

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bridgerule Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.15 pm. at Bridgerule Village Hall.**

 **Present**

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

In Attendance: Clerk.

 **3300 : To Elect the Chairman for 2024-2025 :**

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

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

**3301 : To Elect the Deputy Chairman for 2024-2025.**

Cllr. SW proposed that Cllr. Cogdell be re- elected, no other nominations received, proposed SW, seconded by Cllr. JMD, all councillors in favour. Cllr Cogdell signed the Acceptance of Office.

**3302 : Apologies for Absence:** : J Trayford, J. Philpott, J. Morrish.

**3303 : Declaration of Interests:** The chairman asked that declarations of interests on the Agenda be declared as they arise.

**3304 : Council Meeting Minutes:**  Cllr. MT proposed that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 23rd May 2023 be accepted as correct, 2nd KB, all councillors in favour. Chairman DH signed the Minutes.

**3305 : Matters Arising :**  There were no matters arising.

**3306 : Public Open Question Time :** There were no public questions.

**3307 : To Receive Annual reports from County Councillor, District Councillor, Chairman and other Parish Committees or bodies :**

**County Councillor J. Morrish :** Sorry not to be with you tonight. There have been 17 communications from your parish last month on issues such as youth clubs , hunting on council land and roads. Thursday is our Agm at County with John Hart standing down as leader to be replaced by James McGuines. If you need me, please call and I will do all I can do to help. James.

**District Councillor K. James :** KJ reported that he had been re-elected as the leader of TDC yesterday evening. There were several new members of the council, and some had behaved in a disruptive manner at meetings. The Appledore Marine project is still going ahead, although Exeter University may withdraw from the project. TDC are looking at

Alternative providers like Duchy or other educational institutions to participate in the project. Meetings are being held to utilise the £20 million fund available and re-development of the old Cattle Market in Holsworthy and plans for the site. TDC are negotiating to buy an additional 2 acres behind the site as there are a lot of established businesses that operate from this area successfully. Ruby Country, the marketing initiative is looking to progress and has new

councillors on board, the scheme runs from Holsworthy to Hatherleigh.

**Parish Council Chairman :** DH welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and reported that the subject that has taken up much time this year had been potholes and traffic speeds. There had been several meetings with DCC Highways department. No sooner than the main road B3254 had been repaired and re-surfaced, it had been dug up by South West Water. There are still issues and problems by the Bridge Mill and Meadow View which need to be resolved. We have tried to improve the village environment and employ the services of a Garden Maintenance company to cut and

maintain the public grassed area. We have donated a picnic bench to the new Village shop for customers to use whilst having refreshments and have planted another tree by the river, which was given by the Devon Wildlife trust. We have also purchased a plaque to erect in Cindy Neeps memory at a date to be arranged. This is for the monies raised by the Open Gardens group for Devon Air Ambulance. We have moved the dog bins to more suitable places. I would like to thank all the councillors for their help this year and especially Amanda for all the work she does for the council which takes up a lot of her time and we are very grateful.

**Bridgerule Football Club :** Bridgerule FC 2023/24 season - We started out well at the beginning of the season, however due to teams dropping out of an already small league there were large gaps between matches, our players began to lose interest in Bridgerule and went to teams in other leagues which had more teams, lots of players said that they would still play for Bridgerule when they had matches however when it came to it this didn’t happen. During the second half of the season from Christmas onwards when we’ve had approximately 5 games we have struggled for a team, the last three of these we’ve had to forfeit resulting in fines and loss of points. Unless there is a change in player’s attitudes this coming season, I’m sorry to say that there may not be a football team in Bridgerule.

**Tamar Rock and Roll Club:**  We started a new rock and roll club in the village hall in July last year, it has been reasonably well supported and is growing in numbers, we usually have around 25 people attend, we meet on the last Saturday of every month from 7:30pm-11:30pm, we have  had a DJ most months, in January we had our first live band Play it cool, we had approximately 50 people attend, we have our second live band on May 25th The Roosters, we run a free event for New Year’s Eve, hopefully our numbers will continue to increase.

