

## **BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2003  
at Curry Mallet Village Hall at 7.30pm.

### **Present.**

Mrs.S.Prideaux. Chairperson

Mr B Howell

Mr W Vigus

Mr P Dibble

Mr A Talbot-Williams

Mrs.B.Manu. Clerk

County Councillor Mr D Nelson and Mr R Hughes (District cllr) were also present.

Members of the Public- One

### **1003 Apologies.**

Mr A Reed and Mr A Davies.

### **1004 Declarations of Interest.**

Councillors W Vigus, P Dibble and B Howell declared interests.

### **1005 Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on November 18th 2002 were approved and signed.

### **1006 Matters arising.**

a. ParishPlan/Heritage Project.

It was felt that this matter be forwarded to the next meeting in the hope that Val Grainger - Field Officer for the Community Council will be able to attend and further explain the scheme.

b. Council Elections.

Mr W Vigus confirmed his intentions not to stand as councillor come the elections in May.

c. Roads.

Mrs Prideaux confirmed that Mr Sharpe had agreed to visit the village to discuss the constant problems of flooding, surface water damage, blocked drains and the general poor condition of a number of road surfaces. The meeting has been arranged for tomorrow at 2pm Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup> on the village green. Mr Vigus also agreed to attend.

It was confirmed by Mr Nelson and Mr Hughes that the issue of the speed notices was causing consultation difficulties in some villages. There is a county plan to introduce mile per hour zones in and around Somerset Villages. The speed limits vary according to specifics (schools/crossings etc) and whilst most villages approve the zoning, the actual signs may be quite intrusive to the rural surroundings. It was felt that the council and

Beercrocombe residents should view currently installed signing at the village of Drayton to ascertain the complexity of the matter, with a view to a future village discussion.

All residents are invited to attend the next council meeting Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

d. Footpaths.

A letter of complaint regarding footpath 9/12/19 Hatch Green to Elm Bridge has again been received regarding its obstruction. It was agreed to contact the relevant department to try and encourage a site visit with the landowner. The clerk to reply accordingly.

e. NALC Salary Agreement.

It was agreed to accept the approved rates of pay for the period 01/04/02-31/03/04 and to rectify outstanding payments at the year-end 2003.

f. Village Green Letter.

The issues raised were duly discussed and it was felt that no action could be taken until further advice is sought. The clerk and Chair are to clarify the possibility of works to the signpost, Poplar tree and eroded green.

Mr D Nelson left the meeting.

**1007 Matters of Report.**

a. FLAG.

The next meeting for the group is to be held in April at Yeovilton. Mr Howell stated that he was hoping to organise a 'village visit' to Merryfield in the near future.

**1008 Finance.**

a. Councillor's Expenses. Nil

b. Cheques for Signature.

Approval to pay the Audit Invoice of £45.00 (upon receipt) was given.

**1009 Notifications.**

Mr Hughes confirmed that the District Council voted unanimously for the policy panels to review the current position regarding fireworks. He also confirmed a national review was ongoing by the government.

The council was informed of Mr J Down's recent works within the village and it was agreed to send a letter of thanks.

Mrs Prideaux, Mrs Manu and possibly Mr Howell are to attend a meeting with Police representatives to discuss community issues and the lack of a beat officer. The closed meeting will be held on Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**1010 The date of Next Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 9pm and the date for the next meeting was confirmed as Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> 2003 in the Village Hall at 7 pm.



invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the matter further.

e. Recreational Maintenance Grants/PCC.

It was agreed to discuss this matter when a full council was in attendance - All councillors will be asked to attend the next meeting. \*See addition\*

f. Notice Board.

Mr A Talbot-Williams agreed to obtain and display two new 'Event' boards within the bus shelter. This will free the current notice board and hopefully the telegraph pole outside the shelter, of all event flyers. Mrs B Manu will remove the doors to the existing notice board as one is currently without glass.

#### **1007 Matters of Report.**

a. F.L.A.G.

Mr Howell was not in attendance.

b. Community Police Meeting.

Mrs Prideaux attended in the company of representatives from Barrington and Ilton who all had varying issues to discuss ie speeding cars/youths/crime etc. Chief Superintendent Shearer and Inspector J Holt chaired the meeting during which they confirmed that there are no plans to fill the vacancy of the community police officer serving this parish. Mrs Prideaux and Mr D Nelson confirmed that the meeting had been dispiriting and far from useful. It was agreed that the clerk would send a letter stating the council's complaints once again.

