

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bridgerule Parish Council held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7.45 pm. at Bridgerule Village Hall.**

**Present**

Councillors: Cllrs D. Hale, J. McDougall, K Bowditch, F. Cogdell, S. Cholwill, S Whatmore, J. Trayford, K. James, M. Tape,

In Attendance: Clerk.

Public x 1

**3098: To Elect the Chairman for 2023-2024 :**

Cllr. David Hale be elected Chair , proposed by KJ , seconded by JMD, no other nominations received, all councillors in favour, motion carried.

Cllr. Hale Read and signed the prescribed Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**3099 : To Elect the Deputy Chairman for 2023-2024.**

Cllr. J. McDougall proposed that Cllr. James be re- elected, who said he did not wish to take this office, Cllr Hale proposed Cllr. Cogdell, seconded by Cllr. Bowditch, unanimous, motion carried.

**3100: Ratification and Adoption of Councillors Code of Conduct, Signing of Acceptance of Office.**

Proposed the council adopt and abide by the above, 1st Cllr. Trayford, 2nd Cllr Whatmore, agreed all in favour, motion carried.

Councillors present signed the Acceptance of Office in presence of clerk who countersigned. Register of Interest forms were collected, countersigned by clerk for submission to TDC within the 28 days timeframe.

**3101: Apologies for Absence:** County Cllr. J. Morrish, Cllr. J Philpott.

**3102: Declaration of Interests:** The chairman asked that interests be declared as they arise.

1. **: Council Meeting Minutes :** Cllr Bowditch proposed that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 17th May

2022 be approved, seconded FC, motion carried. (Votes for 9, Against, 0, Abstentions, 0.).

**3104 : Matters Arising -** There were no matters arising.

1. **: - Public Question Time :** A member of the public wished to raise concerns about the increasing problems with traffic and speed of at Church Hill, would the council be able to take any action regarding the issue, as it was becoming worse.

DH thanked the resident for bringing this to the council and said that he noted the concerns and would elaborate further on this matter within his report.

1. **:To receive Annual reports :**

**County Councillor ;** Report was read to the meeting by Cllr. DH. JM sent apologies he was not able to attend due to a prior appointment. I am pleased to report the Traffic and Highway teams have been working on road repairs and potholes in the Holsworthy and Tawton area this week and are due in our area next week, subject to fulfilling criteria under budget constraints. Congratulations to you all as Councillors and thanks for all your work and efforts.

JMD commented on the huge amount of potholes locally, some on minor roads, which were becoming and

potentially dangerous in places, JT said the road into Bridgerule at the Newacott junction was particularly bad at present.

**District Councillor :** KJ reported that Torridge had held its AGM yesterday evening and he had been re-elected as Leader of TDC. There had been several changes to the council from newly elected candidates and work would now be ongoing to tackle issues and to function as a council moving forwards.

**Chairmans Report :** DH welcomed all to the Council Annual Meeting and that it was good to see you all.It had been a successful year in Bridgerule. The year started with the placing of the picnic table by the River Tamar, with a plaque to commemorate Elizabeth MacArthur who was born in Bridgerule, and then sailed to Australia on a perilous voyage to eventually become the first Lady of Australia. Later we planted 3 trees for the Platinum Jubilee, a Weeping Willow by the river, and 2 lovely Flowering Cherry Trees at Bailey Gardens entrance. The council had given commemorative mugs to the children of the village for the Platinum Jubilee and recently the Coronation. On a practical note, to keep the village tidy the council has provided an additional rubbish bin and an additional dog bin. We also employ a gardener to keep the grass cut in public places. After a lot of consultation between the County council, Highways, School, Police, and residents we were able to install two Speed detection warning signs and purchase a Speedwatch kit and radar gun, for the newly formed Speedwatch group, organised by Julia. I would like to sincerely thank all the businesses who so very generously supported those ventures and gave donations. In January, the council applied for a 20mph speed limit throughout the village to DCC and I am pleased to say Bridgerule is one of the 6 out of 56 parishes or communities who applied, who have been successful in achieving this. I would like to thank Amanda for all the hard work she does to organise me and the meetings. And for all the parish council business, of which there is a lot of behind the scenes.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Council members for all your support throughout the year.

**Bridgerule Parochial Church Council:**  Report given by one of the Church Wardens T.B. St. Bridgets continue to hold regular services, jointly with the Methodist chapel twice within the month. As the current minister is leaving the parish, an advertisement has been placed within the 5 associated parishes for a replacement. A survey has been undertaken on the Church tower, which has found that water has been seeping in. Grant applications for funding have been made to enable restoration and repairs to the tower. Fund raising continues as the running costs for the church are high and any contributions or help with fundraising events from the village would be greatly appreciated. The parochial council wished to express gratitude to the parish council for the grant funding given for help with the upkeep of the churchyard.

