



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7.45 .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, S. Cholwill, S. Whatmore, K. Bowditch,
In Attendance : Clerk.
Public x 1, Airband Representative 1.

Apologies : J. McDougall, J. Philpott.

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

Public Session : A resident asked if it would be possible to paint yellow lines on both sides of the road near the school and had concerns regarding safety in that area and felt there was a potential for an accident or harm, due to parked cars on the narrow road. The council had made a request to re-paint faded lines to DCC in January, ref W231605442 and had been notified that the work would be carried out, but no date was given for completion. Clerk to make 2nd report to Highways . Resident to be given details of the reporting site on DCC and County Councillors email if they wished to write to him.

DH said that it may be relevant for SW to report on data collected from the VAS on Vicarage Hill at this time in the meeting and that there were problems with the VAS on Middle Road.

SW said that the data did not appear to be available for download from this VAS and it was felt that the current siting of it was not to the best effect, as it was on the bend which naturally slowed traffic speed and the sign was not activated and needed to be on a clear stretch of road. Clerk had received email from Neighbourhood Highways Manager, who had no objection to re-siting the sign on SL15, after Littlebridge Cross. DH planned to move the VAS on Saturday.

SW said that there had been 4303 vehicles passing the Vicarage hill VAS in the data downloaded, with just over 1300 travelling at speeds over the 30mph limit. The average speed overall in the data read was 27.5 and councillors felt that already speed had started to noticeably decrease and the VAS was achieving this. The highest speed recorded was 49.2 mph up the hill, at 2am. The graph showed that just over 1 in 3 vehicles were travelling at over 30mph.

3063. Council Meeting Minutes : Minutes of the 28th February, had been circulated to councillors and the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st FC, 2nd KB, all councillors in favour.

3064. Matters Arising : Item no 3051, ref E/22/1040/UMOB. Clerk had received reply from Enforcement re the land at Newacott advising there was no further updates on the case since January and they would be in contact if further information becomes available.

Presentation by FC, Liaison Officer for Airband UK Ltd. A brief update was given, and the company were involved in providing Fibre to the area, work to achieve this had been underway for some time now and it was hoped to be completed by the end of June. They hoped to supply over 240 premises with high-speed fibre of up to 900mgb per second. It would be fibre all the way from Cabinet to home, offering replacement and upgrade from the old Copper version which lots of properties have in Bridgerule. FC asked how does this work? Airband were an independent company which had been commissioned to provide services to the whole of Devon and Somerset. The company had a Wayleave team in place and try use existing poles where possible, but new installations were being undertaken if needed, under Permitted Development regulations. The company were able to offer some contribution towards exit fees from other providers if customers wanted to switch to Airband from their current providers, by contacting Airband directly. Councillors commented on the amount of road closures needed for these works, but there is a website, Onedotnetwork, which shows current and planned road closures for the area. KJ and SW said that they were aware of a property on Vicarage Hill which would be affected by a planned new pole, which will obstruct their view and vision coming out of their driveway. Clerk to email details to Airband , to help in this case. DH sincerely thanked FC for coming to the meeting and the representative left the meeting at 8.10pm.

3065. County Councillors Report: No report given or received.

3066. District Councillors Report : A committee meeting had recently taken place on the local plan for North Devon and its future. KJ said it needed new vision as it needed to deliver growth for the economy. All development aspects needed new plans and time was limited due to the forthcoming elections. TDC had applied for funding from central government and are discussing both the Devils Lane Extension and land around the Cattle Market at Holsworthy. Leisure facilities continue to perform well in the area, particularly Holsworthy due to good Management. The new boilers installed there have reduced costs generally, and theft of heating oil as happened previously has stopped, and the new pool cover has also contributed to lower costs incurred. Expectations of TDC achieving Carbon Neutral status is limited due to the Leisure pools and their high energy needs and costs.

