

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th April 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.

In Attendance : Clerk.

Apologies : J. Philpott.

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

**Public Session :**  No questions raised.

**3284. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3285. District Councillors Report :** KJ said that there was not a lot to report further from the previous month, but a meeting had been held recently to discuss utilizing the £20 million fund for improvements in the area. They were looking at the plans for the old Cattle market in Holsworthy. A member of the TDC had entered the London Marathon which was being held at the weekend, and funds raised would benefit the Youth Centre in Holsworthy.

**3286. Council Meeting Minutes. :** The Minutes of 19th March had been circulated to councillors. the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st SW, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour.

**3287. Matters Arising:** Complaint from resident regarding blocked gulleys and lack of maintenance by

DCC ,email had been received from NHO regarding the culvert under Short and Abbot’s premises. DH said

that this culvert was not thought to be causing problems, it was the culvert under the road, which had been

inspected before and was possibly collapsing. Clerk to write to NHO and DH will provide video evidence to

accompany email to illustrate the condition of the gulley. KJ said he would write to Mr M. C. advising him of the

problem.

**3288. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received:

Ruby County Medical Practice- meeting to be held on the 25th April at Holsworthy Medical Centre with 28 confirmed attendees, topics for general discussion were, Appointments, Finance, Multi-disciplinary working,

and contact. DH was attending on behalf of the council and councillors discussed raising Care in the Community now that Deer Park was no longer operational. There would be a Q and A session for attendees.

Letter received from Winkleigh PC, regarding formation of a collective stakeholder group for parishes within the TDC area,

Cornwall Highways, 4 sent, 3 replies, Devon Highways, 4 sent, 2 replies,

Email to PC Morgan regarding unlicensed car, and subsequent reporting to DVLA.

**3289.** **Chairman’s Report :** DH said he had little to report, stakes had been installed at the grass area by the bridge, leaving a gap for vehicular access .Councillors were pleased this had been done and felt would help with parking on the verges. Scaffolding had been removed from the Chapel and SC confirmed the roof repairs had been completed. SC was in the process of obtaining quotes for repairs to the porch.

**3290.**  **Accounts and Accounts due for payment –**  Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Items due for payment this month were :

Invoice for DALC annual subscription, but the Invoice had not yet been received, so nothing to pay this month.

Clerk asked the council if it wished to consider transferring a sum to the Deposit account as the 1st precept payment was due at the end of April. After discussion, it was agreed to transfer £1000. Proposed 1st SW, 2nd, JT, chairman asked for a show of hands, all councillors in favour.

Current account balance on 9th April agreed at £6466.33, as shown on the statement.

Service charges of £18 had been applied this month, and interest received of £82.43 had been paid into

the Reserve account.

**3291.** **Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch :**

SW reported that Vas data from the sign at Middle Road ,revealed passing of 5169 vehicles this month and that 353 vehicles had been travelling at speeds over 30mph. This equates to 1 in 14. Maximum speeds recorded were 43.2mph with the average speed being 21.6 mph.

Speedwatch -JT reported that the group were waiting to hear back from PC Burrows for a date for practical training for the group to take place, before the group became operational.

Potholes and defective road surface at Tackbeare road had been reported on 23.3.24 ref W242077020 and W242080462, a reply from CCC had been received on 25.3.24 informing repairs had been done. Clerk reported again with photos received from SC on the potholes which had formed across the road at Narraton and were becoming hazardous for drivers, ref W242080686 and the defective road W242080657.

**3292. Planning:**

**For information only, application no: 1/1193/2023/FUL** – Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 no: dwellings at Highfield Cottage , Bridgerule, had been withdrawn.

**3293. To Approve and Agree Risk Assessments for 2024 and any necessary amendments or updates:**

Clerk had reviewed existing Assessments and had changed the Finance assessment to reflect changes to the banking procedures and online payments made from the council’s account. Clerk had circulated the VAS Assessment for councillor’s verification and asked if the current descriptives of procedures were correct, as the assessment had been prepared before purchase and use and installation of the signs. KB said he felt the risk level as described was too high and therefore from a H& S perspective any work on the VAS signs, battery changes should not be carried out. The Risk assessment to be examined and re-worked. Clerk to circulate all other Risk Assessments to councillors prior to the Annual Meeting for perusal before the meeting, any change to the format of these would be carried out in June, due to workload in May.

**3294. Village Hall and Shop Update : -** KB reported that the Hall is continuing to function very well. The shop now has water, sewage and electricity connected and outside groundworks had been completed. The exterior was looking good and concreting around the building had been completed, a general tidy up was planned along with installation of handrails and the shop should be ready to open in May, the exact date will be confirmed soon and published in the Buzz and the volunteers will be informed. FC asked if the council would also be informed. The shop sales and stock system had been designed to be operationally simple and linked to POS. The Mayor of Holsworthy will be performing the official opening.

**3295. Clerks Report:**  Holsworthy RP had now updated their Crime reporting page to the end of February. 48 crimes had been reported in February, one local, a theft at Tackbeare Road. No dates available yet for the next parish/police workshops. End of year accounts have been submitted to Gareth Pollard, Accountants, and the end of year VAT reclaim had also been made. Two vehicles had been reported to DVLA online. Electoral role changes this month were, 1 amendment, 1 creation and 2 deletions. The portrait of HRH King Charles had been received and members of the Hall committee would decide where it would be displayed.

**3296. Exchange of Information : -** A blocked drain near to the The Old Forge and Primrose Cottage had been noted, on the road Littlebridge Cross to Chapel Corner, clerk to report to DCC,

Neighbours of a property opposite Oaklands had reported a residential caravan and a generator being used frequently in that property, after discussion it appeared the property in question was situated in the parish of Pyworthy. Clerk advised that any resident could report concerns directly to Torridge via the online planning portal.

Potholes, multiple ones, and poor road condition at Highlands, near to Newacott Cross, clerk to report to DCC,

A large pothole on the B3254, near to Jewells Cross, clerk to try and report on the online map, but exact location not given. Map co-ordinates provided by SW but online reporting does not allow for this.

Photographs of signposts with missing directional fingers had been submitted to Highways previously, one had been repaired but others not yet,

Had any response been received to the request for a directional sign replacement for the village? Clerk had written to SH at DCC and copied in JM but no response had been received thus far, DH said this was important, clerk to contact JM.

Property at Newacott Cross, was there any update? The owners had been served notice by TDC and had 30 days to appeal this and 6 months to rectify. If works not carried out prosecution could or may follow.

Could the picnic bench by the riverside be relocated to outside the shop? It was felt the bench in its current location was used frequently and should remain, although a suggestion made that it may benefit from a permanent base to be sited on. After discussion, FC said he would like to propose the council purchased a wooden bench for the shop, as these were not hugely expensive, SW said he would second the proposal. Purchase of bench to be on next month’s Agenda for approval.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Annual Meeting next month will commence at 7.15pm, followed by the AGM at 7.45pm.

**3297: Meeting closed at 9.08pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 21st May at 7.15pm.

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

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

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