

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th October 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, M. Tape, S. Cholwill, K. Bowditch, J. Trayford, K. James,

S. Whatmore, F. Cogdell.

In Attendance : Clerk.

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

Clerk requested permission to address the council at the start of Item 18 on the agenda, Exchange of Information, under part 2. Chairman granted permission.

**3389. Public Open Question Time :** No questions raised.

**3390. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3391. District Councillors Report :**  KJ reported that meetings had been held recently, one on Housing strategy for the district and how to encourage and help younger people to stay in the area and another with DCC on Financial funding. TDC have available a £1.2 million fund for different projects and rejuvenation within the area. These are a new roof for the Town Hall in Bideford and other repairs in the town, Solar panels for the Holsworthy Leisure centre, the Appledore Marina project and plans already in place for improvements to the old Cattle Market site in Holsworthy. DH asked about the Harland and Wolf shipyard, KJ said that the company were applying for funding from central government. Atlantic turbines coming shortly and infrastructure would be able to take power generated from Cornwall. Separately, Atlantic highway cabling was planned to come in near Lundy to Bideford.

**3392. Council Meeting Minutes :** Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 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, KJ, all councillors in favour.

**3393. Matters Arising :**  No matters arising.

**3394.**  **To Receive Correspondence:** Received from TDC, Annual Rough Sleeper forms,

Enquiry from Holsworthy Rural Transport Office regarding possible grant, KJ declared an Interest and refrained from discussion. Clerk instructed to reply that they would be considered again in due course, TDC with information on Snow Warden scheme, the council does not currently have one or possess a salt spreader.

Sent- grant policy and application forms to Village Hall, FOBS, St Bridgets, Devon Rural CAB and Friends of Holsworthy Library. Letter to owner of vehicle WK17 UCH, abandoned in the hall car park, the vehicle has now been removed by the owners.

**3395. Chairmans Report :** DH reported that he had attended the Torridge parish councils Collaborative working group recently at Langtree. Topics discussed included road safety and speed concerns and potholes.

He had told the group how Bridgerule had successfully purchased two Vas signs to help with this and a Speedwatch group and how this had been achieved. Next meeting will be held in January. KJ said that TDC would be starting up advisory meetings within the district for all parishes/district councillors to attend at several locations and would give an opportunity to ask any questions to TDC officers. They would be evening meetings, dates to be confirmed.

**3396. 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 8th October £11,650.28. The 2nd precept from TDC had been received. Councillors discussed transferring some funds from the current account to the reserve account and it was agreed to transfer £499, to offset the interest rate reduction in November to this account.

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

**3397. To approve purchase of replacement batteries for existing VAS signs.** To purchase two batteries from Tayna batteries at a cost of £101.37, proposed 1st KB, 2nd FC, chairman asked for a show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3398. Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch :** .

Speedwatch update – JT reported that the group had completed practical training which all the volunteers had attended and are now ready to commence with their first session. All intended sites had now been signed off and approved by HQ. These are Chapel Carpark, facing uphill, Middle Road , both directions and the Hall car park and bottom of The Green in both directions. Sessions were planned for monthly but would not take place in rainy conditions due to the sensitivity of the radar gun. DH expressed grateful thanks to JT on behalf of the council for all her efforts in setting up and organising the group.

SW reported the following Vas data, from 14th September to 12th October, Sign 1 Vicarage Hill, 6128 passing vehicles recorded, with 420 or 1 in 10 travelling over 30mph. Maximum speed recorded 38.7mph with average speed of 22.1mph. Sign 2, Middle Road, from 4th September to 12th October showed 7059 passing vehicles with 502 travelling over 30mph. Maximum speed recorded 42.1mph with average speed of 22.1mph. New batteries were working well and recharging and rotating them was now much quicker due to the additional cable being located and in use.

KJ asked for details of any proposed road closures, these were as reported last month, 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.

**3399. Planning : - 1/0850/2024/FUL- No: 1 dwelling (design amendments) previously approved under 1/17/2024/FUL. Enscot, Bridgerule, Devon.**

Council feedback comment to TDC, “The council has no comment to make on the application.” All councillors in favour.

**1/0720/2024/FUL – Change of use Squires Cottage from holiday let to full residential and change of use of Knowle Farmhouse from full residential to holiday let, Knowle Farm, Marhamchurch. Bude.**

Council feedback comment to TDC, “The council support the application.” All councillors in favour.

**3400. Village Hall/Shop Update :** A new booking for the hall has commenced for Martial Arts classes for home schooled children on a Thursday. A new smart meter has been fitted for the hall. The shop now has a Off Licence and alcohol for sales will be arriving at the end of the week.

A shutter has been installed and the shop now has CCTV which is up and running. FC enquired if there were any tabletop sales in the hall booked, SC said only one in the next few weeks.

**3401. Clerks Report :** Police/parish teams meeting was held on the 7th of October with PC FM. This would be his last teams meeting as FM transferring to Bude at the end of the month. No date yet for the return of the PSCO from leave. The new Tri-service officer will be commencing in post on the 15th. FM will come out to the school area in the afternoon before leaving his post, to promote traffic calming at pick up time.

Website, the host has now updated and uploaded documents and is now current, except for September Minutes and October Agenda, these will be sent tomorrow for publication.

Electoral Register changes this month, 5 creations and 1 deletion.

Clerk had attended a Planning training session on the 14th which was informative and will attend a Highways training course with DCC on Zoom on the 18th October.

**3402. Exchange of Information :** Clerk asked to speak to the council under Part 2, which commenced at 8.21pm. The discussion and Part 2 concluded at 8.45pm .

Is there any update on the Bus shelter repairs? DH said this was in hand but had not yet been done due to time constraints and weather.

What is happening about the planning application for 9 homes nearby to Southfields? KJ said that TDC had to provide 80% more housing than what has already been planned, so it was likely the homes would be built as soon as a developer had been found and he hoped it would provide some affordable housing for the parish.

The bin in the playpark was now being emptied on a regular basis,

There is another leak from a mains pipe in the playpark, SW Water are organising repairs, concerns expressed regarding the safety surface under the carousel which had been damaged during the last leak. KB had already been in communication with SW Water regarding this, it was noted that the area around the bus stop was always wet.

TDC were making a fund of £210 k available , known as the Household Support Fund, to help relieve hardship for individuals and families and those eligible or affected would be encouraged to apply. Full details would be released next week. These to be included in the next edition of the Buzz.

A property along Under Road is having some building work done presently and is due some ready-mix concrete deliveries on Thursday morning,

FC had attended the recent Ruby Country practice meeting in Holsworthy. The group plans to have a map of its

Practice area to show Defibrillator sites. The practice has increased its appointment slots but is facing the usual winter pressures, ie, vaccinations and delivery of them to eligible patients. A prescription delivery service is being considered along with an improved triage system to ensure more appointments being available.

The white van which had been abandoned in the hall car park had now been removed by its owner,

Contractors had been working at the site entrance of Macarthur Close,

The commemorative plaque by the Weeping Willow had rotted and was not in good condition, it would hopefully be moved from its current place due to waterlogging.

Meetings will commence at 7.15pm from next month for the winter period.

**3403: Meeting closed at 9.07pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 19th November at 7.15pm.

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

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