



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2023 at 7.45 .pm, at Bridgerule Village Hall.

These minutes are provisional until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

Present : Chairman D. Hale, Vice-chairman K. James,
Councillors: F. Cogdell, M. Tape, S. Cholwill, J. McDougall, S. Whatmore, B. Beadle,
J. Philpott, K. Bowditch.
In Attendance : Clerk.

Apologies : None received.

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

Public Session : No questions raised.

3047. County Councillors Report : No report given.

3048. District Councillors Report : TDC have almost balanced their budget for the coming year, by making savings within their budget and without cutting services. KJ said that Village halls that are registered charities are currently eligible for 80 per cent relief on their business rates, but TDC has in recent years chosen to provide a full discount. TDC had previously given a discount or relief of 80% to Village Halls registered as charities, the 20 per cent had been discretionary and subject to Committee approval. It had been decided in September to withdraw that benefit, however after discussion the halls will now face a payment of 5 per cent of the business rates, as TDC has a discount in place for retail, leisure, and hospitality services which village halls come under. It was hoped that some parish councils may be able to assist with a contribution to their halls, if needed. He had been away on a conference last week and council tax bills will be finalised soon. He reported that DCC have a budget forecast for £120k needed for Adult and Child social care for the coming financial year and were struggling with their budget. It was hoped that plans for the Marine Centre, estimated at £16 million will continue, although costs could come in at around £20million, as the project was important for youth employment, wages, and prospects for the area. Some changes to rural building policies were likely and could impact on planning applications and what would or would not be allowed. TDC prospective councillors will be required to pay their own election costs and voters in May will now need photographic ID to be able to vote. An exemption card or voter pass will be available for those who apply and do not have forms of ID.

3049. Police Report : Clerk reported that there had been no updates on the Holsworthy Crime Page since December. Teams meetings to resume on a monthly basis, starting on the 9th March, with Sgt. Gutheridge.

3050. Council Meeting Minutes : - Minutes of the 17th January, had been circulated to councillors and the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st, KJ, 2nd JMD. All councillors in favour.

3051. Matters Arising – Item number 3045, land at Newacott, enforcement reference E/22/0140/UMOB. Clerk had received email that a site visit had taken place on the 20th January to meet owners of the land and various photos were taken at the site. The owners had agreed to remove the post box from the steel doors. No further update had been received, clerk to email Enforcement officer to enquire on progress following the Planning team leaders meeting.

3052. To Receive Correspondence : Clerk had received email from Holsworthy Community Developer asking for details of activities available in the parish, forwarded to SC who had been in contact with them, Bridgerule PCC, enquiring of parish resident numbers, for inclusion in new parish brochure, 579 were on the electoral role and KJ said that the total figure he had was around 800.

Email from resident regarding multiple potholes, to be discussed fully and further in Highways, as below, ROSPA, the annual inspection is scheduled for April, cost of £75 for five items and £3.50 for every item above, Community Airband Officer, FC, will be attending the March meeting and present information to the council, Hall will be needed for this meeting please,

Elections office TDC,

Grass cutting services, as BB gave notice of his intention to retire, his associate BS who has been assisting would be willing to continue to provide this service for the council. Proposed to use the services of BS, 1st, SC, 2nd KB, all councillors in favour.

Email regarding changes to the Link Service currently provided by DCC, for the centres in Holsworthy, Bideford, Barnstaple and Ilfracombe.

Multiple emails from other parishes regarding the HAAG meeting in Chilsworthy which had had to be cancelled and was replaced by Zoom meeting held in Torrington.

The self-assessment for registering interest in 20mph zones had been completed and sent to DCC.

3053. - Highways and speedwatch update : The group organiser had been unwell recently and there was for now, no update to report.

DH reported that some residents and himself wondered if the VAS sign at Middle Road was sited at the best position to be most effective and asked councillors for their opinion and then discuss further at next months meeting. KB thought it may be better sited after Littlebridge Cross and SW would obtain SL pole number. Permission could be sought to relocate it from DCC Highways.

The VAS sign at Vicarage Hill was working well and feedback from the school Headteacher and staff had been very positive. JP reported that there appeared to an increase in the number of cars parking on the road adjacent to the school at present.

A Preliminary notice had been served by Airband UK, for installation of 5 poles at Tackbeare, no date given presently,

B3254, Merrifield to Newacott, an inspection on the 12.01.23 was showing on DCC road information portal, clerk to contact Highways Manager to enquire, as councillors felt the road condition was very poor in places. Potholes noted at Bevills Hill, and near to Glencarne. Clerk to report to DCC.

Emails had been received from a Pyworthy resident, regarding the numerous potholes and poor condition of the road between Pyworthy and Bridgerule, part of the national cycle route N3. Pyworthy council had reported the issues to DCC.

A discussion followed and councillors felt that that stretch of road was bad and hazardous in places with numerous potholes, poor condition and agreed completely with the sentiments of the resident, and that it was quite dangerous particularly for cyclists, and vehicles to travel along. The DCC interactive map showed that this stretch of road had numerous reporting's of pot- holes along it. Clerk had reported some already, following receipt of email, ref W231595049 and had received a reply, to the effect of although Highways recognise that parts of the road are not as should be expected, repairs can only be undertaken according to current policy, which is only A or B roads at present . Clerk to email DCC and local Highways manager to ask if it would be possible to reassess/repair and make safer this route. JMD will photograph some of the potholes and send to clerk to include with the email as visible supporting evidence of the bad condition of the road.

Road Closure Notice – Road from Borough Cross to Littlebridge Cross, and road from Littlebridge Cross to Chapel corner, 28th to 30th March. Alternative routes to be signed.

