

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL at the MEMORIAL HALL
on 21st MARCH 2023 - 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. B Nelson (Chairman), Mrs E Bradshaw (Deputy), N Howgill, R Dunford-Brown, V Game, Mrs J Rock and Ms S-A. Bird

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J. Henderson (Clerk), DCC Cllr I Chubb, EDDC Cllr P Skinner, and 6 members of the public.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies accepted by the Council:** The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllr Ledward.
- 2. Members to declare any interests:**
Resolved: None declared
- 3. To receive and sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 17.01.2023:**
Resolved: that they were a true record of the meeting's decisions, proposed by Cllr Bradshaw, Seconded Cllr Game
- 4. Matters arising:**
i) Local Plan letter has now been sent to EDDC
- 5. Correspondence:**
Resolved: Two letters were received from David Hinshelwood regarding footpaths. Cllrs Rock and Dunford-Brown are looking into the issues.
- 6. Public discussion, Reports, DC, EDDC, Police:**
The Chair invited Cllr I Chubb (DCC) to speak - In addition to his report emailed and previously circulated, Cllr Chubb announced DCC's new Chief Executive Officer, Donna Manson, previously of the Highlands Council, Inverness, has now taken over from Dr Phil Norrey.
From the Budget meetings, Children and Social Services have been kept topped up with money and Highways were given an additional £1million. On top of this, £9.3million is coming from the Government to the Devon area and will be used specifically for potholes. Cllr Howgill congratulated the work done on potholes at Orway Cross to the top of the hill, commenting it was the best stretch of road in England.
Cllr Game highlighted the poor state of the road going out of the village to Dunkeswell, pointing out that many school children travelled by bus on that road and felt it really should now be a priority. Cllr Chubb said he would contact Highways (Darren).
The Chair thanked Cllr Chubb and invited Cllr Skinner (EDDC) to make his report: Cllr Skinner said he'd been working with Cllr Bird on the Dulford Speedwatch project and was horrified after their last meeting at some of the near misses between pedestrians and drivers and, that children were unable to cross the road safely. A meeting toward the end of the month is to be held with Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall, Alison Hernandez, to highlight the seriousness of this issue.

The Local Plan is now on hold until after the elections.

Cllr Skinner reminded everyone this is held on 4th May and in order to vote you will need to take photo ID with you.

There were no further questions and no public discussion or police report.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Chubb and Skinner, who then departed the meeting at 19:50.

7. Finance - to review and approve the following

Resolved:

i) retrospective payments, (*Appendix A*)

Proposed: Cllr Bradshaw, seconded: Cllr Game

ii) Bank reconciliation (*Appendix B*)

Proposed: Cllr Game, seconded: Cllr Bradshaw

iii) the Budget (*Appendix C*)

There were no additional comments regarding the budget, and it remains approved.

iv) ratify increase in Clerk's wages from Oct 2022 (agreed via email)

Proposed: Cllr Bradshaw, seconded: Cllr Game

v) grant request from the Church for maintenance/grass cutting

The Treasurer was unable to send latest accounts, as not as yet examined, so the previous submitted accounts were used (already circulated). The PCC Treasurer made the case for requesting funds of £350 to help with grass cutting. The PCC last received funding from the Council in 2020 when a sum of £350 was paid. In 2021 a request for funds to help pay for the tower roof was made, but not forthcoming due to prohibitive legislation. Ear-marked funds are held by the Council for this capital spend as and when the law permits. Cllr Bradshaw proposed a payment of 50% of previous grants and the sum of £175 was seconded Cllr Dunford-Brown and all agreed.

vi) subscription request from BlackdownHills Parish Network

The Chair proposed to reduce the subscription from £120 to £60, seconded Cllr Bradshaw.

vii) purchase of Infrared Camera (document previously circulated)

The project (applied for by the BHPN) takes thermal images of people's homes to show where heat loss is occurring, and has funding from the AONB to purchase the camera. The Council was being asked to make the initial outlay for the camera and be its owners as the BHPN couldn't. Once purchased, the camera is to be loaned out to other parishes (with the necessary additional insurance cover where needed).

The Chair took questions from the floor:

Q1) Is it legal to take thermal images of peoples homes without permission?

A1) Home-owners will be asked first.

Q2) A thermal image won't register heat loss if that person is not able to afford to heat their home?

A2) True. The camera works best on a cold night and will provide the evidence required for parishioners to improve their homes efficiency and grants are available to this end.

Q3) Who will administer the lending out of the equipment

A3) Cllr D Lazar from Membury PC.

Proposed: Cllr Bradshaw, seconded Cllr Game

ACTION: Clerk to purchase the camera, and complete the claim and ensure BHIB insurance cover and add item to the asset register.

