Warren gave a report about B&NES Council. He spoke about the budget and that 80% of the budget goes to Child and Adult Social care with the the remaining services received the other 20%. He noted it had been necessary to reduce the workforce by about 15% during the year which was regrettable. He advised a change to waste and re-cycling services and noted that recycling has increased by 50 tonnes per week.</p> <p>B&NES had invested in property via a separate property company to cover a budget shortfall and was building homes for rent. It was also considering building “council housing” in the future. It was intended that new developments should have infrastructure in place before commencement. He noted problems with air quality in Bath and proposals to charge for cars coming into the city. He noted a reduction in bus subsidies and spoke about the West of England authority integrated transport plan, the possibility of local shuttle buses and the re-opening of railways and stations in the west of England area.</p> <p>Questions were raised about building in the green belt and the provision of affordable homes.</p>
7	<p><u>Meeting open to the public and parishioners.</u></p> <p>The format of the meeting was discussed and a suggestion made for more communication via social media.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all those present for attending, members of the Partish Council for their input during the year and Cllr Tim warren for his report and his help during the last year.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
29th March 2019
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