

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 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, K. Bowditch, S. Cholwill,

In Attendance : Clerk.

**Apologies :** S. Whatmore, J. Philpott.

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

**Public Session :**  No questions raised.

**3193. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3194. District Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3195. Council Meeting Minutes. :** Clerk had re-circulated an amended version of draft minutes to make clearer reading of item no: 3189 and also included another sentence in item no: 3191. Councillors approved the changes, and the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st SC, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour.

**3196. Matters Arising:** Item no: 3193. Clerk had sourced a standing noticeboard at a cost of £202.82 inc vat, but posts for fixing were additional. KB suggested one similar to the board on the hall wall, which was £81, or less, dependant on number of sheet size. It was felt 4 pages would be sufficient and cost of this option was under £60. FC said he would propose the council purchase one, he would arrange to install the pole and fixings for it, 1st, SC, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour. KB to organise the purchase.

**3197. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received:

Phonecall and letter from former resident about a clock repair business in the village,

Annual Rough Sleeper estimate from TDC,

Email from NHO regarding alternative pole sitings for the two VAS signs suggested by the parish. The traffic team had considered the request and deemed both locations unsuitable. To be discussed further in Vas sign updates.

**3198.** **Chairman’s Report :** DH reported that the Yellow lines at the school area had now been re-painted by DCC. He had received requests that the Picnic Bench be moved from its site at the Riverside to the hall area, now the shop building was going ahead. This would not be possible as the bench is used by many since being placed there, but the bench does need some cleaning and maintenance. Councillors also discussed the need for a firm base for the bench to be sited on, and agreed that this, together with cleaning of the bench, be a job to be undertaken in spring. FC said the bench needed regular maintenance but the site was not the easiest to access for this purpose. He had not received an invoice for grass cutting this month. SC the hall area had been cut only a few days ago and the contractor was not removing the cuttings, as per contract of a lawn mown finish.

DH said he had spoken to the contractor about the incomplete strimming and had asked for this to be done. It was felt that the service now provided was not up to the standard of the previous contractors.

**3199.**  **Accounts and Accounts due for payment –**  Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Items due for payment this month were :

RBL- Unknown Tommy Statues, £350.00

2nd Precept had been received on 29.09.23 and

Current account balance on 29th September agreed at £11,595.21.

Proposed 1st, KB, 2nd, FC, chairman asked for show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3200.** **Playpark and repairs outstanding from April’s inspection –**  SC reported that Playforce had now repaired and replaced items on swings as detailed on the ROSPA report and that a new spring would be needed to be purchased and installed to comply with another item, a pinch point, also identified on the report. The completion letter from Playforce had been filed with the councils report and is on file. The councillors agreed to the payment of the spring when purchased and any labour charges necessary, when known. FC would move the general rubbish bin to outside of the playpark to help with litter from both the park and the shop. The swings had been noted to be squeaking and noisy, so he would inspect and check this. Clerk to write to the garden contractor asking for care to be taken around wooden posts of the climbing wall to minimise further damage from the strimming, as part of a risk management, also identified in the report. Clerk confirmed that an annual inspection is recommended.

**3201. Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch:**  Road closure at Bounds Cross to Pyworthy on the 16th to 24th October, Keir on behalf of SWW. Alternative routes to be signposted.

JMD said that there were various signs at crossings that were either missing or incomplete and needed repair or replacement. These were noted as Bridgemoor Cross, Hillsborough Cross, and the sign at Dux Crossroads had two directional arrow signs missing. Clerk to report to DCC and Highways.

SW had provided the monthly data capture from the two VAS signs. Bicycles had been noted recently travelling down Vicarage Hill and onwards to the village at high speeds, FC confirmed that the VAS would not pick up or be triggered by bicycles. JMD said that this could be because the area is very close to the National Cycle Route N3. The two VAS signs are due to be taken down shortly as they have been in sit for almost the permitted time of 6 weeks, as instructed by the traffic team, should not return to the poles for 4 weeks.

The email reply from the traffic team and the NHO stated that the two suggested sites for alternative poles were not deemed suitable. FC, DH would on the return of SW, investigate two further sites inside the village to submit to the NHO in due course. The reason for the refusal was that the suggested pole sites were within the speed limit considerations currently taking place. The NHO did not have a confirmed date for when any speed limits considerations would be finalised and would update the council, when known.

