

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 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, S. Cholwill, K. James, M. Tape, S. Whatmore, J. Trayford,

K. Bowditch, County councillor J. Morrish.

In Attendance : Clerk.

Public x 1

Apologies : J. Philpott.

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

**Public Session :**  A resident asked the council who owned the verge along the roadside adjacent to properties on Littlebridge. A pile of garden waste and a replaced fence from a nearby property had been discarded and left there and with overgrown plants the area had become unsightly. The resident was also concerned about the natural habitat of the verge which was home to fauna, specifically slow worms. DH said that there appeared to be new owners to a property bordering this area and he would speak to the residents personally and request removal. Clerk to check names from the Electoral role amendments and forward to chairman. The Chairman asked if the resident wished to stay for the remainder of the meeting, the resident declined and left the meeting at 7.43pm.

**3270. County Councillors Report :** JM reported that DCC had set their budget increase for 4.99% by a majority vote. Even with this increase, a gap of £40million remained. The county council had examined its annual budget and £76 million had been saved across departments for the coming year. Some redundancies may be needed, and JM said he was aware many businesses within the county were also suffering and looking at cost savings and redundancies. Roads within the County were a major problem, and some rural unclassified roads were becoming impassable. The County Leader and Chief executive and JM had recently visited a local area, Leeworthy, and the road at Shebbear had problems. The condition of the roads within the county were not in a good state and the Council had received £6 million from central government specifically for roads. The council’s policy was to repair A and B roads and make good, in the Holsworthy rural district, 95% of the roads do not fall into these categories unfortunately. DCC had discussed whether Parishes could do more towards upkeep and self-repairs but JM was not in favour of this due to potential litigation.

He had received 4 communications from the parish this month, 2 on Adult care, 1 on potholes and 1 regarding CC farms. The council owned one farm of 50-60 acres and it was initially designed to help young people start in the industry. The Farmed estates department were the only department in DCC to make a profit last year. The Devolution process had been started and was intended to allow more decisions to be made within Devon.

KJ said that “Team Devon” had previously worked extremely well in the past and during the pandemic, JM agreed. KJ also said that the districts had some queries on the representation they would have with the Council. JM said that the process will cut out a level of bureaucracy. He had attended 6 parish meetings in the last week. DH asked if the Culvert on Mill Road came under the DCC jurisdiction and JM said he would assist with this, clerk to send correspondence sent to NHO and further details for information.

DH also enquired if JM had an update on the proposed 20mph speed limit for the village, JM said that in his ward there was only one other parish besides Bridgerule that had been selected for this, Black Torrington.

He said that DCC would need to advertise the proposal before it happens for a period of 3 – 4 weeks, so there should be a further update and if successful, implemented by approximately June of this year as far as he was aware.

**3271. District Councillors Report :** KJ reported that Torridge had set their budget increase as 2.9%, and around £800,00 in budgetary savings had been identified and will be looked at again. The Appledore and Marine project are continuing and the council are hoping to continue with plans for the Cattle Market site in Holsworthy, with monies received from the levelling up fund. Electricity generation and supply from offshore are being discussed. Cabling that carries supply in other areas are not always adequate for what is needed. Cabling from Morrocco is planned and will originate there and end in the Cornborough and Alverdiscott area.

**3272. Council Meeting Minutes. :** The Minutes of 20th February had been circulated to councillors. the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st SW, 2nd FC all councillors in favour.

**3273. Matters Arising:** Complaint from resident regarding new development at Mill Road,

item no: 3265,the matter had been raised with TDC planning enforcement for further investigation.

**3274. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received:

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

Highways – the blocked drain at Mill Road had now been cleared,

Ruby County Medical Practice- open meeting for parish representatives to attend on April 25th, DH said he would attend on behalf of the council, venue to be confirmed,

TDC – still requiring 2 candidates to stand for vacancies on its Standards Committee,

An anonymous letter had been received by post to the clerk, with a complaint about the need to tidy up the village and the condition of a riverside facing garden, Councillors discussed, and as this was anonymous with no clear details of the property or name of the complainant, it was decided that no action could be taken.

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

One to parish resident regarding continued support for DAAT,

One to NHO regarding ownership and maintenance of Mill Road culverts,

One to Planning Officer and one to Enforcement.

**3275.** **Chairman’s Report :** DH reported that Deer Park Nursing Home, the Company responsible for its running and operation had been placed into administration and or insolvency, which was a great shame for residents and the local area and would be closing. JM said that the home had had a total of 37 residents, and these were being relocated, and 19 remain at present. He was aware of DCC involvement to assist in this process and to look after those residents affected and their requirements at what must be a very difficult time for them.

DH had purchased the memorial plaque and showed it to councillors and the family relatives beforehand. They would prefer it to be sited near the seat at the riverside area, rather than the Football club wall and family members would like this to be done in June, with some members of the council and Open Gardens group also present. Bollards had been purchased and left at the riverside area to assist with parking prevention, but unfortunately, these had been found in the river. They had now been recovered and DH would put in stakes allowing for an 8ft gap between them and would donate them and give permission as he owned the land.

**3276.**  **Accounts and Accounts due for payment –**  Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Items due for payment this month were :

2nd key for Noticeboard and plaque £25.00 and SC Garden Services for grass cutting £102.00

Clerks expenses for Ink £27.98

Current account balance on 12th March agreed at £6992.08, as shown on the statement.

