Present: Cllrs Jo McDonagh (Chairman), John Capell, Richard Kilbey, Terry Howard; District Cllr Julie Pay; Ann Manders (Clerk); two members of the public.

1. **Apologies**: Cllr Isabel Shute.

2. **Declarations of interest on agenda items**: as an employee of Somerset County Council in Public Health, Jo McDonagh expressed an interest in the NHS Health Checks to be discussed under item (10).

3. **Public Forum**: a member of the public wished the Clerk to record a note of thanks to the new residents of The Lodge who have taken on the role of looking after the Village Green.

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2017**: these had been previously circulated, were deemed as read, unanimously agreed as a correct record and signed by Jo McDonagh.

5. **Matters Arising**: the Clerk reported that the planning application for Witts End had received approval.

6. **Bus service and alternative transport**: Jo McDonagh had been asked about the availability of a bus service in the village and other forms of transport. Jo had bought along some information about the Slinky bus, the 613 bus provides transport to and from Bridgwater College on week days and during term times, this is available for use by the general public. Jo will place the Slinky bus information on the notice boards and the Clerk will place it on the website.

7. **Financial Matters**: grants were approved of £450.00 to the PCC towards maintenance of the churchyard and £800 to the Village Hall, £300 towards general maintenance and £500 towards repaying the loan incurred in respect of the recent roof works. A payment of £31.96 was made in respect of plants to re-stock the village tubs. The Clerk recorded a note of thanks to Debbie Mularczyk for continuing to keep these looking lovely. A number of villagers had queried the recent increase in the local precept, the Clerk was asked to write a short article explaining the reason for this to be placed in the magazine.

8. **Footpaths**: Richard Kilbey reported that he had recently walked along the footpath leading from Lovedere to the Enmore Inn and reported that the crop in the field made the going very difficult. Terry Howard had not been able to operate the strimmer and will contact the Rights of Way team and ask them to clear it.

9. **Roads and Flooding**: John Capell reported that various temporary road signs had been left in a variety of locations following the recent road closures, he will report this to the Highways Department. A pothole near Lovedere was becoming quite deep, John will also report this.
10. **Correspondence**: a letter had been received inviting the parish to host free NHS health checks, if the offer were to be taken up a reply needed to be made by 31 October. It was agreed to try and gauge public opinion on this matter before taking up the offer and the Clerk was asked to place an item in the next edition of the magazine and to add the proposal to the agenda for the next meeting. ACTION CLERK.

A copy of the Sedgemoor Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 had been received and will be passed around Cllrs.

A letter had been received from Annie Maw, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset regarding a diary date of 6 November when a special service will be held at Wells Cathedral marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, representatives from all communities across Somerset will be invited.

Jo McDonagh reported that the next Parish Cluster meeting will be held on 20th June at Nether Stowey Village Hall, she will try and attend.

**District Cllr Mike Caswell joined the meeting at 8.15 pm and apologised for his later arrival.**

11. **Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting**: those to be invited to speak:

   - Brian Fraser to talk about the recently installed ‘superfast broadband’ - Clerk to contact;
   - PCC – Colin Chalmers offered to arrange a representative;
   - Alison Hoare, Village Agent – Clerk to contact;
   - Goathurst Charity – John Capell will report;
   - Halswell Park Trust – Terry Howard agreed to ask Tessa Howard;
   - Halswell House – the Clerk will report;
   - Sedgemoor District Council – Mike Caswell will report;
   - Parish Council – Jo McDonagh will report.

   Jo and John will bring along tea, coffee, milk and biscuits.

12. **Any other business**: the meeting congratulated Mike Caswell on his re-election as District Cllr. Jo McDonagh had noticed that the parish council ‘dog poo’ notice had been removed from the Village Green noticeboard and a couple of new offences had been recorded – Jo offered to put up another notice, Mike Caswell offered to source some information on dog poo bins.

   The meeting noted that the current Rector, Chloe Kingdom, will be leaving her position on 30th July, the position will be advertised but is unlikely to be filled for some while.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm. Date of next meeting 10th July 2017.

Ann Manders
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