**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

**OF WATCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD AT**

**WATCHFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

**ON**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 14th 2014**

**AT 8.00pm**

Present:

* Cllr S Nodder - Chair
* Cllr R Holman
* Cllr Skeffington
* Cllr Rawle
* Cllr Griffiths
* Cllr Bailey

In attendance:

* Sally Mckendrick- Clerk
* Ian Pearson – member of public

The meeting was quorate.

The meeting started at 8 p.m Clerk arrived at 8.05pm apologising to council for being late. Cllr Holman started the minutes as far as attendees.

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| 167. | To receive apologies for absenceApologies received from Cllr Bell. Cllr Bush has informed Council he may be absent or late. |  |
| 168. | To receive any declarations of personal, or personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meetingIt was noted that both Cllrs Holman and Griffiths homes back on to the recreation grounds. |  |
| 169. | To agree actions relating to Knapp's field planning issuesCllr Nodder described to Council the week’s events regarding flooding. Flooding began Saturday 4th January 2014. The main issue was that the SUDS basin has never been connected, despite this being a planning condition prior to first occupation. Cllr Nodder informed Council that she has been monitoring the situation since 24th December 2013 with photographic evidence. The SUDS breached and ditched overflowed onto the play area and then past, causing a lake initially behind 90 High Street, then 92-96. At one point gardens were 3ft underwater. Bovis sent a drainage engineer- from Tithegrove on Saturday evening after calls from WPC. Members of the Council worked with members of the village and dug channels to divert the water. Cllr Bush and Mr Whitehead lent electric pumps. On Sunday morning (5th) Tithegrove returned and smashed a hole in the side of a manhole sleeve to release water from the ditch as the inflow pipe was underground due to lack on maintenance (on development site). They then began to release the SUDS basin into the ditch. The manhole between properties 98 and 100 High Street was overwhelmed; levels rose and flooded gardens. On Monday Bovis filled in the trench between the SUDS and ditch. Cllr Holman informed Council that the Highways have since taken responsibility of the mains pipe under the road. Commenting that on 13th January they had sent engineers to try and locate the tarmacked over manhole. This is ongoing.Cllr Bailey commented that this issue needed to be passed back to the planners, the developer and the Environmental Officer. That it should be noted that WPC are only consultee and as such it is not down to WPC or residents of the village to deal with hardship due to the issue. Residents should not be financially out of pocket. That after 12 days of any complaint letter being sent WPC should contact The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.Cllr Nodder commented that the issues raised by Cllr Bailey had been covered in the draft letter of complaint being considered at this meeting. She added that these issues had been raised before, leading to a level 3 complaint to VWHDC.There was then a discussion regarding the actions that WPC should take next regarding the flooding issue.Cllr Holman suggested that the letter of complaint should be copied to Bovis Homes and Mr Stephen Taylor (land owner of Knapps Field). Cllr Rawle suggested local publicity may be needed on the matter. Cllr Nodder suggested joining forces as a communal front with other villages in Western Vale to see if they have similar planning enforcement issues. Cllr Holman added that when Tithegrove came out and jetted the man hole they said,”That’s it, we have done all we are doing”. Cllr Rawle added complaint should be copied to other bodies. Cllr Nodder replied that WPC have tried publicity before. Cllr Skeffington agreed that the complaint letter needed copying in and to inform the residents of the High Street as to what actions are being taken by WPC. The draft letter of complaint was then discussed and altered.**Cllr Holman proposed that the letter with the discussed amendments be sent and copied to the mentioned bodies- including Anna Robinson at VWHDC who had replied to the previous level 3 complaint. Cllr Rawle seconded, ALL AGREED.**It was agreed that the notice boards emergency contacts be amended to include emergency number for flooding. That any evidence received by WPC from Parishioners be forwarded to VWHDC. That the trenches in recreation ground should be left until weather improves and that residents of High St should be asked to keep photographic evidence if there is any further flooding.Mr Ian Pearson added that it would be an idea to contact Ed Vaisey MP as he had been helpful to him on several matters. The Clerk will look into this. | SN CLERKSNCLERKCLERK |

Meeting closed at 8.41 pm

Sally Mckendrick- Clerk 14/01/14