



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th August 2023 at 7.45.pm, at Bridgerule Village Hall.**  
These minutes are provisional until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

**Present :** Vice-chairman F. Cogdell  
Councillors: J. McDougall, S. Whatmore, K. Bowditch, K. James, S. Cholwill, J. Philpott.  
In Attendance : Clerk.

**Apologies :** D. Hale.

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

**Public Session :** No questions raised.

**3162. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3163. District Councillors Report :** KJ reported that a Strategic Planning Meeting had recently been held, to discuss projects within the local area. £30 million pounds had already been committed and TDC were looking at what they could do with available funding and applying for funds from the Levelling Up fund. They were hoping for £4 million pounds funding, but it was not guaranteed, and they could receive very little. Torrridge was classed as a deprived area and other applicants to that fund were from urban areas. Projects underway in Torrridge were the land at the former Cattle Market, to attract businesses, in Appledore in conjunction with Plymouth University in Marine Technology, they were looking at Farming and agricultural investment in the local area. A Business centre was also being considered and TDC would work with Sir. Geoffrey Cox, KC. Funds were possibly available from the Rural Spatial Fund, projects under consideration included Victoria Park, £150k, Torrington Pannier market, £150k and some funding for the Ruby County and Cycleway project. SC said that an application had been made to TDC for grant funding for the future shop, but that had been declined. KJ said he would investigate that and may be able to assist with a grant from his Councillor Grant Fund. There may also be some funding available from North Devon Plus and he would enquire. Northam Leisure Centre is now making a profit and Holsworthy Leisure Centre is performing well at present. JP said they used the pool at Holsworthy on a regular basis and it was very good now, although it was felt the changing rooms could benefit from upgrading and some investment.

**3164. Police Report. :** No report this month. The HRP teams meetings had been scheduled for the next 4 months, commencing on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. It was noted that Police patrols throughout the village had increased in frequency recently, and this was very welcome, visible, and appreciated.

**3165. Council Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 had been circulated to all councillors, and the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1<sup>st</sup> KB, 2<sup>nd</sup> KJ. All councillors in favour.

**3166. Matters Arising :** There were no matters arising.

**3167. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received:

Email from: Resident regarding Grass cutting provision at Littlebridge x2,

Email from new Neighbourhood Highway Officer regarding 30mph zone,

New Bus Timetable from 3<sup>rd</sup> September from Stagecoach, SC requested a copy, clerk to send.

Invitation from Holsworthy Town Council to attend meeting next month regarding the proposed Ruby Cycle Way, DH would be able to attend on all proposed dates, FC would also like to attend. Clerk to email Holsworthy Town Clerk.

Sent: Letter to resident regarding grass cutting services at Littlebridge, Highways, DCC, TDC and Westward Housing.

**3168 :** **Chairmans Report :** No report received due to ill health.

**3169: Accounts and Accounts due for payment –** Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Items due for payment this month were :

Grass cutting services, £204.00, DALC Councillor training courses, £54.00 and Printer Ink cartridges and stamps, £30.98,

Current account balance on 27<sup>th</sup> July agreed at £10,382.23

Letter signed by signatories to transfer £2000 from Current account to Reserve account as agreed last month,

Proposed 1<sup>st</sup> SC, 2<sup>nd</sup> KB, Chairman asked for show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3170 :** **Highway, Vas Signs and Speedwatch Update:** - Road closures, road from Derril Cross to Hillsborough Cross, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September and Road from Bounds Cross to Moor Cross, Pyworthy, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August, pole installations for Airband UK.

Speedwatch update: No update this month.

VAS Signs, - SW had contacted Stocksigns, who had agreed to pay the carriage return for the defective sign at Middle Road to be sent to the workshop for repair. This had been done and this sign had been returned and now sited on Vicarage Hill and data was able to be downloaded now. Since being placed, data harvested showed 1191 vehicles passing, with the highest speeds recorded of 37.7mph. The average speed was 25mph and no speeds recorded over 40mph.

