**Minutes of the Meeting of HIGH STOY PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 13 December 7.30pm at Hermitage Village Hall**

**Present:** PCllrs George Grazebrook, Eveline Jones, Peter Rowland, David Whiteoak, DCllr Mary Penfold, CCllr Matthew Hall, Kerry Straughan (Clerk), Amy Sellick, 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies** Dawn Griffin, Kevin Pescott, Ray Dickerson and PSCO Bishop.

2. **Declarations of Interests** None.

3. **Minutes of last meeting** Held on 13 September 2016 were approved.

4. **Matters Arising a.** It was agreed that there was currently no need for a formal Good Neighbours Scheme within the Parish as each village successfully run their own informal one. **b.** The website now has all the relevant data on it and the Chair will arrange training for himself and the new clerk, Amy Sellick, in the New Year.

 **ACTION: Chair**

5. **Planning Applications**

**a.** **WD/D/16/001770** to demolish Yew Tree Cottage and outbuildings and replace with replacement dwelling – awaiting a decision.

**b. WD/D/16/002136** replacement of existing agricultural building with 2 agricultural workers dwellings, 3 Gates Farm, Leigh – Objection submitted.

6. **Financial Matters a.** Balance of HSBC account is £2935.49 as of 18 November. **b.** Cllrs approved payment of invoice for £40 for annual rent for the hall.

**c.** Agreement was given to formally ‘write off’ the Council’s laptop as it no longer works**. d.**  Agreement was given for Cllrs Grazebrook and Whiteoak to be added as signatories for the cheques, along with the new Clerk, Kerry is to be removed at the same time. **ACTION: Cllrs Grazebrook & Whiteoak/Amy**

**e. Precept.** The precept was set at £4000 for FY 17/18, proposed by Cllr Grazebrook, seconded by Cllr Whiteoak, all were in agreement. The large increase is due to Highways ceasing many of their current maintenance tasks and it is estimated that we will need to hire the Gully clearing machine for 2 days work a year at the cost of £400 a day. There will also be additional costs associated with the employment of the new clerk along with further website costs.

Cllr Hall reminded the Cllrs that whilst Highways were no longer going to carry out some routine maintenance, such as gully clearing, they continue to have a remit to clear blocked gullies and drains; the best way to report such blockages is through the Dorsetforyou website via the ‘reporting pot holes’ option.

7. **Footpaths** There are currently 8 RoW issues under investigation, 2 awaiting works and 2 under further investigation within the 3 parishes.

8. **Highways** CCllr Hall reported that due to the time taken to change the signage on the A37, along with an over-spend, the signage replacement on the A352 has been cancelled. Cllr Hall has been assured that it will take place in the new financial year.

9. **Neighbourhood Plan** A total of 16 replies have been received from the 120 questionnaires sent out – 9 in favour and 7 not, with 4 people willing to help organize the plan. Cllrs were asked to contact their residents for further views before the next meeting. **ACTION: All Cllrs**

10. **Snow Plan** The Snow Plan has been updated and was agreed by the Cllrs; clerk to send updated plan to DCC. Cllr Rowland has agreed to be a part of the plan and will liaise with Antony Mayo and the Clerk on current salt requirements. Clerk to order new stock if required. **Action: Cllr Rowland/Clerk**

11. **Correspondence** **a.** Details of a DCC Community Transport Grant had been received but it was agreed that the community was not currently in need of a transport service. **b.** Details of a Broadband Subsidy Scheme had also been received and Cllrs are to inform their residents, by email, about the scheme; clerk to put a notice in the WVM. **ACTION: All Cllrs/Clerk**

12. **New Clerk’s Contract** The new clerk’s contract was approved, proposed by Cllr Grazebrook and seconded by Cllr Whiteoak. The new clerk will formally take over the role in January.

13. **Matters of Interest and Information** Clerk to invite Paul Thatcher, head of Highways for West Dorset, to the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

14. **Date of Next Meeting** 7.30pm, **Tuesday 7th February 2017** at Hermitage village hall.