

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th September 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

Councillors: F. Cogdell, J. McDougall, M. Tape, S. Whatmore, K. Bowditch, K. James, S. Cholwill, J. Philpott.

In Attendance : Clerk.

**Apologies :** J. Trayford.

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

**Public Session :**  No questions raised.

**3179. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3180. District Councillors Report :** KJ said that a Meeting with the Minister for Levelling Up due to have taken place recently had had to be cancelled and had not been rearranged to date. It has not been confirmed yet whether TDC will benefit from the Levelling Up Fund and what funds it may receive from this. The council has ideas on where funding could be spent within the district and are already committed to several projects in the area.

**3181. Police Report. :** Clerk gave a brief report from the HRP teams meeting held on the 23rd August with PC Morgan and Sgt Gutteridge. The PSCO was now on leave for 12 months and some additional cover would be provided from the Torrington PSCO. PC Morgan was still applying to regional HQ for the Speed Recording Van deployment to areas where many complaints had been received and supporting evidence was available from local Speedwatch Groups. Colleagues in Cornwall have been reporting many thefts of “Ifor Williams” trailers and horseboxes recently and the team advised to pass warnings to the local community to be vigilant wherever possible. None had been reported in the rural Holsworthy area. September’s meeting was being held this evening so clerk had sent apologies.

**3182. Council Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 15h August 2023 had been circulated to all councillors, and the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st FC, 2nd JMD. All councillors in favour.

**3183. Matters Arising :** There were no matters arising.

**3184. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received:

Email from: Letter from Sir Geoffrey Cox, KC, MP who wished to thank the parish council and help with his recent Drop- In session last month at the Chapel,

Email from Sir Geoffrey’s office regarding letter written to DCC requesting yellow lines at School area be

Re-painted and timescale for this work,

Devon Rural CAB- requesting details and possible consideration for grant funding,

Chardstock Eco Group- regarding reduction of street lighting hours in Devon,

Cornwall Resident, regarding the Dangerous and Hazardous condition of the B3254,

Sent: email to NHO x 2, Holsworthy Ruby cycle way x 2, Cornwall resident x 1 and Sir Geoffrey’s Office x 1.

**3185. Chairmans Report :**  DH reported that the section of road along the B3254 from Bevills Hill to Newacott Cross was due to be resurfaced staring on the 11th December through to 19th December, inclusive, which was extremely good news. He noted that a road diversion had been in place recently around the Tackbeare area, which SC confirmed was for Pole Installation for Airband. He and the Vice-chairman had attended a meeting on the 12th September at Holsworthy, regarding the proposed Ruby Cycle Way. This project is hoping to connect Holsworthy to Bude on a cycle route and involved five parishes along its proposed route. A feasibility study would need to be undertaken and the working group were looking for donations towards the cost of this. A “Workbook “for this purpose would likely cost in the region of £6k. Plans for the route would run through the old railway line and not pass through the village of Bridgerule, and FC said he felt that this was regrettable,

the N3 cycle way does, and it could mean lost opportunities for the shop and the village Inn. Signage along the route had been proposed. KJ said it was not likely TDC would be able to contribute to the costs of the project at present because they have priorities which need to be met. He explained the process of Compulsory Land purchase. SC asked how far the route runs and was this after Lambs Lane, DH said that the project had been discussed before, many years ago. Another meeting was going to be arranged and Minutes and Maps had been circulated to attendees.

**3186. 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, PKF Littlejohns, Auditors Fees, £252.00

Current Account Balance on 31st August agreed at £7,740.48

£2000 had been transferred to the Reserve account,

Proposed 1st , SC 2nd, KJ, all councillors in favour.

**3187. To Approve and Consider Annual Budget for 2023-24 :**  A proposed budget had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and a discussion followed. Expenditure thus far was within budget and an amount had been allocated to maintenance or repair to the Playpark if required. The amount set for Grass cutting within the village had been increased slightly but would need to increase further next year. DH asked if the repairs and adjustments to the equipment by Playforce had been done and SC said there was numerous correspondence with Playforce , who had not undertaken these yet. Available funds for Charitable Grants were discussed, this was proposed or suggested as £1900 total. DH said that the council should allow £300 for the Holsworthy Ring and Ride, as agreed last year for this transport service for the village. SC said that the service had free Advertising in the Buzz and it was used by several residents. Clerk would email details and application forms to those who have applied last year for consideration this year in due course and applications could be looked at the November meeting. FC thought it good to advertise the information on Facebook, although applications could not be made via social media, or online. SC would arrange to publicise this in due course.

Proposed Annual Budget be accepted, 1st, FC, 2nd, SW. Chairman asked for show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3188**. **Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch :**  Repairs to the B3254, already mentioned in Chairman’s report.

SW provided monthly data harvested from the two VAS signs, Vicarage Hill recorded 6616 vehicles of which 1203 were speeding, this equates to 1 in 5.4. Average speed recorded was 25.8 and Maximum 48.6. Middle Road Vas recorded 10,130 passing, with 1079 speeding, equating to 1 in 9.3. Average speeds were 23.4 and Maximum of 42.3. DCC had installed new poles for the signs, and these had now been transferred from the SL columns onto them. Clerk had emailed the NHO with photos and suggested sites for the alternative poles to comply with rotational requirements of DCC for the signs. DH said that the sign on Vicarage Hill could be taken down for half term and then put back. Clerk wished to advise council of the conditions set by DCC for permission of the signs and acceptance of this by the parish council had been sent in writing to the NHO, as required and requested, before the poles were ordered and installed.

DCC deemed the two signs as temporary ones and would allow them to be sited in one location for a maximum of 6 weeks, and to not be returned to the same site for 4 weeks.

The chairman wished to thank SW for all his work done to re- site and connect the signs and downloading data

Anti-social behaviour had been noted, by a vehicle being driven through the village from the direction of Borough Cross through to Bridgerule. This regularly occurred on a Tuesday evening at around 12.15am , with the vehicle travelling with the horn on constantly. The vehicle returned along the same route at around 12.45am. FC had video evidence recorded from the previous week. Clerk to report to PC Morgan with Vas Data and Video attachment.

**3189. Change of Bank Account :** Alternative banking options of Lloyds or Unity Trust were discussed, both offered online banking and digital payments. Terms and conditions had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. After discussion it was agreed that Unity Trust seemed to suit the needs of the council best and that the application to change from NatWest to them be started after the next precept payment due in at the end of September. Proposed, change to Unity Trust Bank, 1st KJ, 2nd DH, all councillors in favour.

There are currently 5 signatories on the NatWest account, these would be transferred and used for the new Unity current account. It was agreed that there should be a minimum of 2 signatories to sign as a mandate, electronic or other and a third for amounts over £500. Clerk would still present invoices to council for approval before payment could be authorised and would initiate the application process to Unity for the council.

Proposed signing mandate is 2 minimum to sign,3 for amounts over £500 and existing signatories to continue, 1st JMD, 2nd, JP, Chairman asked for show of hands, all councillors in favour. Motion carried.

**3190. Planning :**

Applications granted permission are 1/0575/2023/FUL- Agricultural Building at Elm Park, Bridgerule,

1/0641/2023/FUL – Oak Garden Room, Pale Park, Marhamchurch, 1/0597/2023/FUL, Conversion of 5 no: barns to residential, Lodgeworthy Farm, 1/0378/2023/FUL Orangery, Sanctuary Lodge, Bridgerule and 1/0458/2023/FUL – Storage building Bude DIY, Bridgerule Industrial Estate.

Applications withdrawn were 1/0573/2023/FUL extension to shed at Owlies, Bridgerule and

1/0381/2023/OUT – outline application 2 dwellings, Land at Railway Cottages, Bridgerule.

**3191 : Village Hall/Shop Update:** Construction of the Shop is coming along nicely, with scaffolding due to be placed in October and it is hoped the building will be erected by the end of October.

**3192 : Clerks Report:** The Annual Governance Audit had been concluded for the year 2022-23 and required publications had been done. Details of Remembrance Items for sale had been received from the RBL. “Unknown Tommy” statues were available for £200 or £350 for a pair. KB showed details of these from the online store to councillors, who liked the idea to purchase for the village. A discussion followed whereby it was decided that the best site for display of these would be on the Railings in front of the Chapel. Councillors liked the “Lest We Forget” wording best. JP said that in previous years some poppies had been woven around the railings by a local resident and SC said that the display could be used in the next edition of the Buzz, if the timings coincided. DH asked that the proposal to purchase these be added to next month’s Agenda.

**3193: Exchange of Information: -**. The Five new houses built opposite the Mill are still for sale,

SW said that he had several holidays booked within the next 4 months and these may coincide with dates of council meetings, he would not be away for all that time and would continue to oversee the VAS signs maintenance and data harvest and would send his apologies for meeting absences if appropriate,

Is there any update on Newacott Cross? Builders waste had been seen going into the field this evening and a Van has been parking in the gateway. KJ said he would ring the Enforcement Officer tomorrow.

Campervans- One Campervan was still parking in the Hall carpark, day and overnight and the display of the new sign asking that “No Campervans Overnight” had not made any difference to this one vehicle.

DH asked clerk to write a letter to the vehicle owner, and he would sign and deliver it, asking the owner to remove the vehicle overnight.

How is the Football Club doing this season? MT said they didn’t have any Juniors at present and the team had played 6 or 7 games so far. The League they are currently in only have 14 teams.

The Notice Board down by the Riverside was missing, DH said it was broken and he would try to locate it for repair, but clerk to obtain prices for a new replacement for discussion next month,

Picnic Bench at the Riverside - could a concrete base be built for the bench to be placed on, DH said that the bench had had to be moved last year due to the river rising, and it had been moved again, but it was ok where it currently sat so the concrete base could be there, Costs of concrete base to be sourced.

**3192 : Meeting closed at 9.15pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 17th October at 7.45pm.

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

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

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