8. **May Elections update**

The Chair understood that only Cllr Game would be stepping down after many years service. Hard copies of the nomination packs were given to remaining Councillors and the Chair offered to take them to Honiton before the deadline. It was hoped more prospective Councillors would step forward, as the Chair didn't think it was viable to run a council with just six Councillors.

9. **King's Coronation celebration update - Cllr Bradshaw**

A work still in progress, but on the morning of Saturday 6th May the church bells will ring (time tbc). A parade of Kings & Queens of the parish (children) is planned and a crown making workshop being organised. The children are to arrive by decorated coach (wheelbarrows etc) followed by a children's tea party. There will possibly be a Church service on the Sunday. Also a Bring a Chair party with the Broadhembury singers - road closures have been requested. Further ideas were being sought for permanent mementos for the children.

Monday 8th May - Volunteer Week day and a Churchyard Spring Clean was suggested for this by Cllr Bradshaw.

The Chair asked Cllrs what other celebrations were planned in the parish:

Cllr Dunford-Brown said an event was being planned for Kerswell on the Sunday (7th) at 2pm possibly in the playground.

Cllr Bird was unsure of any events being planned at the time for Dulford.

Cllr Bradshaw made known that all the parish were welcome to the celebrations planned for the King's Coronation in Broadhembury.

10. **Dulford Speedwatch report - Cllr Bird**

Progress was slow and results from SCARF (Speed Compliance Action Review) of 32mph for majority of drivers in both directions, meant no further action by way of road signs, would be forthcoming. Cllr Bird felt this wasn't representative of their experience of speeding traffic and could be different times of year would yield different results. Police data recorder information from February may also back this up when it comes through. The roadside visit planned for the 31st March and to be attended by Alison Hernandez, Cllrs Chubb and Skinner, is hoped, will provide first hand evidence of the day to day problems residence experience of dangerously close vehicles speeding by children, and their parents, who can not cross the road in safety. Cllr Bird thanked the Council for the purchase of the GoPro camera which will help with safety of the volunteers measuring the speed of passing cars and record any aggressive behaviours by some motorists, towards them.

11. BHPN meeting with MP Richard Foord report - Cllr Nelson

BHPN meets annually with three MP's; new MP Richard Foord (Tiverton & Honiton), Rebecca Powell (Taunton Deane) and Marcus Fysh (Yeovil). At the last meeting held in March, there were 10 BHPN members along with MP Richard Foord. The four main issues discussed were Traffic and related speeding, Water quality monitoring, Rural cost of living and Broadband. The discussions were considered helpful and promising by the Chair. A meeting with MP Rebecca Powell is scheduled for later in April and the Chair will report back at the next Council meeting.

12. Planning - report Cllr Bradshaw

22/2671/ful - LOCATION: Broadhembury Barton, EX14 3LP

PROPOSAL: proposed new slurry cover store.

SUPPORT

22/2836/FUL - LOCATION: Victoria Cottage, Kerswell EX15 2EJ

PROPOSAL: rebuilding of garage outbuilding on existing site. The proposed building will have 3 garage/storage areas on the ground floor and a home office room/space above with a pitched roof.

SUPPORT

23/0165/LBC - LOCATION: Old Chapel, Kerswell, EX15 2EL

PROPOSAL: Replace 3 no. windows on front (north) elevation W2, W2 & W3; replace 3 no. windows on rear (south) elevation W4, W5 & W6; replace porch door on front (north) elevation and replace 8 no. porch casement panes on front (north) elevation.

SUPPORT

22/2749/AGR - LOCATION: Courtlands, Dulford EX15 2EQ

PROPOSAL: Creation of 2 no. earth bank irrigation reservoirs and associated infrastructure for water harvesting.

NO OBJECTION

23/0023/AGR - LOCATION: Four horseshoes, Dulford EX15 2BY

PROPOSAL: prior notification for an agricultural storage building.

NO OBJECTION

13. Flood report - Cllr Game:

Remedial work carried out in Kerswell by R Batten.

The Wilderness Lane issue had been cleared by R Batten - should run clearly for next few years. Cllr Game stressed this should be maintained periodically. The landowner, Mr M Drewe was very amenable in allowing access to land.

14. **AOB** - The Chair thanked Cllr Game for his long service and the substantial changes he has made to the parish in terms of reducing flooding, as well as work with highways. Cllr Game mentioned the help he received from K. Bone who was instrumental in getting some of the main projects off the ground and is the person to notify us of when more works are required. Cllr Game expects that both himself and K Bone, will still help with the ditches.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the AGM of the Parish Council, and an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm