

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2024 at 7.15.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. Bowditch, J. Trayford,

K. James,

In Attendance : Clerk.

Apologies : M. Tape, S. Whatmore.

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

**3421. Public Open Question Time :** No questions raised.

**3422. County Councillors Report :** No report received.

**3423. Council Meeting Minutes :** Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 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, KB, 2nd KJ, all councillors in favour.

**3424: Matters Arising :**  New Grit bin for Littlebridge Cross. NHO had emailed to say application had been approved and the cost of the bin would be £350.00 Clerk had already applied to JM’s Locality Budget fund, who would provide funding of £300. Therefore, only £50 from KJ TDC councillor fund would be needed. KJ asked clerk to email confirmation of this.

**3425 : Vas Signs, Speedwatch Update and Highways :**  No Vas data for this month. JT reported that this month’s planned sessions had had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. It was hoped that a session could take place before Christmas if enough volunteers were available but would resume as normal in January.

Potholes were noted at Narraton and road to Burnards House, clerk to report. FC mentioned one at Borough Cross and would report that to DCC portal.

The wooden fencing at the riverside area had been affected by the recent storm, FC to provide photographs and clerk would report to DCC.

**3426 : District Councillors Report :**  The Holsworthy Area Advisory meeting had been held yesterday evening with TDC officers present. The council were looking at their future housing strategy and the New Local Plan is being developed. TDC will need to accommodate over 26,000 new houses over 5 years in North Devon. Potential building sites are being considered, together with expanding villages and creation of new villages near existing connective roads. A meeting regarding rail services between Bideford and Barnstable had been held, but it was not though viable, and consideration would be given to investing into and improving the existing bus service between those instead. FC asked if there would be more investment into schools for the area, if more housing was to be built. KJ said that the council would be notified by the government by the end of the month what funding the district would be given and could allocate accordingly from budgets.

A meeting with the Exeter Science Park, South West Water and others had been held, to discuss infrastructure requirements needed for supply and the project. The council are employing staff to travel around the district to provide help for residents in financial difficulties and information on the Household Support Fund and Pension Credits for those needing support and advice. They are looking to deliver this in rural areas as well as towns.

**3427 : To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received grateful thanks from FOBS, Village Hall committee, Friends of Holsworthy Library, Holsworthy Rural transport and Bridgerule PCC for the Charitable grants allocated to them this year. Bridgerule PCC had expressed gratitude for the increased amount for the churchyard upkeep costs.

DALC- Invitation to meet the leader of DCC at Great Torrington on the 17th December, no councillors present able to attend due to other commitments, clerk to reply as such.

TDC Precept Office- precept requests need to be received by 23rd January. As next month’s meeting is due to be held on the 21st, does this need to be brought forward a week to the 14th, in case of adverse weather etc? DH asked councillors present, who agreed the meeting to be held on the 14th January.

Highways – notification that the large pothole on road from Victoria House to Newacott had been repaired, ref W24179253 and the faulty manhole in centre of the road opposite the Bridge Inn had been replaced and repaired.

**3428 :** **Chairmans Report :**  DH reported that he had attended the Torridge Advisory meeting at Holsworthy yesterday evening, details of content as provided within the DC report. He enquired if there was any update on the leak in the playpark, KB confirmed that SW Water had now repaired the leak, but communication was still ongoing with the company about damage caused to the safety surfaces from the leak.

He asked FC to relay details of the meeting held by the Derril Water Community Fund at Pyworthy, recently. The fund has not become active yet, and there are no panels installed to date, but the possibility of funding for both Bridgerule and Pyworthy could amount to £42,000.00. It was discussed and intended for up to £20,000.00 for each parish with the remainder being available for smaller projects. Examples of potential grant criteria would be public amenities, Education and skills for young people, Energy conservation, Voluntary and Community social groups and enterprises. A committee needs to be formed from representatives of the two parishes, currently Bridgerule has 3, Pyworthy has 4 including their chairman. FC proposed that DH should also be nominated to the committee, 2nd KJ, all councillors in favour. This committee will consider applications for grant funding, be voted upon and if successful will be forwarded to another committee from the Community fund for approval. SC will inform the funds management that DH will now join the Bridgerule representatives.

**3429 :**   **Accounts and Accounts due for payment -** Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Items due for payment this month were :

1. Harvey- clerks’ expenses, ink £11.99.

Current account balance agreed at £8282.29 on 2nd December. It was noted that Unity Bank were now applying the service charge of £6 each month now. DH suggested transferring funds from the current account to the interest account to offset this. After discussion it was agreed to transfer £1300.00. Proposed 1st, KJ, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour.

**3430. Planning : 1/0850/2024/FUL –** No: 1 dwelling ( design amendments,) Enscot, Bridgerule, Devon. After discussion, the following consultee comment feedback to TDC was agreed:

“The council has no comment on the application but has concerns over the height of the existing hedge and potential loss of light to neighbouring property”. All councillors in favour.

**1/1025/2024/REM -**  Reserved Matters application for Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for up to 5 no: dwellings, land at Grid reference E227726N N102912, Bridgerule.

After discussion, the following consultee comment feedback to TDC was agreed:

“The council agree to the property plan.” All councillors in favour.

**3431. Southfields Open Space :**  Clerk had prepared potential documents for the new group, subject to councillors’ approval and an information letter to be placed in the next Buzz edition. These were a Membership form for volunteer consent, Safeguarding Policy and Risk Assessment adapted from author with permission for clerk only, in the administration of startup needs. It was likely that all three would be needed for any future grant funding application. DH had spoken to two residents of Southfields, one about trimming back to hedge and another who would be interested in the day to day running of the group. It was hoped to hold a drop-in session for interested parties in January/February in the hall. This needs to be arranged at the convenience of the Hall committee, as the hall has numerous bookings on Saturdays.

**3432 : Village Hall/Shop Update :** KJ said he felt there was a potential need for the village to have another smaller hall or sports hall next to the school, this would benefit the school and the village. It did not have to be large but could become an asset. FC asked if the Dartmoor MAT should be responsible financially for providing additional space for the school development. KJ said that if there was a hall, it could be provided for the school at a cost and should be considered in future.

The Hall continues to do well and now has a new Martial Arts evening booking. The hall will be painted and decorated in the New Year.

The shop continues to do well with regular support from the village. Last Weekend, during the storm, there had been no power in the village, but the shop had used a portable generator to keep fridges running. Shop takings amounted to over £400 for the two days, which was very welcome.

**3433. Clerks Report :** No update available from DCC regarding the 20mph proposal.

**3434.** **Exchange of Information :** Lots of damage had been noted within the village from the recent storm,

last weekend,

The Memorial Plaque at the riverside area Weeping Willow tree still needed to be moved on to the bench,

KJ will provide details of the TDC Household Support Fund, for publication in the next edition of the Buzz.

**3435. Meeting closed at 8.22pm :** Date of next meeting Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.15.pm.

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

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

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