**Brid:gerule Methodist Chapel :** SC reported that the chapel continues to meet on a fortnightly basis with St. Bridgets joining them on the 3rd Sunday of the month, and the chapel joining St. Bridgets on the 4th Sunday of the month. An afterschool Craft Club has been operating in the refurbished Sunday school on Monday evenings over the last 6 months, attended by 12 children of varying ages. It is hoped a youth Club will also be up and running soon. The Tamarside Choir meets on a weekly basis has almost 20 members, with 5 members attending from Holsworthy. Their minister, is now going into the school for assemblies and the school continue to use the chapel for special services, and recently has been used by a school class for a topic they are undertaking.

**Bridgerule Buzz –** Continues to be distributed to almost 400 homes on a bi-monthly basis. Printing costs have risen 3 times over the past year, and it now costs £330 per issue. The Buzz editor has requested that those who kindly sponsor the Buzz do so for £10 per year, from the current £5. The increase is the first time this has been requested since 2008. Private sponsorship and Business advertisements continue to be the only finance it receives and operates on. The

Newsletter is still received as a useful village resource, with newer residents requesting copies before moving into the village. Cliff continues to upload an online version which is downloaded by several residents. Grateful thanks to Rose for

painting the covers and the volunteers for delivering copies to all in the parish. As a parish magazine I would be very happy to include any interesting editorials received for inclusion in future issues.

**Bridgerule Village Hall :** The hall continues to flourish with regular bookings keeping the hall busy most days of the week and party bookings strongly up on previous years. The play park refurbishment has been a big success and is being greatly enjoyed by the younger generation. Also proving popular with parents & grandparents alike. This may also be helping our party bookings. The Post Office is providing a very valuable & reliable service to the village. Johnny Cowling continues to be a very popular booking in the hall and provides us with much needed funds.A Jubilee & the Coronation celebration have been held in the hall, which were a great success & enjoyed by all attendees both young & old. Due to Sheila’s great efforts at no cost to the community. Wi fi is now connected in the hall after a long and difficult journey with BT. The shop project is now showing some movement & will be open this year providing a much needed service to the village. It will shortly become a separate legal entity (Bridgerule Community Shop Limited). We now have to pay council tax, £500 + which obviously is a lot of money to us.

**Bridgerule Football Club :** M. T reported that this year was the first that the Club had completed a whole season for the past 4 years and that the team compete in the lowest League presently in West Devon. The club had found some difficulty in recruiting players but it was hoped this would improve in future. Painting of the clubhouse had been undertaken earlier this year. The club operate with limited committee members and would welcome more volunteers to assist and join the committee.

1. **.Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as Prescribed by NALC for the year 2023-2024 –**.

Cllr K.B proposed they be adopted, seconded Cllr S.C, all in favour, motion carried.

1. **. To Ratify the appointment of Gareth Pollard as the Parish Councils accountant for the year 2023-24 and to Ratify the Insurance for the year 2023-24 with Community First Ltd,**

Cllr. F.C proposed both the above be approved, seconded Cllr. J. MD, all councillors in favour, motion carried.

1. **. To Ratify and adopt the GDPR policy and agree Data Protection Officer for 2023-24:**

It was agreed that clerk would take the role of data protection officer and both motions proposed for acceptance,

1st Cllr F. C, 2nd Cllr J. T, all councillors in favour, motion carried.

1. **.To approve Risk Assessments and the Asset Register for 2023-24,**

Cllr K. B proposed that the above be approved, 2nd, Cllr S. W, all councillors in favour, motion carried.

1. **.To Agree and sign the Annual Governance Statement for the Financial year 2023- 2024: -**

**Ii : And To approve the Annual Accounts for year ended March 2023**

Proposed Cllr. KJ, seconded Cllr. JMD. All councillors in favour, motion carried. The chairman signed the AGAR form in preparation for submission to Auditors.

1. **. To Appoint Representatives to the Following Outside Bodies :**
2. **Playground and Open Spaces :** Cllr. Cholwill, Cllr. Cogdell,
3. **Football Club :** Cllr. Tape, Cllr. Hale,
4. **Village Hall :** Cllr. Bowditch, Cllr. Cholwill,

Proposed 1st Cllr K. J, seconded Cllr. S W ,all councillors in favour, motion carried.

1. **. Meeting Closed 8.17 pm. .**

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

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