

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 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

Councillors, F. Cogdell, J. McDougall, K. Bowditch, S. Cholwill, K. James, J. Trayford,

M. Tape, S. Whatmore.

In Attendance : Clerk.

**Apologies :** J. Philpott.

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

**Public Session :**  . No questions raised.

**3238. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3239. District Councillors Report :** KJ reported TDC were still working on funds allocated from the Levelling Up Fund and a meeting had recently been held with Government officials regarding this. Conditions attached to the funding awarded meant that any works could not be undertaken or commenced until the end of March this year and needed to be spent by March 2025. This might cause difficulties as some of the prospective plans for utilising the funds may require planning permission and infrastructure to achieve what was planned or intended. The Marine project in Appledore is continuing to go ahead but plans for regeneration of the Holsworthy Cattle Market project were at present, in question. Meetings were being held to discuss progressing with the latter. TDC are confident the budget they have for 2025-2026 is adequate to provide services.

**3240. Council Meeting Minutes. :** The Minutes of 12th December had been circulated to councillors. After circulation a sentence was noted to be missing from Item no: 3236, “ The rubbish bin has been moved and requires fixing,”. This was then included in revised minutes and clerk had circulated the amended Minutes to all councillors, the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st KJ, 2nd JMD all councillors in favour.

**3241. Matters Arising:** Item no: 3236,. The bin referred to was originally sited in the playpark, but had

now been moved out of the area, as last year’s ROSPA inspection report noted that the bin needed to be fixed

to the ground if sited within the playpark. Councillors agreed that a secure location needed to be found for the

bin and it needed to be actioned by the end of March, before this year’s inspection which was due in April.

**3242. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received:

Thank you letters from Bridgerule Village Hall, FOBS, Bridgerule PC Council, Holsworthy Rural Transport, Devon CAB for receipt of generous charitable grant received in December,

WSP- the request for an EV charging point has now gone forwards for application to the Dept of Transport,

Devon Wildlife Trust, regarding Landmark Trees,

Sent : Letter of support to TDC , supporting residents of Meadow View’s potential imminent application for a Section 73 Amendment to the original planning permission obtained,

**3243.** **Chairman’s Report :** DH reported that one of the trees planted at the riverside area a few years ago had died and needed to be removed. Clerk had been successful with the application to the Devon Wildlife Trust, who have awarded the parish a free Rowan Tree. This would be planted as a replacement and clerk was due to collect from the nursery at Meeth on February 7th.

**3244.**  **Accounts and Accounts due for payment –**  Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Items due for payment this month were :

2nd key for Noticeboard, £5.00

Current account balance on 7th January agreed at £7799.62, as shown on the statement.

Proposed 1st, JT, 2nd, KB, all councillors in favour.

Councillors discussed and approved the current bank mandate be amended to enable JMD to also review and submit payments to the bank. This would then provide the option for the 3 councillors to have the same permissions and carry on with the triple controls at present. Proposed 1st KB, 2nd, SW, all councillors in favour.

Signatories signed the mandate form for clerk to submit changes authorised to Unity Bank.

**3245. Precept 2024-2025****.** Clerk had circulated the annual budget of spending to date and councillors discussed budgetary requirements for the coming year. DALC subscription, Insurance and Grass cutting provision for the village costs would increase, along with salary costs for clerk. After discussion , it was decided that around a £500 increase would be sought from TDC. This would set the Band D figure for the year at £36.19. Proposed 1st KB, 2nd KJ. Chairman asked for a show of hands, all councillors in favour. DH and clerk signed the AC2 form.

**3246. Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch :**

SW reported the latest Data from the VAS sign now operational on Vicarage Hill, 1055 passing vehicles were recorded as speeding, with an average speed of 26.8. This equates to 1 in 4 vehicles speeding. Most occurred during the times of 8-9 am and 3-4 pm. The second VAS will go up at Middle Road next week and this cycle will continue until further sites can be authorised by DCC. Councillors agreed that speed of traffic increased when the signs were not operational, but the council needs to comply with the requirements given by DCC. It was hoped that the 20mph decision would be made soon.

JT was organising the final training for some of the Speedwatch group and was hoping to organise a group session to help those with their online training, some volunteers had already completed theirs. The training session could be held in the hall. JT to liase with SC and KB. The Speedwatch sessions were predicted to be around one hour, monthly and JT was hopeful the group could become operational in February.

JMD had reported potholes and added to ones listed at Dux on the DCC website.