#### **1008 Finance.**

a. Councillor's Expenses. Nil

b. Cheques for Signature Three cheques

i. £60.00 Village Hall Hire

ii. £115.00 PCC

iii £190.69 Clerks salary

The invoice for this year's audit has still not been received.

#### **1009 Notifications.**

Mrs Prideaux has been contacted by Somerset Sound Radio staff asking if the village would like to be included in a current programme, during which aspects of village life would be discussed. The clerk is to contact the relevant personnel for more information

#### **1010 The date of Next Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 9pm and the date for the next meeting was confirmed as Monday May 19th 2003 in the Village Hall at 7pm

The Chair has requested that the following be added to the minutes published on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

"The Chairman read out a letter that had been received from BC PCC regarding the decision at the Nov meeting of the Parish Council to cease paying the £115 annual payment towards the upkeep of the churchyard and the area known as Muskay.

The churchwardens pointed out that the church paid the £10 annual rent for Muskay to the Wyndham Estate as well as maintaining it. This land was intended as being for the benefit of all the community and therefore the Parish Council, on behalf of the village, had a responsibility for it and should contribute towards its maintenance.

The Chair stated that the decision of dropping payment was made in an effort to freeze the size of the precept for the year 2003/4.

Mrs Prideaux suggested that the Village Trust should be asked to help with the payment for this next financial year. There was some debate as to whether the PCC or the Parish Council should make that application. There was agreement that the Parish Council bore some financial responsibility but that it should be proportional to the cost of maintenance for the whole churchyard, which was probably a smaller sum than that now paid. Mr Dibble suggested that a fund raising event could take place on Muskay specifically to raise money for its maintenance.

It was agreed to postpone further discussion until the next Parish Council meeting when more councillors were expected to be present."

## **BEERCROCOMBE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19th May 2003

At Curry Mallet Village Hall at 7pm

### **Present.**

Mrs.B.Manu  
Mr R Collard  
Mrs M McEvansoneya  
Mrs G Macleod  
Mr & Mrs Howell  
Mr & Mrs A Talbot-Williams  
Mr & Mrs A Davies  
Mr & Mrs A Reed  
Mr P Dibble  
Mr M Putnam  
Mr G Harvey  
Mr D Nelson                      County Councillor

### **1. Apologies.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Prideaux & Mrs S Steele.

### **2. Minutes.**

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2002 were read and approved.

### **3. Matters Arising.**

Nil.

### **4. Parish Council Chairperson's report.**

See attached form.

### **5. Financial Report**

Mrs Manu confirmed the financial statement for the year 2002/2003 showed a precept of £985 and spending for the year had left a credit of £233.56. This was due to a large VAT refund approx. £80 and non-payment of the PCC grant. The new Audit changes about to take effect will hopefully lead to a further small surplus next year even though the council has yet to pay the required audit sum for 2002/2003. The council had no unexpected costs during the year and councillors' expenses were again reported as a nil return.

### **6. Village Hall.**

Mr Harvey stated that the Village Hall finances showed a balance of £2500 approx. The committee arranged for renewal of the cladding to the front of the building and thanked the various contributors for a number of grants including Beercrocombe Trust for the sum of £1000. Mr Harvey further confirmed that a number of activities had started i.e. Pilates classes and Bridge Club. The interior of the hall has now been completely re-decorated by various community personnel to whom he offered his thanks. In closing Mr Harvey confirmed that this year the Annual Fete will take place on Saturday 19\* July 2003.

### **7. Beercrocombe Village Trust.**

Mr A Davies discussed the various investments the Trust held and confirmed

that a large number of grants had been made during the year to various community groups. The funds have dropped in value from approx. £36,000 to £32,500 but the investment returns of £1,776 were as expected and the funds had not been changed during the financial year. Mr Davies further confirmed that the original trust fund amount was a sum of £7,250 and that to date the Trust had issued grants to a total of £36,500.

**8. Neighbourhood Watch.**

Mr A Reed reported 1 incident where a large number of village outbuildings were burgled and a spate of dog thefts had occurred during the previous 12 months. Mr Reed emphasised the need to protect all outbuildings. Mr Reed confirmed that the Police Community Bus had recently visited neighbouring villages. The notices Mr Reed receives from the Homewatch Police co-ordinator are always displayed on the Village Notice Board. Mr Reed stated that he was happy to e-mail the details to any concerned villagers.

