

Parish Council Meeting –Tuesday 25th November 2014
SEAVINGTON ST MARY/MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE 422nd PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SEAVINGTON MILLENNIUM HALL
On Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 5.45pm

2038.ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT

Mr S Madge - Chair

Mrs E Edwards – Vice Chair

Mrs B Lake

Mrs P Parsons

Mr D Smith

Christopher Le Hardy - County Councillor

Barry Walker – District Councillor

APOLOGIES

Mr N Loxton

Mrs R Turner

Paul Thompson – District Councillor

ALSO PRESENT – County Councillor David Hall

County Council representative Nathaniel Lucas and 20 members of the public

2039. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – Councillor Madge welcomed David Hall [SCC Cabinet Member for Infrastructure] and Nathaniel Lucas from Somerset County Council who had come to give an up-date on the present situation with regard to faster Broadband coming to The Seavingtons. Over a period of time concerns had been made to both the Parish Council and County Councillor that it seemed as though the South Petherton exchange and The Seavingtons, in particular were dropping down the list and could fall off!!

Councillor Hall thanked the Parish Council for the invitation to come to explain the current situation. Nathaniel Lucas then gave an up-date on the present situation stating the 90% of areas within the Devon and Somerset Scheme would be able to get 24mb/s by 2016. The Length of time between the survey and the process being completed was in the region of 6 months. Monies being spent by BT are being audited by Central Government but at present there was no breakdown into areas where the monies had been spent. However, BT are obliged to deliver against the contract. Out of 1,500 cabinets scheduled just over 330 are at present installed. 75,000 homes are now accessing fibre optic broadband across the Devon and Somerset Scheme. Targets will be met by 2016.

Members of the public were then asked if they had any questions. The following points were raised:-

- Survey of South Petherton Exchange had been scheduled for Autumn 2014 and had been delayed yet again – why? *Project is very fluid by NL promised to feed back why there had been delays*
- It seems that BT has a monopoly and there was uncertainty where the monies were being spent *An Intervention Project has been set up for “soft areas”. BT Commercial are responsible for the ‘profitable areas’. The Local Authorities and National Parks have put in monies to provide the service to rural areas. It is a 5 year plan using existing infra-structure and new infrastructure. The surveys are highlighting difficulties. Dates for surveys etc are on the web-site.*
- Why were there so many BT Open Reach vans in the local area. *The main contractor for fibre optic broad band is BT Wholesale. BT Open Reach are probably only doing maintenance works on the existing system,*

It was pointed out that 3G can be obtained already in the area at an extra cost through a mobile phone supplier.

At the end of the Session Councillor Hall gave assurances that the South Petherton exchange would get propriety and that BT were contracted to have The Seavingtons connected by the end of 2016 and would not be in the 5% of the country that never received it.

[After the meeting it was agreed a letter would be sent seeking assurances in writing that this would be the case]

2040.REPORT FROM POLICE – Nothing specific received.

2041.REPORT FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S

District Councillor Walker - advised that the Lopen head mobile phone mast was being upgraded and that it would now be shared by other mobile phone operators.

Closure of Rural banks – MP David Laws had been contacted and hopeful of a meeting with representative from RBS/Nat West shortly, particularly as the Martock branch was closed last year.

Further Development in South Petherton – concerns raised with a further proposal for more housing near the hospital with all access being through St Michael's Gardens. Meeting with planners will be arranged.

County Councillor Le Hardy – advised that projects using Health and Wellbeing monies were being used for a scheme to arrange visits to Frogmary Green for primary school children so they could get an understanding of the Food Chain.

Up-grading of the A303 and A358 were top of list of priorities. Meeting with County Highways to take place.

Ministry of Defence – some £380,000 has come to South Somerset to support projects. Councillor Le Hardy will provide details of how to access the Scheme.

2042. **MINUTES OF THE 421st ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON** Tuesday 28th October were agreed as correct and signed.
2043. **S106 or CIL monies – Lift West Development** – Still held in abeyance as no planning decision yet made regarding the proposed 13 houses. However, District Councillor Walker indicated that both he and Councillor Thompson were trying to get the proportion of monies allocated to The Seavingtons increased, and he was hopeful that this would happen.
2044. **REPORT REGARDING HIGHWAY ISSUES [including flooding and SID]** – Works to up-grade drain in School Lane to start on 15th December. A further cover has been broken in the section of path that was repaired by Seavington House. Councillor Parsons advised that she had been asked the situation regarding the roadside ditches in Church Lane. Councillor Madge to contact residents.
- 2045.**UP-DATE RE DAVID'S LANE CONCERNS** – No further news regarding the promised white-lining.
2046. **REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LOXTON RE RANGER SCHEME** – In the absence of Councillor Loxton Councillor Parsons reported that the new Ranger was working well. He had been concentrating on tidying up vegetation around the village, grass strimming and blocked drains. Drain at the top of Upton Lane will be reported to Highways as he is unable to clear this. Will be asked to try and clear drains in Townsend and West Street.
- 2047.**REPORT ON VILLAGE FOOTPATHS** – No concerns advised.
2048. **REPORT ON VILLAGE CAR PARK** – Signed and Dated copy of the Deed of Easement has now been received. Working party to be set up to decide the way forward regarding parking regulations. Must be completed by February to link into District Council Scheme.
2049. **REPORT ON SPFA** – Councillor Parsons reiterated her concerns with regard to fund raising in the villages to support the Playing Field Association. Consideration is being given to only doing joint projects with the Community Shop/Cafe during 2015.
2050. **REPORT FROM COMMUNITY SHOP** – Takings are still increasing. Letters to be sent out shortly to Bond Holders regarding 'pay-back'.
- 2051.**PROGRESS RE BLUE PLAQUE FOR VOLUNTEER INN** – No further news
2052. **UP-DATE ON WORLD WAR I PLAQUE** – Now in situ at top of playing field. Re-dedication service was well attended. A concern had been raised that perhaps planning permission should have been obtained, but no-one present was aware of this.
2053. **SUNDRY MATTERS OF REPORT** – Councillor Lake trying to make arrangements for a free Red-Cross course to be run in the Millennium Hall. Bulbs now received and will be planted in several areas in the villages.
2054. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS** – Councillor Lake reported that Councillor Loxton was prepared to put the New Plan together and had the old Village Plan on computer. Asked that all Councillors went through old Village Plan and indicated what should be deleted and what should be kept. For further discussion at next meeting.
2055. **VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS OF SPFA [40 YRS] AND SHOP [5 YEARS] PLANNED FOR JULY 2015** – Parish Councillors agreed they would like to be kept informed and Councillor Smith agreed to join the small sub-committee that has been set up.

2056. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

14/02977/FUL – Solar energy panels at Land to North of Hurcott – Permission granted with conditions

2057. ACCOUNTS

(a) **Balances – C/A - £8,250.14 credit**

Business Reserve - £12,285.84 credit

(b) **Payment requests – SSDC £1,207.68 – Ranger Scheme**

(c) **Grant applications - None**

(d) **Change of Signatory Forms – Agreed Councillor Edwards to be added**

(e) **Initial discussions re Precept for 2015-16 – Papers distributed. Agreed to discuss further at next meeting**

2058. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 16th December 2014

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed

Date