Road Closure – Road from Dux Cross to Derril Cross, 19th to 23rd February, for new Water service, Kier on behalf of South West Water, diversions to be signed.

**3247. Planning:**  No applications had been received this month from TDC requiring a consultee comment.

**3248.**  **Grant Policy :** The policy had been updated and amended to be more current and provide more concise details within it for applicants and a framework for councillors when deciding and awarding grants and donations, ensuring council has rights and discretions to award within budget. This had been circulated prior to the meeting and councillors discussed and wished to adopt the policy, 1st, FC, 2nd JT, all councillors in favour.

**3249. Memorial for DAT light at Vinnicomb Park:**  DH said that the council were going to place a memorial, possibly a plaque at the Football ground, some years ago, before Covid. The memorial was to be in memory of a local resident who had passed away and was extremely proactive and very successful in fundraising for the DAAT. A parishioner had mentioned to him that this had not yet been done, and DH said he would obtain some quotes and designs for councillors to discuss at next month’s meeting. This to be added to the Agenda for February.

**3250. Flooding at Bridge Mill and land adjacent to Carn Venn:**  A letter of complaint, report, and photographs of flooding of the area had been received from a resident who lived nearby to the affected area had been received and clerk had pre-circulated the report and photographs prior to the meeting. FC said he had walked alongside the leat where flooding occurs and observed that water, a lot of, was draining off nearby fields due to the recent wet weather and a general lack of maintenance of the Leat was exacerbating the problem. A drain nearby at a business premises could also be seen to need maintenance and or repair, in his opinion. Some fallen trees and or branches could also be seen in the Leat and affecting the pipes drainage. KJs said there used to be a culvert in that area, it may have partially collapsed as it was not working now like it used to. Tree saplings could be seen growing in the Leat adjacent to the new development, and this was not helping. Clerk to prepare letter and send to NHO, DCC, head of Roads, and local county councillor to request action and improve area.

A huge pothole, or the edge of the roadside in this area had become worse, flooded, and dangerous for vehicles travelling along Mill Road. SW would photograph and send co-ordinates and clerk would report to DCC when received, as it was felt this needed to be actioned promptly. Ref; W241703884.

FC said that the manhole cover in the road near the “Bridge Inn “and “The Forge” was sinking badly. This had been reported before last year, but was now getting worse. SW said that the What3words for the cover were “Insiders, -Drips, -Spearhead, “. Clerk to report to DCC on website. Ref: W241703892.

**3251. Village Hall- Shop Update : -** KB reported that the Hall was continuing well at present, and a new booking of Pilates classes was now running weekly on Tuesdays. The Campervan which has been parked in the carpark for a length of time, had now been removed. Electrical work had now begun, in the shop building, electricity would be brought from the hall to the shop as the quickest and cost effective option, the shop having its own separate meter when completed. An initial quote for plastering had been received, and a second quote was needed and being sought. An initial quote had been obtained for CCTV for the Hall and Shop. KB asked if the council would like involvement and contribute, for either the Playpark or the Carpark, areas owned by the council. FC said he felt CCTV coverage of the playpark would not be feasible due to regulations which would apply for this area, KJ and JT agreed.

**3252. Clerks Report :-** Application for a Landmark tree had been successful and no dates planned yet for the next Holsworthy RP Teams meeting. No Police report received.

**3253: Exchange of Information: -**.

The Pyworthy post had given details of petitions regarding repairs of roads within the Torridge area, petitions had been signed by a huge number, petitions had been circulated by the Pyworthy council, had Bridgerule received details of petitions? DH said that they were in a letter drop, organised by the local MP, Sir Geoffrey Cox. KJ said that DCC had announced an £8 million fund now available for road repairs.

Neighbourhood Watch alert received today had reported that in Three different areas within the SW, 4 vehicles had been stolen whilst left with their engines running to defrost the vehicles,

What is happening about the Gates at Newacott? There is an Enforcement Notice in place and a process will be applied by TDC. Lots of similar occurrences have been noted in nearby parishes within Torridge.

KJ will discuss with TDC Planning Manager.

KB will be away for the next month’s meeting and some items will revert to paper copies for this time,

SW has the Unknown Tommys in garage and DH has the packing, after which they will be moved to storage until needed later in the year,

There was a lot of mud on the Bridge and nearby road, FC had done some clearing but more mud needed removing, DH would assist with machinery to help scrape and clear the area.

Roads also needing clearing were by Uplands, and the Glebe and Furze Farm.

**3254: Meeting closed at 8.52pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 20th February at 7.30pm.

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

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

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