Security markings kits are available from the Parish Clerk and Mr A Reed also offered the use of an etching kit to any resident.

**9 Tree Warden.**

Mrs. H Howell reported that she had advertised the role of Tree wardens both in the Village Magazine and also by writing an item for the 'Tree Talk'. Beer Mill Farm had received and planted new trees and Mr C Dale had offered a location for the donated oak tree which has since been duly planted, overlooking a footpath.

**10 Any Other Business.**

Mr B Howell thanked Mrs Prideaux for being chairperson over the previous 12 months.

Mr Howell thanked those residents present for attending and closed this meeting at 7.45pm

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

### **Parish Council Chairperson's report 2003**

In June 2002 the village held a very enjoyable lunch party on the village green to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee. A very high percentage of the Parish sat down to eat at tables laid along the village street. We would once again like to thank all those who worked so hard to make the day so enjoyable.

In January Mr Kim Sharpe once more met some members of the Parish Council and drove around the local roads and noted the potholes that have appeared in the last year. We drew his attention to the fact that many drain covers had become covered up and that "grips - the channels taking surface water to the drains - have not been kept clear. The result of this lack of upkeep has been rainwater flowing down roads and not clearing away. Frosty weather caused a big build up of ice in a number of places, which were a danger to traffic and there was subsequent breaking up of the road surface. Work has been done on some of these grips in the past 2 weeks. I hope that they will be looked at again in the autumn in time for the winter weather. There has also been work on many of the holes. We hope that this time the filling in will stay in those holes.

It was also pointed out that the signpost on the village green was too low and stuck out too far and that people had walked into it. He offered to refer that on to Highways but nothing has been done as yet.

There was discussion with the County councillor Mr Nelson and the District Councillor Mr Hughes on speed restrictions and signing of roads. It was recommended that villagers should look at the scheme at Drayton to see if it was suitable for Beercrocombe. Curry Mallet had turned down a suggested scheme. There was a feeling at the meeting that some speed restrictions are needed through the village and on some of the approach roads. We will be seeking the reaction of villagers to any proposals made referred to the Footpaths Officer at South Somerset District Council to contact

There had been a number of complaints about footpaths and these have been referred to the Footpaths Officer at South Somerset District Council to contact the landowners.

There were several Planning applications for extension of properties and one for a new dwelling to replace the sheds at the Mushroom Farm. The council felt that the 2-storey house that was in the first application was not in keeping with the position and would detract from the Grade 2 Star farmhouse next to it. The application for a single storey dwelling built to resemble other farm buildings nearby was felt to be more acceptable although 1 or 2 recommendations were made on building materials. This has now been passed by SSDC.

In November it was confirmed that we no longer had PC McLean as our Community Beat Officer. A letter was sent to the Chief Constable and the MP stating our concerns regarding the lack of rural policing. The village had suffered a spate of shed break-ins.

In January we were invited to attend a meeting called by Ilton Parish Council which I attended. Barrington Parish Council also had several representatives. Chief Superintendent Shearer and Inspector Holt took the meeting. I felt that it was a very unsatisfactory meeting. After 2 hours we eventually established that even if they ever got back to full strength with manpower we would still not have a Community Beat Officer. However, if they were ever allowed to have money than the present allowance of 58 officers then we might once again have rural policing! We could



have been told all this in a letter. The meeting was very dispiriting and not useful.

In November the Parish Precept for 2003/4 was set at the same level as the previous year. The Parish Council has no reserves and had been advised to build some up. We have a very high precept anyway and so regrettably we had to vote against making our usual payment to the PCC for upkeep for Muskey. This will be reviewed next autumn.

There were complaints about an unannounced Firework Party which took place in the village and which caused distress to children and animals. Mr Hughes could tell us that the County Council was looking into this problem throughout the county and subsequently voted unanimously for a review of policy on this nuisance.

Before the March meeting we had a talk about the Parish Plan Grant Scheme. There is a website and the plans for Stoke Chimsland, Linkinghorne in Cornwall can be viewed. Again it is our intention to discuss this with villagers.

Finally I would like to give my sincere thanks to Mr Willy Vigus for his hard work when on the Council and welcome back all those who have once again stood for office and thank them for their work over the past 4 years. I would also like to welcome Mr Chris Dale who is new to the council. I would also like to welcome Mrs Sue Steele as our new District Councillor. We look forward to working with her.

signed Sue Prideaux



Footpaths	Mr P Dibble
Planning Applications	Mr A Talbot-Williams
Homewatch	Mr A Reed
Emergency Officers	Always Chair and Vice-Chair

b. Footpaths.