3054. Accounts and Accounts due for payment: - Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors, with details of predicted expenditure estimated up to April 2023.

Items due for payment this month were :

Clerks Expenses, postage, Usb stick and ink £35.07 and Laptop for VAS sign, £ 150.00

(Stocksigns Ltd, for VAS signs, £7092.00 inc. vat. Cheque not yet showing on statement as deducted,)

6mth Vat reclaim had been submitted,

Funds available to make a charitable grant to the school £300 as they did not receive one in November, to put proposal on next month's Agenda,

Current account balance on 20th January agreed at £11,407.74

Proposed 1st KJ, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour.

3055. Possible Parking Sign for Hall Carpark - Councillors discussed the possible purchase of an information and parking sign to be displayed in the hall car park, following recent problems with abandoned cars and camping in vehicles within the last year. It was felt to be needed and directive to those who park in the carpark. A photograph of a sign sited in another free village car park was shown, with prohibitive warning signs, as a guide to what may be required or needed. Preferred symbol signs, and wording were discussed. Clerk had contacted Jag Signs, who estimated that a sign of this type could be in the region of £700, including installation and pole. Councillors agreed in principle to forward required details to Jag, for proposed mock up of sign and this to be forwarded to councillors to consider when received. If received in time, this could be included on Agenda next month. JMD asked if it would be possible to include the Bridgerule Logo. Councillors felt that one of the warning signs should be no trailers permitted. A photo of where it would be sited would also be needed. Proposed, to go ahead and obtain an estimate, 1st MT, 2nd, KB. All councillors in favour.

3056. Chairmans Report. An email had been received from a planning officer confirming that a developer contribution to Green spaces, sport or recreation would become available in the future. It confirmed that upgrading the football pitch/field would meet the criteria's above requirements. KJ said it could be a substantive figure, but not available immediately. DH said that he would contact Western Power to obtain a quote for moving the pylon, this would not be covered by the green space money. A discussion followed regarding "the hole" at the back of the field, who owned it, and any licence pertaining to "the hole" or field. A preliminary or outline plan of the project, with detailed costs and stages would need to be prepared. Grants could be sought for the project. It was decided to obtain the quotes as a starting point and re-visit the topic for discussion after the Parish elections in May, with the newly elected council.

Salary increase for clerk in line with NALC scales to £352.77 per month, hourly rate to LCP scale 7, £11.63 per hour from 1st April. No uplift in scale had been applied in August and salary currently was below scale recommended

for clerks. KJ queried the percentage rise and FC felt it was a shock. A letter was signed to provide instructions to the bank for the change in standing order. Proposed 1st DH, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour.

3057. Planning – DH declared an interest and refrained from voting, and KJ took the chair for all planning items, 9.02pm.

1/0028/2023/OUT – Outline application for 2 no: dwellings, Lodgeworthy Farm, Bridgerule, E 227509 N 102475.

The council discussed the application and SW asked if the new dwellings would be seen from looking across from the Hall, SC asked how many developments would be on the site in total, including the 2 proposed ones. KJ asked DH to reply to the questions, the proposed 2 would not be visible as they would be behind existing properties and there would be 8 developments in total at the site. KJ said the proposal would be within the curtilage of the current development.

Council feedback to TDC,

“The council has no objections to the application”. Votes for 9, 1 abstention, motion carried.

1/1078/2022/FUL - Provision of 3 no: Glamping Units, swimming pool access improvements and ancillary works, Land at Dux Farm, Derril, Pyworthy. E 229441 N 103228.

Council feedback to TDC,

“The council support the application”. All councillors in favour.

1/0142/2023/FUL – Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 1 no; dwelling, The Caravan, Tackbeare Farm, Marhamchurch. E 225697 N 101866.

Council feedback to TDC,

“The council have no objections to the application.” All councillors in favour.

3058. Kings Coronation and event planning. DH resumed the chair, 9.17pm. SC enquired if the PC would be prepared to fund the purchase of commemorative mugs, DH said that £500 had been allocated for this purpose. SC would determine how many would be required and source suppliers and prices. Proposed 1st, JP, 2nd SW, all councillors in favour. DH asked if there could be a street party, possibly along the Green, this would need a road closure, but after general discussion it was felt the Hall would be a better venue for a tea or similar, as could be used if the weather was not favourable and has facilities in place. This to be discussed further next month and to be added to March Agenda.

3059. Village Hall Update : KB said that WiFi is now available for use in the hall and access code was now displayed. The future shop was progressing well and grants would be applied for shortly.

3060. Clerks Report : - The online banking application initial stage had been successful. Annual reviews of existing policies were underway ready for agreement by councillors and ratification at the Annual Meeting. The Financial Regs would need updating to include a detailed Procurement policy and possibly an updated Scheme of Delegation policy .

Timetable of events for the May election given, the likely date of the Annual meeting in May was the 16th, which was quite soon after the election and bank holidays. Councillors decided to hold and call the Annual Meeting for the following week, Tuesday the 23rd May. Notice of Election to be posted on the 20th March.

3061. Exchange of Information : - Increased amounts of Dog Fouling had been noted within the village recently, flyers had been placed on posts by the river asking owners to clean up after their dogs.

SC said that the rubbish bin near the bus shelter was being used to deposit dog mess rather than using the Dog Bin provided across the road. It was decided to remove the rubbish bin and re-site temporarily by the river to encourage dog owners to use the Dog Bin provided. TDC to be notified when done.

An article on Dog Fouling would be included in the next edition of the Buzz, due to print shortly.

3062. Meeting Closed 9.40pm.

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7.45pm.

Signed by Meeting Chairman :

Date of signing :