3067. Police Report : Clerk gave a brief report from the March teams meeting held with PC Morgan. They are currently investigating a high value burglary in the Holsworthy area and are aware of incidents of anti-social behaviour in the town centre, Stanhope park and public toilets. They are working with the school Safeguarding team and more patrols are planned to tackle the issue. Now 3 response officers covering Holsworthy, and Torrington areas with Sgt Gutheridge covering both. 19 crimes are being investigated some from last year. Some parishes said they had problems with their Speedwatch groups and had been requested by HQ to cease operating temporarily, PC Morgan said this could be due to incomplete forms being submitted and HQ now has 2 full time officers. Speeding in rural parishes was discussed generally with many having concerns, and PC M said he hoped to attend the school area at Bridgerule next week to observe and deter, if the workload allows. Next meeting scheduled for 4th April.

3068. To Receive Correspondence: - Clerk had received letter of resignation from Cllr. BB, who also did not wish to stand in for election in May, Cllrs accepted the resignation,
Election notices from TDC and election papers for Councillors,
NHO- SB, no objection to re-stiting Middle Road VAS on SL15, conditional on PC maintaining vegetation in front,
Email from Pyworthy resident enquiring if purchasing self-repair Kits for potholes by PC could be viable,
Reply to Email from NHO re condition of road and National Cycle Route N3,

3069. Accounts and Accounts due for payment – Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors, Items due for payment this month were :
Clerks Expenses, Printer Ink £26.79, and approval of Charitable Grant for FO Bridgerule School £300.
Vat reclaim for April to September 2022 had been received, £369.08
Current Account Balance as at 20th February agreed £4871.25.
Proposed 1st KB, 2nd KJ, all councillors in favour.

3070. Chairmans Report- nothing to report

3071. Proposed Carpark Sign – A proposed visual mock up of sign with dimensions had been circulated to councillors. The cost estimate received from Jag Signs was £211.74 including Vat and Installation. A discussion followed regarding siting. Hall representatives to send photo for clerk to send to Jag for confirmation.
Proposed 1st SW, 2nd FC, all councillors in favour.

3072. Planning : 1/0212/2023/FUL- Second Storey Extension above existing garage and installation of balcony. Kilmarnock, Bridgerule, Holsworthy, Devon.
Council feedback to TDC,
“The council has no objection to the application”.

3073. Kings Coronation and event planning – SC was finalising numbers required for purchase of Mugs. Opinions on design had been sought from some parents of schoolchildren as designs available in modern and traditional. It had been decided after feedback to opt for the traditional design. Grants had been applied for provision of a free tea in the hall, if successful would report back next month on this and mug purchase and costs. To Agenda next meeting.

3074. Village Hall Update – KB said that the Hall were waiting to be given start date for the shop by the builders and nothing else of note to report this month.

3075. Annual Review of Policies - Annual review of Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, GDPR and were reviewed by councillors with no changes to be made to these, the Asset Register needed to be updated to include VAS signs and additional bins, Proposed acceptance of review of these policies, 1st KJ, 2nd FC, all councillors in favour.

3076. Highways and Speedwatch Update- Speedwatch group awaiting one member to complete online training. VAS data collected from Vicarage Hill site, KB would like copy emailed .
Road Closure – road from Borough Cross to Littlebridge Cross and Littlebridge Cross to Chapel Corner, 28th to 30th March 2023. Alternative routes to be signed.

3077. Clerks report – Online banking for business accounts from Natwest would not be suitable for council, as mandate had two signatories to sign. Natwest does offer Bankline for Communities which operates in a similar way but has a maximum of 4 signatories on the account. Our account has 7, 2 need to be removed as no longer councillors and one other. Clerk felt it would be beneficial to council to persevere as it would enable online payments eventually. It would need a mandate proposal to be made, to remove signatories, to comply with Natwest requirements, this could be done next month, and then application could be made after the election and discussion and agreement from councillors in May or June.

3078. Exchange of Information : - The general rubbish bin nearby the bus shelter Middle Road, was being used for dog waste rather than the moved dog bin, it had been noted. SW had placed a notice at the riverside to encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs and reduce dog fouling to great effect and councillors agreed to a notice being placed on the general rubbish bin to advise and request dog waste be placed in the correct bin. KJ would take any completed election papers and deliver to TDC, if received at the Coffee Club on the 28th March

3079. Meeting Closed 20.55.

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7.45pm.

Signed by Meeting Chairman :

Date of signing :