A number of footpaths are inaccessible due to various obstructions and it was agreed to forward a letter to every landowner within the parish to ask for their assistance in this regard.

c. Village Roads.

Along Broadmead Lane there are some very large and/or deep potholes and surface deterioration. Also the drain near to Paul's Farm needs to be raised to the level of the road - Mr Howell agreed to contact the relevant body. The Clerk will contact the relevant Highways authority and request that a representative attend a future council meeting to further discuss/explain the issue of speed signs.

d. Notice Board.

The motion to leave the doors as they are on the grounds of safety was carried by a majority vote. The Clerk will relay the decision and council's thanks to resident who offered to finance repair costs.

e. Parish Plan.

Mr Davies recalled the production of an earlier 'Village Plan' some 6/7 years ago and offered to try and locate the paperwork. As two of the councillors had not viewed the 'Parish Plan Pack' it was agreed to postpone discussion until the next meeting.

f. PCC Grant.

Mr A Davies queried the initial circumstances of the grant being made to the PCC and stated that the land 'Muskey' is leased to the PCC and is included within the general church maintenance and all its associated costs. He approved the actions of the council's recent decision not to pay the PCC grant - given the need to freeze the precept and the need to increase reserves and did ask that the council give thought to its re-instatement in the next financial year. It was agreed that the budget agreements for 2003/2004 will remain unchanged until the new financial year's precept is next brought before the council. The clerk will respond to PCC letter stating council position.

**1018. Finance.**

a. Councillor's Expenses Nil.

b. Cheques for Signature two:

1. Cornhill Ins. (£237 approx).

Mr Dibble is to obtain a quote from the NFU before the end of the week . The council approved payment to be made to cheapest company and amount confirmed at next meeting.

2. £21.76 SALC

c. 2003/2003 Accounts.

The accounts were read and approved.

**1019 Matters of Report.**

a. FLAG.

The general activity of the group had obviously reduced given the recent war in Iraq but was still operative and dealing with various personnel at Yeovilton. It was confirmed that a new commander will be in post from July and at present the Harrier squadrons are leaving the base at a rate of one per year which means the base is on schedule for 2006 when all Harriers will have left Yeovilton.

b. Poplar Tree/Signpost.

It was confirmed that the tree cannot be removed and that pollarding would seem to be the best solution. Mr B Howell will contact the various utilities to arrange tree surgery as the branches are now interfering with the utility wires. If following any such action the tree needs further attention it was suggested a number of specialist quotes be obtained to ascertain costs. The signpost can be raised using a longer matching 'sleeve' and the clerk agreed to contact the chair regarding agreed to arrangements during the meeting with Mr K Sharpe.

**1020 Notifications.**

Nil.

**1021 The date of Next Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm and the date for the next meeting was confirmed as Monday July 21st 2003 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

## **BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th July 2003

At Curry Mallet Village Hall at 7.30pm.

### **Present.**

Mrs.S.Prideaux. Chairperson

Mr .A.Talbot- Williams.

Mr A Davies

MrBHowell

Mr C Dale

Mrs.B.Manu. Clerk

The District Councillor, Mrs S Steele was also present.

Members of the Public- Nil

### **1022 Apologies.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Reed and Mr D Nelson.

### **1023 Declarations of Interest.**

Mr B Howell declared interests in items 4b & 5a.

### **1024 Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on May 19th were approved and signed.

### **1025 Matters arising.**

#### **a. Roads.**

Mr B Howell confirmed that he had met with Mr K Sharpe and discussed the various issues raised at the last meeting. The following was confirmed:-

- The sunken drain under the railway bridge near Pauls Farm will have an edge put onto it before the road is re-surfaced.
- Immediate attention would be given to the various deep potholes upon the parish roads via patch repairs.
- Further investigations would be made regarding the central hole which has appeared along Broadbridge.
- The lane at Broadmead is to be re-surfaced next year and the lane leading to Whittles Farm will also be included in the schedule.

#### **b. Footpaths.**

It was confirmed that all landowners within the parish have now been issued with a letter requesting that they tend to any footpaths across their land.

