

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7.35.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, S. Cholwill, K. James, J Philpott, S. Whatmore.

In Attendance : Clerk.

**Apologies :** K.Bowditch, J. Trayford, M. Tape.

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

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

**3255. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3256. District Councillors Report :** KJ that a meeting had been held recently regarding the Levelling Up Funds awarded. The Board has been awarded £20 million pounds which needs to be utilised within 12 months. The Marine project is going ahead and preference across the board is for the proposed project on the old Cattle market in Holsworthy to be furthered. A finance meeting has been held and the budget has been agreed. TDC will increase the Council Tax payable by residents by 2.99%, as recommended by central government.

**3257. Police Report :**  HRP teams meeting held on 5th February with PC Morgan. There are still problems with the Crime Stats page which is a technical issue but it is still being worked on. A spate of rural burglaries had been reported over the past 2 and half weeks, in the area north of Holsworthy towards Bideford occurring in non-dwellings. Police want to warn landowners to be vigilant with their property and effects. Frank has managed to reduce his inherited workload and is now booking more community workshops and attendance at local events wherever possible, to increase presence. He had been successful in having the Speedwatch van in attendance and for hourly sessions conducted at six parishes with a Speedwatch group. Next meeting to be held on March 7th.

**3258. Council Meeting Minutes. :** The Minutes of 16th January had been circulated to councillors. the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st FC, 2nd SW all councillors in favour.

**3259. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**3260. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received:

Thank you letter from Friends of Holsworthy Library for their charitable grant received in December,

ROSPA -Playsafety, prior notification that the Annual Playpark inspection will be carried out in April,

Highways regarding the manhole cover in the road opposite the Bridge Inn,

TDC – a free framed portrait of the King was offered to parishes, Councillors wished clerk to apply for one,

Sent : Letter of thanks to Devon Wildlife Trust for the donation of a Rowan tree for the parish,

Highways – emails x 4 regarding flooding at Mill Road and one regarding block drain also at Mill Road,

**3261.** **Chairman’s Report :** DH reported that the Rowan tree had been planted at the Riverside area on Saturday and thanked clerk for collecting from the Meeth nursery. He also wished to thank SC and all those involved with the recent Historical Day held at the Hall, it was a wonderful day enjoyed by all. An open day for the shop was also held on the same day and was very successful in promoting it and had resulted in some donations towards its building costs being received. He noted that problems with Dog Fouling was on the increase, particularly at the riverside area. SC said that the problem was going to included in the next edition of the Buzz. Early mornings and late afternoon, around 4pm onwards seemed to be the worst times for fouling. KJ said he would refer the problem to the Dog Warden at TDC.

**3262.**  **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 and SC Garden Services for grass cutting £102.00

Current account balance on 15th February agreed at £7446.85, as shown on the statement.

Proposed 1st, KJ, 2nd, JMD, chairman asked for a show of hands, all councillors in favour.

Unity Bank had confirmed the new mandate to enable JMD to review, submit and authorise payments.

**3261.** **Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch :**

SW reported that Vas data from the sign at Middle Road ,revealed passing of 4559 vehicles in January and that 1 in 13 vehicles had been travelling at speeds over 30mph. Maximum speeds recorded were 47mph with the average speed being 21.8 mph. Data had been circulated and printed copies were looked at.

The Vas sign at Middle Road had now been taken down and the sign at Vicarage Hill was now operational for the next month.

No Speedwatch update for this month.

Potholes- SC said that 3 had appeared which stretched across the road in front of Narraton Cottages, photos to be sent to clerk to report on the portal. FC asked if the potholes nearby to the property Aquarius were coming back, JMD said that some of the bigger ones had been repaired but the smaller ones remained, according to policy. Dux Lane had been re-surfaced and much improved.

