

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th April 2025 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, F. Cogdell, J. McDougall, S. Cholwill, K. Bowditch, J. Trayford,

M. Tape, S. Whatmore.

Apologies : K. James, J. Philpott.

In Attendance : Clerk.

**Declarations of Interests:** The Chairman asked that interests be declared as they arise. DH declared an interest in Agenda item no:12 and would step down from the chair.

**3480. Public Open Question Time :** No questions raised.

**3481. County Councillors Report :** No report given this month.

**3482. District Councillors Report :** No report given this month.

**3483. Council Meeting Minutes :** Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2025 had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and were agreed by all present and signed by the chairman as correct. Proposed 1st, SW, 2nd JT, all councillors in favour.

**3484: Matters Arising :**  No Matters arising.

**3485 : To Receive Correspondence:** email from resident at Southfields, regarding volunteer parking at Open Space Site,

DCC, the grant of £300 agreed by Cllr. Morrish had not been signed off therefore grant not approved,

SC Garden services, the price of a cut increase from £85 to £100 from April.

DH asked for proposer to accept the new price, 1st FC, 2nd JT, all councillors in favour.

Email from resident enquiring if a Risk Assessment was in place for the Open Space at Southfields,

Letter from Ruby Country Medical practice with poster regarding hospital-initiated blood tests, will now be available at Holsworthy Community hospital, SC requires poster for next Buzz, clerk to send.

Chairman requested clerk to write a letter of thanks to Cllr JM, who would not be standing for election at DCC, for his help given to the parish.

**3486 : Chairmans Report :** DH reiterated concerns with speeding traffic downhill from Churchtown and in the village generally. No communications from DCC regarding the letter sent to the legal representative , the County council would now be in the pre-election period.

**3487 :**  **Accounts and Accounts due for payment -** Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Invoices this month, SC Garden Services, £204.00 for grass cutting,

Current account balance agreed at £5816.67 on 31st March 2025.

Proposed 1st, KB, 2nd JT, show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3488 : Playpark Update :** Fencing had been identified in the 2024 annual inspection as a risk factor of 8. A resident had agreed to supply replacement timber and wood free of charge, but no date available from local contractors to carry out the work. Councillors would approach to request a timescale if possible. DH said he had visited several parks in the Malvern area and observed some issues there with small defects in safety areas and equipment and felt the ROSPA inspection was harsh. JT queried if the inspection could be carried out with a councillor present, at present the annual inspection is scheduled sometime within the month of April.

SC said more seating would be required in the Playpark; requests had been made for a picnic bench. The wooden slat at the front of the existing bench had worn and needed replacing, this had also been noted in last years inspection. Local store enquiries had found prices of benches just over £100, but these came with arms and a minimum 6ft bench, no arms would be needed. The wooden benches were not in stock but made to order. A discussion followed about the plastic recycled furniture versus wooden, and it was agreed to try and source a rainbow-coloured bench if possible. KB proposed that if the council purchased a new bench, the Hall committee could give a donation towards the cost. 1st, KB, 2nd, JMD, all councillors in favour. Products to be sourced and the item be discussed on next month’s Agenda.

**3489 : Vinnicomb Park and Bridgerule Football club:**  FC said that he had received some communication regarding potential bookings to use the field and could this be a future source of income for the parish, as the Football Club did not currently have a team. MT confirmed that the club did not have a team for this season and the field had been used on a few occasions and money received had been put towards Insurance of the building, which the club still had to pay despite not having a team this season. Most of the administration of the club was being carried out by JT, a volunteer and he and members of his family cut the pitch, chalk lined it, sometimes twice weekly in summer. The club received a donation or grant from the Parish towards the cutting of £700.00 per annum. MT explained that drainage and flooding at the field was sometimes an issue, DH felt that there were clubs in the area who may like to use the field in future, if marketed and investigated. MT said that it was difficult to find other volunteers to help with the clubs committee and administration. Future bookings would need to be managed and recorded. A designated person to assist with this could be required. An email from KJ was read by clerk, regarding the initial agreement made when the Club was formed. Copies of Land registry and the club Constitution were held by the Parish clerk. MT confirmed that the toilets in the clubhouse could be available as needed by booked users. It was agreed to re-visit this next month.

**3490 : Vas Signs, Speedwatch Update and Highways :** JT reported that at a recent Speedwatch session this month, 65 vehicles had passed and been recorded, all under 30mph. The group would conduct monthly sessions and 2 new sites for use were being looked at, Vicarage Hill and near to Tamar House, although the sites would need to be risk assessed and signed off from HQ. Two sessions in the next two weeks had been planned.

