

# MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL at the MEMORIAL HALL on 19th September 2023 @ 7:30pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 28 members of the public (including many under age of 18)

## AGENDA

- 1. Apologies accepted by the Council:** Apologies received from Mrs J Henderson (Clerk), Cllrs C Ledward and O Emmett accepted by the Council.
- 2. Members to declare any interests:**  
**Resolved:** None were declared
- 3. To consider and approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th May 2023:**  
Proposed by Cllr Bradshaw, seconded by Cllr Howgill and all in favour.
- 4. Matters arising:** None, other than agenda items below.
  - 4.1 River Tale incident - The Chairman advised that the Environmental Agency are still investigating this incident 10 weeks after it occurred.
  - 4.2 Footpath at Dulford - That the Chairman and Cllr Rock had visited the site and would respond accordingly in due course.
  - 4.3 Copy of the electoral roll - Cllrs are entitled to copies on application to EDDC, but the data must be safeguarded and used only for the purposes defined in law.
  - 4.4 The Trustees of Broadhembury CIO (the Hall) had requested assistance to find more trustees. The Chairman had suggested a meeting, but to his surprise the trustees had seen this as 'inappropriate'. For the moment the PC will take no further action.
- 5. Public session -**

There was a substantial turn out from the public in the room for the Kerswell BMX track discussion. The Chairman stated that we only have a duty to act if we choose to do so and that we are not required to do so, that taking the track back to pasture would be our only course of action. The Chairman continued that there was no plan to go to a vote as voting may suggest we had an 'interest' in the track therefore he proposed that we do nothing. The Chairman clearly stated to everyone in the room, that the Parish Council accepted absolutely no liability whatsoever for the track or its users and that any public order offences that may be committed there, should be directed to the police. Any further Planning enforcement issues should be directed to East Devon District Council. It was reiterated that the Parish Council have decided to take no action or involvement in the track and the public were invited to make any other comment. No comments received. 21 members of the public left the meeting.
- 6. Reports from EDDC, DCC and Police, if any:** Richard Jefferies report had been read, no report DCC or Police.

Chair's initials:

**7. Airband -**

Faye Cross gave an overview of her role and an indication that the roll out of Airband was due for completion by the end of 2024. That Airband was planning to cover the whole of the Parish and this would be achieved by a survey being carried out by CDS (Connecting Devon & Somerset) targeted at households with a 30gbs speed or less. The chairman asked about entry points in the parish and that he had offered to broker wayleaves with landowners. Various questions were asked and Faye said that she would get back to us with that information. The Chairman suggested that he would re-send an e-mail that he sent to Faye last August and encouraged her to respond to the questions set out in that e-mail. (Subsequently sent but no reply received)

**8. Hunt the Heat presentation:**

Cllr Lazar (Membury PC), gave a very informative presentation about the heat loss camera and it was passed round for Cllrs and the public to look at. The initiative, funded by Blackdown Hills AONB, will see 1 representative from each parish trained on how to use the camera. The permission of the home owner is required to undertake the surveys and the best results are achieved early mornings and early evenings with the camera, when the weather is cold. The Parish Council are required to insure the camera when the weather is cold. Full training is available. The Chairman offered to collect names of interested people willing to be trained. Training takes 1-2 hours, training can then be passed on to other Cllrs and will take place mid-October 2024. Cllr S-A Bird expressed an interest in being trained. (Subsequently Cllr O Emmett also volunteered).

**9. Covered in item 5**

**10. Playgrounds:** No representative from Broadhembury. Kerswell playground – no outstanding actions from RoSPA

**11. Finance:**

**i) To approve the bank reconciliation**

Proposed Cllr Rock, seconded Cllr Hinshlewood

**i) To approve schedule of retrospective payments**

Proposed Cllr Nelson, seconded Cllr Howgill

**i) To ratify e-mail agreement to fund work to Memorial Hall car park**

Agreed. Proposed Cllr Rock, seconded Cllr Hinshlewood

**ii) To consider transferring £5k to a high interest savings account and £5k to a lower interest but shorter access account (both proposed to RFO)**

Agreed to the two suggestions. Proposed Cllr Keeling, seconded Cllr Dunford -Brown

**iii) To consider and approve purchase of laptop for Clerk**

Agreed that the Clerk should have a dedicated computer and specialist software funded from normal expenditure as proposed in accounts.

Proposed Cllr Rock, seconded Cllr Howgill

**iv) To consider and approve subscription to Scribe software**

Agreed. Proposed Cllr Keeling, seconded Cllr Bradshaw.

**12. Planning – Cllr Bradshaw**

3 planning applications. 1 supported and 2 not supported

i) Northhill Cottages – extension, approved

ii) Egremont – The original application to replace 2 barns with 4 dwellings on an extended

plot, with the original application being under a PDQ, was supported. The revised plans will not be supported and will most likely go to appeal.

iii) James Barns – conversion of an agricultural building to a single dwelling. The PDQ allowance had already been used once and was not eligible to be re-applied to this application. It was deemed that the PDQ had expired.

EDDC supported the Parish Council decisions on all three applications.

13. **Way Warden Report** – Cllr Rock sought the approval of three actions totalling £1775.40 for works completed and due to complete prior to the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Nelson proposed and Cllr Howgill seconded the amount as agreed expenditure.

It was agreed that a second site visit would be planned with Cllrs Nelson, Rock, HInshlewood, Dunford-Brown. Cllrs Nelson and Rock will revisit the site at St Johns Wood to try and find a final solution to the marshy ground around the public footpath.

Flooding at Dulford was discussed and it was agreed that more sandbags and dumpy bags of sand would be purchased and made available as a matter of urgency. Cllr Bird mentioned that there may be flooding funding for river clearing and that the application deadline was the end of September. Cllr Bird will investigate access for funding.

Member of the Public (Mandi O'Reilly) asked if the Parish Council can influence how the landowners manage their land in respect of trying to alleviate flooding? Cllr Nelson stated that we can try to influence and persuade landowners, but we have no legal powers to coerce. The Chairman stated that sandbags are available in Kerswell at Denis Barn and that the Clerk would order more bags if required. The Chairman stated that he was happy to attend a Kerswell residents meeting in respect of flooding and flood prevention to support residents' concerns over land clearing and drain maintenance.

Parish Council Survey – The Chairman gave an overview of the Parish Council Survey that was carried out 10 years ago asking the Parish Council what it is that they want an expect their Parish Council to do. Once this is printed again it will be required to be hand delivered around the parish. All Cllr agreed to help with distribution.

Cllr Keeling stated that she had attended the New Councillor course provided by DALC stating that the course itself was a little basic, the handouts after the course were very useful. Cllr Keeling offered to circulate the handout information to other Cllrs.

14. **AOB:** Other than the above, none raised.

**Meeting closed 20.25.**

Signed:  
(CHAIR)

DATE: