



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30.pm, at Bridgerule Village Hall.**

These minutes are provisional until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

**Present :** Chairman D. Hale, Vice-chairman K. James,  
Councillors: F. Cogdell, B. Beadle, M. Tape, S. Cholwill.  
In Attendance : Clerk.

**Apologies :** Cllrs. K. Bowditch, J. McDougall, S. Whatmore, J. Philpott.

**Declarations of Interests:** The Chairman asked that interests be declared as they arise.

**Public Session :** No questions raised.

**3016. County Councillors Report :** No report given.

**3017. District Councillors Report :** TDC have been bidding for funding for improvements at North Devon Hospital at Barnstable, on recommendation from Exeter trust , the administrative body for North Devon Hospital. A new local plan for the Torridge area is currently being considered. Leisure facilities throughout Torridge are doing well at present.

**3018. Police Report :** No report given.

**3019. Council Meeting Minutes :** - Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> November, had been circulated to councillors and the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1<sup>st</sup>, KJ, 2<sup>nd</sup> FC. All councillors in favour.

**3020. Matters Arising –** There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**3021. Chairmans Report :** DH reported on donations received towards the VAS signs project and the meeting went into Part 2 at 7.45pm to discuss finances, proposed 1<sup>st</sup> KJ, 2<sup>nd</sup> FC, all councillors in favour. He then came out of Part 2 at 7.55pm proposed by 1<sup>st</sup> KJ , 2<sup>nd</sup> BB, all councillors in favour, and reported that a reply had been received from the Highways Area Manager, suggesting sites suitable for the Vas signs to be placed, on street column SL1 outside Woodlands and the second at SL21 by the entrance to Southfields. The recommendation was for battery powered signs, not solar, as had been previously suggested by the council. He would become the responsible person for the battery changes and associated record keeping and storage for spare batteries. The existing Risk Assessment would need to be amended, clerk to send to Highways Officer when completed to reflect the change of power source. He would visit the suggested sites, and if appropriate, the request for permission could be submitted to DCC. He had a Zoom meeting conference booked with J. Hart, leader of DCC on the 14<sup>th</sup> December and had submitted questions to be put to him on behalf of the parish council,

mainly the conditions of the roads in Bridgerule, particularly by the new development along Middle Road and the condition of the B3254, from Bridgerule Industrial Estate to Newacott Cross. He would also mention the re-painting of the lines at the school area and the safety aspect and potential risks at school drop off and collection times. FC asked if there had been any further updates on the Enforcement case at TDC for Dlux Developments, KJ said he would enquire.

He wished to express thanks to FC for installing the memorial plaque for E. Macarthur onto the picnic bench sited by the riverside.

**3022. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received letters of thanks from Friends of Holsworthy Library, Bridgerule Parochial CC, Holsworthy Rural Transport for the Charitable grants received,  
Email from Area Highways Officer x 3  
Email from resident about a proposed planning application,  
Email from FC who had organised the memorial plaque for Elizabeth Macarthur to be sited on the picnic bench, with photographs.

**3023. Accounts and Accounts due for payment:** - Finance sheets were given to councillors.  
Items due for payment this month were : Speedwatch Jackets, £70.20, Printer Ink £26.62, Stamps and postage, £5.44 Xmas Refreshments, £8.90, and CWS Online Shop, Speedwatch Kit £562.34.  
Current account balance on 29<sup>th</sup> November agreed at £10,708.38.  
Proposed 1<sup>st</sup> BB, 2<sup>nd</sup> FC, all councillors in favour.

**3024. Planning –**  
**1/1074/2022/FUL – Erection of Village shop , The Green, Bridgerule, Devon. EX22 7DY.**  
Council feedback to TDC,  
**“The council support the application”.** All councillors in favour.

**1/1073/2022/FUL – Erection of 1 no: dwelling, amendment to planning approval 1/1263/2018/FUL, East View, Bridgerule, Devon.**  
FC declared an interest and refrained from voting. Council feedback to TDC,  
**“The council strongly oppose the application, on the grounds of close proximity to other neighbouring property boundaries and feel it is an over-development of the site. Windows would be overlooking neighbouring properties. The vehicle access is a cause for concern, there is little or no visibility when coming out of the site onto Middle Road turning right, joining an already busy narrow road.**  
Proposed 1<sup>st</sup> KJ, 2<sup>nd</sup> DH, votes for 5, 1 abstention. Motion carried.

**1/0948/2022/FUL – Erection of Agricultural Building, Land at Grid reference 229725 103315, Derril, Pyworthy.**  
Council feedback to TDC,  
**“The council support the application.”** All councillors in favour.

**1/1079/2022/FUL – Demolition of existing barn and erection of no:3 dwellings in lieu of Class Q, Agricultural Building at Grid Reference 226186 102569, Bridgerule, Devon.**  
Council feedback to TDC,  
**“ The council strongly oppose the application and hope it is refused. The concrete access lane is unsuitable for this development and the proposed development is a departure from policy. The development does not fit the footprint and the proposed site/development has a lack of parking for vehicles.”**  
All councillors in favour.

SC requested that details of applications granted permission be sent for inclusion into the next edition of the Buzz, due to print shortly. Clerk to send.

**3025. Speedwatch Update :** - Printed High Vis Jackets for the group volunteers had arrived and the order for the Speedwatch starter Kit with Radar gun had been placed, due for delivery shortly. Group co-ordinator due to organise a Risk and Site operating assessment next week for submission to D&C police.

**3026. Village Hall Update :** - Nothing of note to report this month.

**3027. Carpark and Highways :** - FC said that the manhole cover and drain in the road was still badly sunken, although clerk had reported to Highways last month who had assessed and repaired, ref: W221554341, it was still below the road level. He would photograph and clerk would forward to Highways. Submitted 21/12/22 ref W221565327.

**3028. Car Parking at School Area :** - Councillors discussed briefly, and as a complex subject, with several issues to be problem solved and solutions found, would re-visit and discuss further in future meetings. The football field needed to be moved back. Finances would need to be looked at. KJ said he was aware of possible grant funding for a Football pitch grant and he would follow this up and could apply. DH said that the VAS signs project and the Speedwatch Group needed to be completed first, as the council were almost there with those. Potential Grants could be explored. This to be an Agenda item for next year.

**3029. Clerk’s Report :** The online banking application and new mandate had been stalled, although SC had received communication from the NatWest. The application needed to be restarted urgently, as it would be preferable to be able to pay invoices via bacs, rather than cheques. Two signing signatories on the account would still be needed. DH had enquired at Natwest about the possibility of a debit card, but that it wasn’t possible for the community account the council held.

**3030. Exchange of Information: -**

Had the Enforcement Officer visited Newacott yet? No further communications had been received by the council regarding this since October. KJ said that the Enforcement Office had a backlog of cases and these were being worked through.

Was there a covenant on the land or field at Newacott, relating to the use of the land?

FC said he had noted that some improvements and decorating had been done at the Football Club and thanked MT for the work done, it looked greatly improved.

**3031. Meeting Closed 8.24pm.**

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.45pm.

**Signed by Meeting Chairman :** .....

**Date of signing :** .....