**Village Hall :** Village Hall 23/24-A steady year for the hall with the regular bookings doing well and casual bookings for parties etc continuing to be strong. Fundraising events have been held for various causes and the most successful being for the village shop. Solar panels have been investigated but for now are cost prohibitive .The hall is in a stable financial position and with the shop built complete focus will return to the hall.

**Bridgerule Community Shop :** Where do I start! The opening is set for May 18th, 2024, and after 10 years Bridgerule has a shop again. The initial estimates for the build were in the region of £40,000, we have spent in excess of £80,000. The vast majority of this has been obtained by Sheila’s tremendous skills at obtaining grants. Shares have also been sold to the local population which gives them a voice in the continued running of the shop. Donations have also been received. The shop is set up as a community benefit society which means that all profits must be returned to the community,

although for the first few year’s profits will be reinvested in the business. The build has been a difficult process but

finally we have a shop to be proud of. We are attempting to source locally where possible and will be extending our range of local **p**roducts as the opportunity arises.

Chairman DH wished to formally thank Cllrs KB and SC for their hard work and dedication to bringing the project to

fruition and the council gave a round of applause in appreciation.

**Bridgerule Primary School :** This year the school has hosted many succcessful events and undergone some significant changes. With the departing and then loss of Anne Bunning, we lost a link to local families and and the community that must not go unnoticed. Anne gave her heart and soul to the school and we are currently working on plans to remember the love and care she showed to everyone. As a school we have come together to try and continue and build upon the foundations she has started and she would be proud of all that we have achieved. During the year we hosted and attended many events in the community. We invited the community along to our harvest Festival, Christingle Service and Easter service and enjoyed these times of celebrations with community and families. We worked alongside our neighbours and supported them with the Christmas Puppet show in the hall and are looking forward to participating in the opening of the village shop. I myself, SC, have enjoyed getting to know many families and feel prepared to support the school community moving forward. Plans are underway currently to launch a school choir to spread some cheer next Christmas in the community and have sent out a plea for volunteers to come into school to support and help, so if you know of anyone, please get in touch. In these times since the pandemic we are pleased to say our doors and well and truly open so feel free to pop along and get to know us all.

**Friends of Bridgerule School ( FOBS) :** As Chair of FOBS, I would like to say firstly how grateful we are for the grants we

received from the parish council and recently TDC and KJ. These valuable donations help our committee support our schoolchildren and families. The recent grant of £150 was matched by FOBS and has enabled us to replace the Mud Kitchen, much loved by them and brings them joy and exploration through play and learning. We received a £300 grant from the parish council in January which has been used to buy reading resources to support children’s learning and

development and to fund free class trips to the Eden Project and Rosemoor Gardens which were thoroughly enjoyed. We are proud to work with the community on occasions like the Ramble and Christmas and throughout the year to bring village and school together. We always appreciate the support received and ensure funds continue to reduce pressure on families regarding trips and ensure children have a range of opportunities and resources to grow and

develop in their school life.

**Bridgerule Chapel :** The chapel continues to meet every two weeks with St Bridget’s joining once a month and us joining them similarly. Tamarside Singers use the chapel as their base and meet weekly to practice, we have a conductor and an accompanist. They have 21 members from Bridgerule, Bude and Holsworthy and if one enjoys singing, we encourage them to join. They sing many items from well -known musicals and sing in residential homes, memory cafes, charity events and other churches. We have recently received a grant from Bude and Holsworthy’s Methodist circuit and the Sunday school roof has been re-tiled and the chapel roof repaired, using slates from the Sunday school. We have

negotiated a price for a new front chapel door and with the help of the circuit are about to install a new chapel carpet, the first for 44 years. We are looking into “The Open Book”, other chapels take part in this and may call on

members acting skills, and something we will be doing with the schoolchildren as part of their assemblies. The After-school club has ceased at present, which is disappointing, we are looking into having WIFI at the premises, which could provide access for parents and teachers to access mobiles and other equipment. The school continue to use the chapel for special celebration services and a new Stay and Play group based at the chapel from September is being considered.