No Speedwatch update this month. DH said he would speak with the group organiser but the last known update was that the group had all completed the online training and were waiting for a Health and Safety assessment to be carried out. He asked the clerk to mention as in item at the Holsworthy RP teams meeting .

**3202**. **New Bank Account Update :**  The forms had been prepared and the extra proof of identity requested was ready to send off. A signed cheque of £500 was needed to accompany the application initially. Signatories signed and dated the application form. A Unity advisor had recommended that the two Reserve accounts in the Natwest be transferred to the current account once the application had been approved in readiness for the switch, when all funds in the Current account would go across to Unity, within their Current Account Switch Scheme. Signatories signed this guarantee form. Clerk explained the various signing options and KB queried how which councillors would know they were needed to electronically sign and what would happen if someone was not able to be contacted for various reasons. Clerk said that after presenting invoice payment to council at a meeting, there is a choice of signatories to pick from the list we have set up, so if one is not available , the choice can be made from the other 3. The mandate was for two to sign for amounts up to £500, and 3 for amounts over this. A letter would need to be prepared to arrange for the transfer of the reserve accounts, as once the current account is switched there would be no way to operate them, as letters form the instructions to move money both in and out of those accounts. Clerk will prepare and get signed and hold in readiness, for when the application is approved.

Unity will agree a switch date before commencing once the application is approved, which clerk will relay to councillors.

Proposed, £500 cheque for initial deposit and letter for Natwest bank, 1st KB, 2nd JMD. Chairman asked for a show of hands, all councillors in favour. Motion passed.

**3203. Planning :**

**1/0926/2023/FUL – Construction of 1 no: dwelling, Land at Grid Reference 230043 103301, Derril, Pyworthy.**

Council feedback to TDC,

**“The parish council wish to object to the application and that the proposed application will be built on unstable ground. They also note the Departure Notice and feel that the location of the land and the application is not in keeping with the development plan for this area. “**

**Proposed Base Station – Installation at Churchdown Farm, Churchtown, Bridgerule, For Cornerstone, to improve service provision for Vodafone Ltd, comment pre-application.**

Council feedback to Cornerstone,

**“Councillors are in favour of and support the application and feel it will benefit the parish and community. “**

Applications granted permission are:

1/0239/2023/FULM- Installation of 90 no; static caravans, Hedley Wood Caravan Park, Bridgerule

1/0712/2023 –Demolition of existing barn and erection of 3 no: dwellings, Agricultural Building at

Grid Reference 226186 102569, Bridgerule, Devon.

Applications refused permission - 1/0433/2023/FUL- Retrospective application for installation of gates and hardstanding, Land at Grid reference E 226677, 102270, Bridgerule Devon.

**3204 : Village Hall/Shop Update:** The building of the shop is coming along nicely, despite having to undertake building regulations, which was not originally planned for. Monetary budgets remain tight, but funding is there at present to create a watertight building. Some form of heating is required to be incorporated, although it was not initially planned for. The building materials used for the construction are extremely heat efficient and warm.

A fund-raising evening is planned for November 18th, with a live band from the London area playing. Shares in the venture had not been as successful thus far as hoped but have re-opened for purchase.

**3205 : Clerks Report:** Grant application forms had been sent to St. Bridgets Church, Village Hall/shop, Devon CAB and Friends of Holsworthy Library. FOBS had not yet been contacted. A poster was displayed on the notice board, with applications closing on the 17th November. Payments would be sent out if successful , in conjunction with new bank account opening. A further supply of ink could be needed within the next month.

**3206: Exchange of Information: -**. A silver Discovery has been left abandoned in the Chapel Carpark and is

taking up 2 spaces, it is not taxed but has MOT. It has been reported to TDC as abandoned, Clerk will report to

next HRP teams meeting to ask for police assistance,

It had been noted that cars were parking on the grass verges around the hall car park,

The hedges in the school area had been cut and trimmed, but higher growth remained, is near to power supply,

Can this be cut? The school would need to contact the relevant contractors as the hedge is on their property.

Next month’s meeting can start at the earlier time of 7.30pm.

**3207 : Meeting closed at 9.07pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 21st November at 7.30pm.

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

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

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