Data harvested from the Middle Road VAS showed 7953 passing vehicles. Of these, 868 were travelling at 30-35mph, 113 at between 35-40mph and 11 at 40-45mph. This showed an average of 1 in 7.9 vehicles travelling above 30mph.

SW said he had seen 20's Plenty removable sticker signs available online which he would like to place on the poles when the VAS's are temporarily removed for compliance and would pay the costs of these personally. Councillors approved this and Chairman thanked SW for his generosity in providing these for the village.

**3171 :** **To Approve Grass Cutting Payment for the Football Club of £700 for 2023 :-** Proposed 1<sup>st</sup> KB, 2<sup>nd</sup> JP, Chairman asked for show of hands, all councillors in favour, Motion Carried.

**3172 :** **Car Park Signage:** – Clerk had received quote from Jag Signs for £92.14 plus VAT for set-up, design supply and fit for a sign in composite reflective aluminium, 200mm by 600mm. A discussion followed whereby councillors felt this was a high cost. SW offered to source a sign elsewhere and attach to the pole, with wording, No Campervans Overnight. Signs available were in the region of £20 and wording would be as requested. It was agreed that SW would obtain a sign from this source and install. Chairman expressed thanks to SW for organising this.

**3173: Visit from Sir Geoffrey Cox, MP, KC and Drop-In session :** - The session would take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, at the Methodist Chapel Sunday School. DH had planned to attend to assist with parking but if ill health prevented doing so, SC said that additional helpers would be available from the Chapel committee. SC would, with Chapel helpers provide tea and biscuits to attendees if required. Sir Geoffrey’s office had provided 500 leaflets for household drops and SC would organise delivery with the Buzz deliverers locally to promote the visit. The Chapel and Sunday School would need to be available for use at 10.00am, as requested please, by his office.

**3174 : Planning : -**

**1/0575/2023/FUL – Proposed extension to existing agricultural building, Elm Park, Bridgerule, Devon.**

Council feedback to TDC – “The council has no objections to the application”. All councillors in favour.

**1/0712/2023/FUL – Demolition of existing barn and erection of 3 no: dwellings in lieu of Class Q approval**

**1/0753/2022/AGMB ( Variation of condition 2 of Planning Approval 1/0339/2023/FUL) Plans Schedule Agricultural Building at Grid Reference 226186 102569, Bridgerule, Devon.**

Council feedback to TDC – “ The council strongly object to the proposal as it is not on the same footprint as the original building and hope it is refused. They note the Departure Notice and feel it is sporadic development of housing. They have expressed previous concerns regarding the access to the proposed development via a narrow concrete lane and query whether the site is on the same holding number as the owner? “. All councillors in favour.

**3175 : Village Hall/ shop update :** - The Hall has lost a regular weekly evening booking but has received interest from a potential other party. The shop building had begun, but progress has slowed due to the necessity of Building Regulations and associated application. The possibility of CCTV for security purposes was being investigated.

**3176: Clerks Report:** - The annual budget had not yet been completed but will be circulated to councillors prior to the next meeting . PKF Littlejohn, auditors had requested more information regarding the AGAR forms submitted in May. Natwest Bank were no longer accepting applications for Bankline for Communities, which would enable a degree of online banking for the account, this service had been withdrawn at present, with no date given if it would be offered in future. Clerk had attended a clerks meeting recently organised by DALC, and reported that the majority of those clerks of councils present, used Unity Trust Bank for their accounts. Other options were Lloyds. Unity Bank charged £6.00 per month for their services. Clerk to source information on both and present to councillors for information, discussion and consideration. The rogue streetlight that was always lit, in the alley off Middle Road, belonged to Westward Housing and clerk had reported the fault to them.

**3177 : Exchange of Information :** Complaints had been received regarding Refuse and rubbish and black bags being left on the street, under the post box near Southlands House, it was felt unsightly. JMD would speak to owners in the first instance when delivering the next edition of the Buzz.

There was a Free valuation session for items for auction at Holsworthy Memorial Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**3178 : Meeting closed at 9.08pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.45pm.

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

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