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

**3277.** **Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch :**

SW reported that Vas data from the sign at Vicarage Road ,revealed passing of 5551 vehicles this month and that 1068 vehicles had been travelling at speeds over 30mph. This equates to 1 in 4.3.Maximum speeds recorded were 44.5mph with the average speed being 26 mph.

Speedwatch -JT reported that all recruits had now completed their online training and the group were now awaiting site assessment and signing off by P.C DB from the traffic team whom JT had been in contact with. Sites for sessions would be Lodgeworthy, the bottom of The Green, and adjacent to Bridge Park. It was hoped that the group could operate for the first time in approximately two weeks. DH thanked JT for her work organising the group.

**3278. Planning:**

**1/0132/2023/FUL** – Retrospective application for conversion of stables to 1 no: dwelling, Derril, Pyworthy.

E 229532 N 103112. Consultee comment to feedback to TDC,

**“The council support the application.”** All councillors in favour.

**1/0201/2023/FUL –** Erection of 1 no dwelling-, amendment to 1/1263/2018 and variation of 1/1073/2022/FUL,

East View, Bridgerule, Holsworthy. FC declared an interest in this item. Consultee comment to feedback to TDC,

**“The council has no comment on the application.”** Votes for this proposal, 8 for, 1 abstention, motion carried.

**1/0169/2024/FUL –** Reserved matters for 9 dwellings 1/0639/OUT, Alteration to surface water swale location, former land at grid reference E 226905 N 102722. Consultee comment to feedback to TDC,

**“The council support the application.”**  All councillors in favour.

**1/0127/2024/FUL –** Construction of containerised Battery Energy Storage system with ability to store and export up to 25MW of electricity, Land at Grid reference E 228853 N 1000625, Pyworthy, Devon.

Councillors discussed the proposal and were aware that a public meeting was due to be held tomorrow afternoon in their hall, given by RES, between 12.45pm and 7.15 pm. Members of the public who wished to attend the meeting were requested to make an prior appointment. JMD proposed that the feedback comment be that the Council object to the application, FC wished to abstain from the vote. Chairman asked for a show of hands for the proposal, 4 for, 4 against, 1 abstention. As a tied vote, Chairman used his casting vote and proposed comment not supported. After further discussion, it was proposed the Consultee comment to feedback to TDC would be,

**“The council has no comment to make on the application.”.** All councillors in favour.

**3279. D Day 80th Anniversary June 6th 2024 : -** FC will arrange to display the unknown Tommys on the Chapel gates. General publicity for the event is promoting use of Union Jacks, SC and KB said that the Hall Committee had bunting which could be used.

**3280. Village Hall and Shop Update : -** KB reported that the Pilates classes seemed to be going well with regular attendance and users. The Committee had held a very successful Bingo night on Saturday, with the hall full and a mix of ages present. The event had raised a profit of £700 for funding for the new shop. The digger has arrived in readiness for the preparation of new electric cabling to be brought from the Hall to the shop. Interior painting will commence of Thursday. The monetary budget for the shop remains tight. It is hoped that if the works continue to progress well in the next couple of weeks, it should be possible for an estimated opening date to be planned. KB asked for suggestions on who to invite to formally open the shop, JM suggested the oldest and youngest resident. FC suggested a person of standing and councillors discussed asking the Lord Lieutenant of Devon to perform the official opening.

JM said that there were several deputy Lieutenants who could also perform this role and that information is available on the website.

**3281. Clerks Report:** Clerk was unable to attend the March HRP teams meeting on the 7th, no dates given yet for meetings from April onwards. Clerk had successfully applied for a free portrait of HRH the King, delivery due by April. DALC had been consulting with DCC and Highways due to the large volume of enquires and assistance requests received. They are putting together workshops and Community Events for Clerks to attend over the coming year, clerk had registered an interest in attending. DCC update on parking charges, due to high opposition the proposal to introduce Pay and Display in eight towns have now been withdrawn. AGAR forms have been received from the auditors PKF Littlejohn for the last financial year, as the council’s income and expenditure is under £25k, the council can claim exemption from audit this year.

**3282. Exchange of Information : -** Potholes at Narraton appeared to have been patched, but the edge of the road there was disintegrating and of poor condition at the edge, can this be reported? Clerk said it may be CCC who maintain the road and would report it online. Fault reference- Cornwall CC, W242077020.

What do the parish council think about applying for a sign in the village or direction to the Hall and the Shop? There used to be a sign at the crossroads near the bus stop ,but this had been removed. JM said that an email should be sent to S. Hughes at DCC, copying him in, with a request for a replacement directional sign and post to be re-instated there. Once in place, if a further informational sign ie, Hall and Shop were required, this could be arranged, and he had some funding to contribute to this from his Locality Budget. Clerk to write email.

Car Park, as the carpark would now be used more, would the council be willing to re- tarmac as the owner of the land? Estimates for the costs would be required according to what would be needed both for tarmac and the surface beneath and it was decided to leave this on hold for now, as the costs could be extensive and revisit the topic again.

MT had met with representatives of the DAAT trust regarding the Mat electrics box in the Football Club.

The Bus shelter at the edge of the car park, repairs to the roof had still not been carried out and needed to be done. KJ said he would organise this.

**3283: Meeting closed at 9.05pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm.

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

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

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