

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 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, J. McDougall, S. Cholwill, K. Bowditch, J. Trayford, J. Philpott

In Attendance : Clerk.

Apologies : S. Whatmore, K. James. M. Tape

As Cllr MT would likely be absent for some months, Cllr JT proposed the reason for absence be accepted , 2nd KB, all councillors in favour.

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

**3373. Public Open Question Time :** No questions raised.

**3374. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3375. District Councillors Report :**  No report this month.

**3376. Council Meeting Minutes :** Minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2024 had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and were agreed by all present and signed by the chairman as correct. Proposed 1st JMD, 2nd, KB, all councillors in favour.

**3377. Matters Arising :** Item no: 3360. Enquiry to TDC regarding bins with lid, all General Waste bins are open topped to allow for depositing waste into bin by hand. Email sent to Refuse to request re-siting of bin with accompanying map and photographs. Suggested site to be evaluated by TDC.

Item no: 3365. Southfields Open Space, Resident of Southfields acknowledged receipt of two letters from PC

received on 6th September. Resident verbally informed Cllr. SW that they did not wish to proceed further at this time.

**3378.**  **To Receive Correspondence:** Letter from resident regarding speeding traffic and Speedwatch,

New Dog Club classes starting at the hall , Organisers requested permission to use sections of the carpark for outdoor training purposes. Clerk had checked with Insurance policy, dogs not covered. Letter of disclaimer to be sent informing the club that the council would not accept liability, and the responsibility would need to be provided by the club or its members and attendees.

Next Torridge Parish councils group meeting to be held at Langtree Village Hall at 7pm on the 18th September.

**3379. Chairmans Report :** DH had been approached with an enquiry on whether it would be possible to allow or build a BMX track at the end of the Football field. He was hoping that some of the poles may be moved by Western Power FOC in the future. There was still the possibility of some 106 money which had been stipulated for sports improvement, but the developer had not yet sold sites. A ramp would need to be constructed. Clerk to check Insurance policy.

**3380. Accounts and Accounts due for payment –**  Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Items due for payment this month were :

SC Garden Maintenance, £204.00,

Current Account Balance agreed as of 31st August £6,883.75. Proposed 1st JT, 2nd SC, all councillors in favour.

**3381. Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch :** .

SW sent the following Vas data, from 18th August to 13th September, Sign 1 Vicarage Hill, 5237 passing vehicles recorded, with 919 or 1 in 5.7 travelling over 30mph. Maximum speed recorded 48.1mph with average speed of 25.8mph. Sign 2, Middle Road, from 18th August to 13th September showed 4473 passing vehicles with 373 travelling over 30mph which equates to 1 in 12. Maximum speed recorded 42.1mph with average speed of 22.3mph.

SW had provided quotes for two replacement batteries, Stocksigns £246.00 inc vat and compatible ones from Tayna, £ 104.94 inc vat. Councillors discussed both quotes and it was agreed that clerk would purchase from Tayna direct, and the council would reimburse immediately at this price. All councillors in favour as the purchase needed to be made as quickly as possible. Invoice to be approved at next month’s meeting.

Speedwatch update – JT had liased with Speedwatch HQ and practical training has been arranged for the 4th October at the hall. The three sites would be inspected and signed off and final safety checks were planned to be signed off as compliant before becoming operational. It was hoped that one session would take place each month for one hour and the three sites would be used on a rotational basis. These are Chapel Carpark, Middle Road and the Hall car park verge.

Proposed road closures – Borough Cross to Littlebridge Cross, Monday 4th November to Tuesday 5th November, patching works for Devon Highways.

Littlebridge Cross to Chapel Corner - Tuesday 26th November to Thursday 28th November, Kier on behalf of SWWater, General Manhole repair.

There was no update yet on the proposed 20mph scheme from DCC.

**3382. Playpark Update :** The annual inspection report was discussed . New fencing had been installed and DH would arrange to fix the gate bolt. KB would inspect the swing bushes as the report recommended. SC will investigate and enquire about repairs to the safety surface of the roundabout which had become raised due to flooding issues last year. SC queried who would have responsibility for emptying the rubbish bin as the resident who previously did this was no longer doing so, JT offered to empty the bin on a fortnightly basis. DH said that the Bus shelter at the edge of the carpark will be repaired by himself, FC and SW very shortly.

**3383. Annual Budget:** Clerk had prepared the annual budgetary forecast for the year 2024-25 and this had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Expenditure thus far was detailed and the Grant fund for 2024 was agreed at £1800. Clerk had also listed an amount for a new laptop as the current one in use was purchased in 2017 and was increasingly slow and required constant charging. DH suggested that the laptop be serviced to improve its usability, suggested cost £150. KB felt that a new one would be more beneficial. After discussion, it was agreed to allow for potential purchase at a time later in the year, if appropriate.

Proposed, the budget be accepted, 1st, JMD, 2nd SC, all councillors in favour.

**3384. Planning : For information only, application no:**  1/0169/2024/FUL- Alteration to surface water swale location, Land adjacent to Southfields, Bridgerule. (Meadow View). Application granted permission.

**3385.** **Village Hall/ Shop Update :** The hall continues to operate successfully, and there are now two dog classes using it. There is also a new booking of self-defence classes for home schooled children on Thursday mornings starting in October. A notice had been placed and removed, regarding the use of toilets in the hall .

Some behaviour from children coming into the hall toilets from the playpark during the school holidays had been observed and the notice had been placed to ask that any users be accompanied by an adult, for safety reasons. KB reiterated the hall’s policy on the use of toilet facilities. The shop had an agreement in place for its customers, with supervision if the hall was closed at the time. Similarly, if the toilets were needed when the hall was open for a booking, they could be used by children with adult supervision, if access needed. The shop is hopeful of obtaining a licence for alcohol sales very shortly. The police have visited the shop, and more shelving would be needed soon for alcoholic stock. The licence will be issued by TDC.

**3386. Clerks Report :** Police/parish teams meeting was held on the 10th of September. Updates from that are PSCO MCElldon is due back from leave shortly and a New Support Officer has been appointed to assist the rural team with call outs. The officer is a paramedic, with fire and police support training and will assist the Holsworthy team. Next meeting is due to be held on the 8th of October.

Notice has been given by Unity bank that it will reduce its interest rate of the reserve account in November to 2.60% per month, down from 2.75% per month.

Electoral role changes this month, 1 creation, 2 amendments and 1 deletion.

**3387. Exchange of Information :**  Some residents are considering resuming the Open Gardens Scheme,

Holsworthy Rural transport Coffee morning is to be held tomorrow,

The Weeping Willow tree at the riverside area needs trimming and the memorial plaque placed beside it is not in a good condition due to water damage, could the plaque be moved and placed on the bench?

Could the meeting start time be moved to 7.15pm for the winter months from November? Councillors agreed this would be beneficial.

**3388: Meeting closed at 8.39pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 15th October at 7.30pm.

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

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

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