#### **c. Tree/Sign on Village Green.**

Mr Howell confirmed that he had contacted a number of utility companies and had arranged for Western Power to prune the tree. This has now been done but only to a minimum safety level. It was stated that the tree required further pruning and that the council will have to reconsider the issue nearer the winter.

The signpost has now been raised with an insert, but it was felt that the actual positioning of the signs are unsuitable and that the whole post requires painting. Mr C Dale & Mr B Howell volunteered to amend the sign and to paint the post.

d. Notice Board.

Somerset Community Chest may support an application for a new board. Grants are made up to 50% of actual costing to the maximum of £750. Mrs S Steele will contact Ilton Parish (who have just had a new board) for details. The clerk will obtain a number of quotes for the next meeting.

e. Village Guide.

Mr B Howell is to circulate the new guide for all councillors to proof read for amendments/alterations.

f. Community Consultation.

A document has now been produced confirming attendance numbers and issues of concern for all the participating villages. Beercrocombe attendance figures were one of the highest with a varied range of topics listed. Any resident wishing to view the report should contact the clerk.

g. Parish Plan.

The council discussed the practicalities of the plan in great length.

Mr A Talbot Williams arrived.

The possibility of a combined document with Curry Mallet was raised and it was agreed to contact the Curry Mallet Parish Council to ascertain levels of interest. The councillors agreed to canvass Beercrocombe residents to identify interested parties.

### **1026 Matters of Report.**

a. FLAG.

Mr B Howell stated that 2 new transit routes are now in operation for helicopters coming in and out of Merryfield. Mr C Dale volunteered to arrange a village visit to the airfield to enable residents to speak to the new personnel regarding flying issues.

### **1027 Finance.**

a. Councillor's Expenses. Nil

b. Cheques for Signature. Nil. The clerk confirmed that the Insurance Cheque had been paid early June to Cornhill Allianz £ 236.78

### **1028 Notifications.**

The land at Broadbridge is rumoured to have recently been sold. Mr Talbot-Williams agreed to request a land search to ascertain new owner.

Rumours regarding changes to the route of various roads ie A358/A303 still abound local villages and it was felt that the council contact the relevant authority for further clarification and future consultation. The clerk to send a letter.

Mrs S Prideaux & Mr A Davies confirmed that the Village Trust had granted £75 to the PCC . The Trust refused to make the payment annually.

**1029 The date of Next Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 9pm and the date for the next meeting was confirmed as Monday September 15th 2003 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

## **BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Extra -Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27th  
August 2003 At Beercrocombe Bus Shelter at 9.30pm.

### **Present.**

Mrs.S.Prideaux                      Chairperson

Mr.A.Talbot-Williams

Mr A Davies

Mr A Reed

Mr C Dale

Members of the Public - Five

### **1030 Apologies.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Howell.

### **1031 Declarations of Interest.**

Nil

### **1032 Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on July 14th will be presented at the next scheduled council Meeting on Monday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **1033 Matters arising.**

a.      Planning Application.

2 Broadmead 03/02289/FUL. The Parish Council discussed the proposed extension and visited the address to view the property on site. The Council was agreed that they object to the proposed extension on the following grounds:-

- Loss of daylight to neighbouring property at no/3.
- The size of the extension renders the property out of proportion with adjoining properties.
- The proposed extension will leave the property out of character with the rest of the village.
- If approved the application would further reduce the stock of smaller housing in the area.

### **1034 Date Of Next Meeting**

Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2003 at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall  
7.30pm.



Clerk Mrs B Manu

Fairlanes

Beercrocombe

Taunton

Somerset TA3 6AG

There was an Extra ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Weds August 27 2003 at 9.30am to consider the Planning application No 03/02289/FUL in respect of 2 Broadmead Road, Beercrocombe.

The Meeting was attended by 4 neighbours, who object to the plans. The applicants partner also attended and gave his point of view.

The Parish Council then adjourned to the site to view the property and look at the dimensions of the proposed extension. It is noted that:-

- A. No notice of proposed Planning is displayed on the site for the general public -as is required
- B. No Block Plan was provided at a scale of 1:500 showing relationship with neighbouring properties-as is required. The 1:1250 site plan provided is not good enough.

The Parish Council requests an adjournment on this planning application until such time as these 2 points have been rectified.

However The Parish Council were agreed that they object to the Proposed Extension to No 2 Broadmead Rd on the following grounds.