**3262. Planning:**

**1/1193/2023/FUL** – Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 no: dwellings, Highfield Cottage, Bridgerule, Devon EX22 7EE. Consultee comment to feedback to TDC,

**“The council support the application.”**

**1/1266/2023/FUL –** Removal of holiday occupancy tie and erection of single storey extension, Knowle Farm, Marhamchurch, Bude. EX23 0HG. Consultee comment to feedback to TDC,

**“The council has no objection to the application.”**

**1/1266/2023/FUL –** Removal of holiday occupancy tie and erection of single storey extension, Squires, Marhamchurch, Bude. EX23 0HG. Consultee comment to feedback to TDC,

**“The council has no objection to the application.”**

**3263. Memorial for DAT light at Vinnicomb Park:**  DH had obtained some prices for plaques, a brass one for £30 and a Black one for £20. Suggested wording , three options were discussed with councillors preferring option 3. The plaque would be A5 sized and would be placed on the exterior wall of the Football club. Plaque to be blue with silver lettering. Wording on the plaque could be “ Presented by Bridgerule Parish council and the Open Gardens in memory of Cindy Neep, for her fundraising for Devon and Cornwall Air Ambulance”.. DH would show the proposal to the relatives to ensure they were happy with it, before ordering the plaque. Proposed the plaque be ordered and purchased, 1st SW, 2nd, JMD, chairman asked for a show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3264. Annual Review of Standing Orders, GDPR policy, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations.**

Councillors agreed that no amendments or changes to the above would be needed for the coming year and would remain unchanged. Councillors signed the updated policy lists in readiness for ratification at the AGM.

**3265. Flooding at Bridge Mill and land adjacent to Carn Venn:**

Clerk had received more photographs last week showing the extent of flooding now at Mill Road. This had been reported on the DCC portal as Standing Water with a fault reference W241713148. Highways had responded that they had asked a contractor to carry out works to the area which would be carried out in due course. DH had recorded a video file which had been sent to the Cllr Morrish to illustrate the problem and DH had arranged to meet Cllr Morrish at Bridge Mill on Tuesday 20th with the resident and Cllr James present. The meeting did not go ahead as Cllr Morrish did not attend. KJ said that TDC had written to DCC regarding the state of the roads within the district. Clerk to email S. Kearney at TDC with details of the issue.

**3266. Village Hall- Shop Update : -** SC reported that the recently held Historical day had been a great success. Pilates classes were popular and going well. Skimming of the walls in the new shop building were due to begin tomorrow and in readiness for the electricians. A Bingo night to be held in the hall was planned to raise funds on the 16th March.

**3267. Clerks Report :-** DAAT had carried out the upgrade to the electrics box in the Football Club and have carried out some remote lights testing successfully. This was necessary due to BT switching off the existing 3G network. The 2G network is still operational and the GSM units will connect to that. Talks are ongoing with providers to connect to either 4G or 5G and when finalised, the existing units will be replaced and upgraded. Flights will continue to operate when needed in the meantime. Contact details have been updated to include MT and SW as local contacts.

DALC had sent details of a draw to be held, as they had 4 tickets to attend the Royal Garden party in June at Buckingham Palace. Applicant criteria this year was long serving Councillor and the draw would take place on the 21st February. DH had been entered, as SC and JMD had declined, but both expressed thanks for the nominations.

Nalc pay scales had been received with recommended increases in Clerks hourly rate, according to scales from the 1st April. Councillors discussed a pay award and it was agreed to increase clerks hourly rate by 6%. DH asked that this item go on next months Agenda for discussion and approval.

Electoral role changes for this month, 2 deletions and 3 creations.

**3268. Exchange of Information :**

Could the council purchase and install some bollards to prevent cars parking across the grassed area near the riverside? Who owned the land? DH said he owned the land and would give his permission for the installation. The bollards or posts would need to be 4” by 4” but an 8ft gap would be needed between them to enable machinery to pass through onto the land. Reflector strips for the posts would also be required. This item to be on next month’s Agenda.

Scaffolding has begun to be erected today at the Chapel, this was to enable roofing work to undertaken, and due to start at the end of February.

**3269: Meeting closed at 8.27pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm.

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

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

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