The shop committee have used the premises for meetings during the past year when the hall was unavailable.

**Bridgerule Buzz :** The Buzz, the village newsletter is distributed to all households in the parish, bi-monthly. An A5 fully coloured production going to over 400 homes. I have been the Editor of this since September 2009. Each issue printed costs £400 and costs have risen, paper, ink and labour. Private sponsors and business advertisers are really needed and appreciated and as Bridgerule grows more copies will be needed. Financial help may need to be sought of the rising trend continues but has not occurred yet as I try to have enough in the bank for 3 future issues. Longer residents of the village support it the most. I am grateful to local artist RH, who paints each Buzz cover and has done since 2009 and those who volunteer articles for publication as well as those who deliver the newsletter on a regular basis. Thanks also to C. S-S, who publishes each copy online, and which is downloaded by many. It a good source of advertising events in the community , with printed articles for readers, both factual and or personal.

**St. Bridget’s Church, Bridgerule:** At the end of 2023 we were pleased to welcome Reverend Alison Hardy as our new Rector. Alison is Rector of the Holsworthy Benefice comprising the churches in Bridgerule, Holsworthy, Pyworthy,

Pancrasweek and Hollacombe. Alison has already attended several village events in Bridgerule and hopes to get to know more of the residents in the coming year. The church continues to hold regular services, with services being held in church 3 times per month. On the third and fourth Sundays joint services are held with the Methodist Church in alternating venues. Church and Chapel members worked together to plan and lead simple services at Southlands Court Residential Home at Christmas and Easter. These were well received and the congregations plan to continue them.

The Parochial Church Council continue to work on maintaining the church building. A quinquennial report in 2019 stated that the tower roof was showing signs of water ingress, and the middle stage of the tower is showing significant dampness seeping out from the core of the wall in the south and west elevations. The PCC is working with the church architect to plan the necessary structural repairs and some grant funding for the project has been secured with further applications awaiting a decision. We would like to thank the Parish Council for the continued grant support which helps us to maintain the churchyard.

**3308 :**  **Adoption of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as prescribed by NALC for the year 2024-2025,**

Proposed, 1st FC, 2nd, SW, all councillors in favour, motion carried.

**3309 :**  **To Ratify the appointment of Gareth Pollard Accountancy Services as accountant for Bridgerule Parish**

**Council’s accounts for the year 2024-2025 and to ratify the Insurance for the year 2024/25 with Community First Ltd,**

1st KJ, 2nd SW, all councillors in favour, motion carried.

**3310 :**  **To Ratify and adopt the GDPR policy and agree Data Protection Officer for the council 2024-2025**. It was agreed the clerk would take the role, Proposed 1st MT, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour, motion carried.

**3311 : To Approve Risk Assessments and the Asset Register for 2024-2025,**  all had been circulated to councillors for perusal and information, Proposed 1st KB, 2nd KJ, all councillors in favour, motion carried.

**3312 : To Approve the Annual Accounts for the year 2023-24 and To Agree and Sign the AGAR form for the financial year ending March 2024.** The accounts had been circulated to councillors for approval. Proposed the accounts be

accepted and signed and agree and sign the AGAR form with certificate of exemption from Audit , 1st FC, 2nd, SW, all councillors in favour. The Chairman and clerk signed the AGAR form and clerk will submit to Auditors PKF Littlejohn.

**3313 : To Appoint Representatives to the following Outside Bodies i: Playground and Open Spaces, ii: Football Club and iii: Bridgerule Village Hall,**

Councillors agreed the following for the year,

Playground and Open Spaces, FC and SC,

Football Club, MT and FC,

Village Hall, KB and SC.

**3314 : Meeting Close :**  Meeting closed at 7.53 pm. Date of next Annual Meeting in May 2025 to be arranged in due course.

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

**Date : …………………………………………………………………………………………**