1. No 3 Broadmead Rd is situated to the North of No 2 and will suffer a substantial loss of daylight through their glazed kitchen door. They have already lost afternoon light into their kitchen door, back garden and back kitchen window with the building of the existing extension at No 2.

It is felt that a proper Daylight Assessment should be carried out at No 3 before this application is considered at Council.

2. The size of the proposed extension renders the property out of proportion with the adjoining properties.

No reason has been given for the necessity for such a large extension.

3. The proposed extension will leave the property out of character with the rest of the Village.

4. If approved, the application would further reduce the stock of smaller housing in the area.

The Parish Council presumes that South Somerset Homes have been notified of this Planning Application.



contacted Curry Mallet Parish Council and proposed a joint application which they are in favour of. Mr A Davies proposed that the council approve the venture and further approve Mr Dale to proceed with the application on behalf of the council. Mr Talbot-Williams seconded following no objections.

**1039 Matters of Report.**

- a. Planning Application 2 Broadmead.

The Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held on 27 August were read and approved. It was confirmed that the council objected to the plans in their current form.

**1040 Finance.**

- a. Councillor's Expenses. Nil

- b. Cheques for Signature Three.

£58.75 District Audit Fee 2002

£24.50 Mr BHowell (Village Guide Printing Costs)

£196.75 Mrs B Manu Salary

**1041 Notifications.**

Following Mr C Dale contacting the relevant personnel, it is felt that a smaller group would be more suitable for the visit to Merryfield. A meeting is to be arranged by a small delegation of councillors.

**1042 The date of Next Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm and the date for the next meeting was confirmed as Monday November 17th 2003 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

## **BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th November 2003

At Currv Mallet Village Hall at 7.30pm.

### **Present.**

Mrs.S.Prideaux. Chairperson

Mr C Dale

Mr A Davies

Mr A Reed

Mr P Dibble

Mrs.B.Manu. Clerk

Members of the Public- None

### **1043 Apologies.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Howell and Mr.A.Talbot-Williams.

### **1044 Declarations of Interest.**

Mr A Reed and Mr A Davies declared interests in item-Precept 2004/2005.

### **1045 Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on September 15th were approved and signed.

### **1046 Matters arising.**

a. Roads.

A number of potholes have now been filled around Manor Farm and on the road to Frog St Farm.

b. Footpaths.

It was confirmed that a number of footpaths are still inaccessible. The footpath from Boadmead to Halfway House has now been sown with wild grasses along a 6 metre wide strip. Mr P Dibble agreed to walk the footpaths to assess the nature of existing complaints.

c. Precept 2004/2005.

Mr A Davies stated that he felt the council should pay a grant to the PCC as a matter of principle regarding an earlier agreement which was made between the then Parish Meeting and the PCC. Mr C Dale voiced concerns regarding the justification of the Council grant to the PCC, given the shown £39,000 approx. balance within the PCC accounts. A vote was proposed to give the PCC £100 - the result was 2 votes for and 2 votes against.

The matter was discussed further until it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the decision until the next council meeting in January. Mr A Reed agreed to clarify for the next meeting, a number of PCC fund issues that were raised during the discussion. It was agreed to keep the precept at the current level of £975.

#### **1047 Matters of Report.**

a. Audit Return.

The Clerk stated that the accounts for 2002-2003 have been internally audited. The council approved the audit Statement of Assurance authorising Mrs Prideaux to sign the audit document on behalf of the council.

b. Parish Plan.

Mr C Dale confirmed attendance at a workshop 'Moving Projects Forward'. He stated that the day had been useful with regards to the 'Parish Plan' grant application. Mr C Dale confirmed that he had contacted Chris Marks at Curry Mallet, who has agreed that the two parishes will present a joint application for a grant to produce a Joint Parish Plan. Once approved the plan must be produced within 1 year, hopefully by the then formed steering group. Interested parties are welcome to contact Mr Dale/Chris Marks for further information.

Mr A Davies left the meeting.

#### **1048 Finance.**

a. Councillor's Expenses. Nil

b. Cheques for Signature Nil

Mr D Nelson left the meeting.

#### **1049 Notifications.**

Two SSDC event invitations - details will be displayed on the notice board. Four councillors met with the new commander of Merryfield recently. They felt that it was very worthwhile in order to reiterate helicopter problems relating to households within the parish.

#### **1050 The date of Next Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm and the date for the next meeting was confirmed as Monday January 19th 2004 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.