

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 8.03.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, K. James,

Apologies S. Whatmore, J. Philpott.

In Attendance : Clerk.

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

DH informed councillors that it would be necessary to move Agenda item 13 into Part 2 proceedings later in the meeting.

**3498. Public Open Question Time :** No questions raised.

**3499. County Councillors Report :** No report given this month.

**3500. District Councillors Report :** KJ reported that the Leisure centre in Holsworthy will re-open in June, with the refurbishments completed. Active Torridge, the company who runs the complex have been very successful and are seeking to open and run a Gym in Bideford. The Bideford Town Hall has been revamped and fitted with an air source heat pump and solar panels to the roof, making the building now fairly carbon neutral.

**3501. Council Meeting Minutes :** Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 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, JT, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour.

**3502: Matters Arising :**  No Matters arising. KJ enquired about use of toilets for bookings at the Football club, this had been discussed last month and recorded as Minute reference: 3489.

**3503 : To Receive Correspondence:** email from residents at Southfields, regarding use and safety of Open Space Site,

Letter from Resident offering a 2-hour First Aid course , free to the Parish. Councillors discussed and thought it would be of benefit to those attending. Timings were discussed and it was felt may be better suited to offering this later in the year, possibly September. The hall committee offered a free booking, clerk to write to seek suitable dates.

Clerk continuing to have usage problems with the council laptop, which is now quite old. JT suggested the services of Red Smart in Kilkhampton, KB suggested looking at Argos, as the shop had just purchased one from there for shop use. Councillors agreed that it needed replacing, clerk to seek options.

**3504 : Chairmans Report :** DH said he had attended a recent Torridge Collaboration Working Group meeting, where it had been discussed to seek payment of £20 from each parish council towards payment of hall bookings for meetings held. He had decided to retire from this committee as he felt it did not offer Bridgerule much benefit.

He had also attended the recent Ruby Country Practice Parish meeting, which had been very informative, and the practice are seeking more parish contact and offer community talks. SC will put in the next edition of the Buzz, for parish information. Ruby Country was also working on improvements to patient access, and some extra sessions were planned with the recruitment of additional GP hours in the next few months. Blood tests were still causing some issues, and these are being looked at for better management and provision to patients. Deer Park will be re-opening shortly, under the management of Camelot Care.

KJ requested that he was emailed the Minutes of the meeting, clerk will send.

**3505 :**  **Accounts and Accounts due for payment -** Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Invoices this month, SC Garden Services, £204.00 for grass cutting, ROSPA – playground Inspection £110.40, DALC – Annual Subscription £315.09, G Pollard Accountancy - £96.00.

A.Harvey, clerks expenses, Ink, wallets and paper, £45.81

1st TDC Precept received of £5660.00 and Vat reclaim for year 2024-2025 received £445.20

Current account balance agreed at £11308.44 on 30th April 2025.

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

**3506 : Playpark Update :** The recent Inspection report and its finding were discussed. KB was present at the Inspection. Some items had been identified as needing attention and the Mixed Swing, which was estimated to be almost 40 years old and the safety surfacing around the carousel would both need replacing at some point in the future. The Traverse wall had been identified as having loose panels, which DH offered to repair. Councillors discussed bench seating, and it was agreed to seek the recycled type, rather than a Wooden Garden seat, although more expensive. The Hall committee have agreed to donate towards the costs and councillors viewed a multi-coloured bench from Kedel, which appeared to be suitable. Clerk to contact the company and obtain a quote and would circulate to councillors once costs were known and for agreement to purchase in principle. Likely costs to be around £1400.00 including delivery. To Agenda next month. To proceed with this action 1st, JT, 2nd, JMD, all councillors in favour. Use of a lengthsman for the Parish’s minor repairs was discussed.

**3507 : Vinnicombe Park and Football Club** : A report had been provided within the Annual meeting.

**3508 : Vas Signs, Speedwatch Update and Highways :** : No Vas data report this month. JT reported that 2 Speedwatch sessions had been planned for the previous month, one had to be cancelled due to rain. On the 6th May, at the Chapel area, the session had recorded 94 passing vehicles, of which none were speeding. It was hoped to run two sessions per month.

An email response had been received from the Traffic team at Exeter, confirming that the recently legislated 20mph areas would remain and not be altered. Specific reference was made to the Churchtown area, in that it was not suitable for the restricted scheme and no further areas within the village would be implemented, but the council could choose to self-fund areas at a cost borne by the parish council if wished.

**3509** : **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.**

For Information Only - The application had been refused.

**3510 : Bridgerule Open Space Group :** Approval for the costs of the new gate was discussed, up to a value of £250. 1st FC, 2nd MT, all councillors in favour. DH would take over heading the group from FC, as he was unable to continue due to work reasons. DH would organise a committee meeting from the group members on the 3rd June to discuss future plans. The Constitution for the group had been circulated and councillors approved that it to be adopted, 1st KB, 2nd, JT, all councillors in favour. The Risk Assessment contained some error in addition, but once rectified the council agreed that it could be used.

Some initial problems had been reported at the site and DH proposed the council moved into a Part 2 at 9.11pm to discuss fully, 2nd KJ.

The meeting came out of Part 2 at 9.18 pm.

**3511 :**. **Village Hall/Shop Update :**  Reports given at the Annual Meeting previously.

**3512 : Clerks Report :** Electoral Register changes this month, 9 creations, 1 deletion and 1 amendment.

**3513 :** **Exchange of Information :** The Fun Dog Club had requested to use the Playing Field to hold a Dog show in July, this was refused, but DH offered the use of his land at Lodgeworthy, as an alternative.

Can the Football Club request the annual grant donation towards the grass cutting and field maintenance for the coming year? To be on next month’s Agenda.

A near miss accident had been witnessed on Middle Road, due to the height of the grass verge. Who is responsible for cutting the verge, - DCC.

**3514 : Meeting closed at 9.29 pm :** Date of next meeting Tuesday 17th June at 7.30 pm.

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

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