SW reported the following data from 18.3.25 to 14.04.25; Sign 1 at Vicarage Hill, 5061 passing vehicles, with 4382 travelling over 20mph, and 593 over 30mph, which equates to 1 in 8.5. Average speed of 24.3 , down 1mph, with a maximum of 42.2mph being recorded.

Sign 2 at Middle Road, 5303 passing vehicles with 393 travelling over 30mph which equates to 1 in 13.5 Average speed recorded was 21.8mph with a maximum speed of 42.2mph .

Road Closures, Road from Newacott Cross to Victoria House, Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 25th April, Service Trenchworks for Sewer/storm water connections.

**3491 :** As DH had declared an interest, he vacated the chair at 8.32pm, and the meeting was then chaired by the Vice-chairman, FC.

**Planning : E1/0223/2025/REM –**  **Reserved Matters application for Appearance, Landscaping and Scale for 2no: dwellings pursuant to 1/0026/2023/OUT, Barn at Grid reference 227543 102500, Bridgerule.**

After discussion, council feedback to TDC, “The council support the application”. 7 votes for, 0 against.

**1/0170/2025/FUL – Erection of 1 no: wind turbine up to 76m to tip height and associated infrastructure, Tatson Farm, Pyworthy ,Devon.**

Councillors discussed the application and noted previous concerns of lack of leaflet distribution to properties affected , by residents raised to the council’s attention. Files relating to the application were viewed.

Council feedback comment to TDC agreed as “ The council has serious concerns regarding the planned replacement turbine, its visual impact on properties and premises in the vicinity and area of the proposal.  It also has concerns of increased Noise levels for those properties, residents and premises within the area proposal.  The council has studied the Noise Impact Assessment and feels there is no comparison between existing Noise levels and predicted Noise levels of the increased larger turbine.

Parishioners have raised concerns on the lack of leaflet distribution and information given to them and several property owners located in the radius of the development appear not to have received them.” 7 votes for, 0 against.

**3492 : Bridgerule Open Space Group :** FC said that a working party had carried out two sessions on initial clearing at the site, although some random planting had been noted. Fencing surrounding the site had rotted and needed replacing at some point, the mesh had been rolled up for future use and the old wood removed. A committee meeting was yet to be organised, and the Constitution adopted formally by the council and the group. Clerk to forward the document to FC and the council. A Risk assessment also needed to adopted and put in place. DH had costed the pricing of a new access gate and posts, 8ft gate at £66.00 and hanging posts at £24.77 each, ex vat. A hanging latch would cost £26.48 and a sign prohibiting dogs would also be needed. Protective gloves for the group had yet to sourced. KB proposed that up to £250 could be spent on the afore mentioned items and be on next months Agenda for approval once the items had been sourced. All councillors in favour of this action.

**3493 :**. **Village Hall/Shop Update :** KB reported that the hall continues to do well and had been booked as a Wedding Venue recently. The council tax demand for the Hall for the year had been received, at a cost of £530. The shop is not required to pay Council tax. The Shop is doing well and is now selling prepared and filled sandwiches, wraps and baps, which are proving popular.

**3494: Annual review and approval of GDPR policy, Code of Conduct Policy and new Anti-harrassment and Bullying Policy.** Proposed policies had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. No changes to the two former policies were needed and councillors agreed to adopt the new Anti-Harrassment and Bullying Policy.

Proposed all be accepted and adopted, 1st FC, 2nd MT, all councillors in favour.

**3495 : Clerks Report :** Electoral Register changes this month, 9 creations, 1 deletion and 1 amendment. Next Ruby Country Parish meeting to be held on Teams on 15th May. DALC membership will increase to £274.00 plus vat, this year. End of year Accounts had been completed and sent to G. Pollard Accountancy. The Annual Vat reclaim had been submitted. Next month’s monthly meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

**3496 :** **Exchange of Information :** The sign at Bridgmoor Cross had been damaged, clerk to report to Highways,

Building works and possible garage conversion had been noted at a property along Middle Road, was planning permission required, if so?

The Bus shelter at the grass verge of the Car park, the roof had still not been repaired and looked an eyesore, if repairs could not be made, should this be removed?

A rope swing and tyre had been removed from a overhanging tree branch by the riverside, it can be returned to the owner if claimed. For Safety reasons, this type of activity cannot be permitted under any circumstances.

The drain near Tamar House had not been cleared yet by DCC, clerk to follow up.

A large pothole close to Sunways had appeared, and a traffic cone had been placed in the hole. To be reported on the DCC portal.

**3497 : Meeting closed at 9.13 pm :** Date of next meeting Tuesday 20th May at 7.15 pm. The slightly earlier time being due to the Annual Parish meeting preceding the monthly meeting.

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

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