

Minutes of Woolsery Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 16 April 2024 in Bucks Cross Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Chaired by: Councillor M Hill		Clerked by: Mrs S Squire
Present: Councillors D Hancock from Minute No. 23/24.160.3 S Harding (District Councillor) until Minute No. 23/24.161.3 R Heywood M Hill S Hill S Salvidant L Spittles District Councillor Dart from Minute No. 23/24.160.3 until 23/24.161.3 4 Members of the public		Agenda: - Public Comment Session Apologies Declarations of Interest Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024 Clerk's Report Reports from County, District & Parish Councillors Planning Finance To consider a response to items raised under the Public Session Correspondence received Date and time of next meeting
		Action:
23/24.156 23/24.156.1	Public Comment Session. Net Zero Campaign. Leaflets were handed to those who had not received them at a previous meeting when this subject was addressed. The member of the public advised that the leaflets summarized the concerns felt and further advised that there had been no reply from County Councillor Wilton-Love on Devon County Council's stance to important questions, the implication of the extra tax burden for citizens and other issues. The person addressing the meeting asked the Clerk if she had been contacted by '7 concerned citizens' mentioned in the leaflet and it was advised that she had not. The person did not who the 7 concerned citizens were and would like to be contacted if they do get in touch, as it was a good case and they could be invited to a meeting. The District Councillors advised that this subject had been discussed at a TDC meeting, with the debate being recorded and could be seen on YouTube.	
23/24.156.2	A parishioner spoke about potholes. They had been advised by County Councillor Wilton-Love that the road between Woolsery and Bradworthy was to be resurfaced.	
23/24.156.3	Village Planters. These were in a poor condition. The resident was advised that the planters were sponsored and Councillor S Hill would contact the businesses / people in 2023 to enquire if they wish to do so for 2024.	S Hill
23/24.156.4	Village News. Notes of Parish Council meetings and contact details of Councillors are now included and there were no further comments to make.	
23/24.157	Apologies. Councillor B Beech (unwell). Councillor Hancock had advised he would be late.	
23/24.158	Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interest for items on the Agenda. None.	
23/24.159	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024. Approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Councillor Spittles Seconded by Councillor S Hill and unanimously agreed.	

23/24. 160	Clerk's Report.	
23/24. 160.1	Councillors' Contact Details had been sent for inclusion in the Village News.	
23/24. 160.2	Location of Dog Bins. Councillor M Hill is providing a map for the details to be sent to TDC. Councillor Hancock had provided the What3Words location.	MH
23/24. 160.3	Water coming from pipe at The Manor. An update had been received and Councillors were circulated with the details on 4/4/24 which advised that the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) had spoken to the site manager at The Manor and it was inconclusive whether it was a pre-damaged highway pipe causing the ingress of water onto the property or whether the pipe had been damaged on the property. It was reported that there was a blockage in the pipe causing it to back up and because of this, the NHO had requested jetting on the pipe. If this does not solve the issue, a CCTV survey will be required to determine a solution / responsibility. The NHO is hoping that this jetting will be completed within a couple of weeks, but unfortunately the gangs already have a large backlog of jobs to complete that would be prioritised over this. The NHO will monitor the situation on when this gets jetted and will decide on appropriate action following this.	
23/24. 160.4	Fence at South Park. The original form sent to Westward Housing on 2/3/24 had been located and sent to the Association together with the map of ownership supplied by TDC and all pictures provided in a reminder email. The Clerk contacted Westward Housing by telephone on 9/4/24 and was given a reference number and advised that the job has been referred to surveyors who are to make a site visit and arrange for the necessary work to be carried out.	
23/24. 160.5	Gabions on the cliff path towards Bucks Mills Slipway. TDC officers were requested to carry out a site visit as the gabions appeared to be bowing. The site visit has been done and Councillors were circulated with a reply on 4/4/24 which advised that following the visual survey on 3/4/24, no evidence of further movement of the rock gabions could be seen. These were known to have bowed soon after installation and are checked visually on an ad hoc basis. Given the volume and consistency of rainfall over the past 6 months and recent mudslide, more regular photographic surveys will be undertaken of this footpath. It is imperative that the signage in this area is read and understood by the public and regular users. The signage is placed on a pedestrian gate which is often found removed from its hinges and placed to the side of the footpath. There was a discussion about the gate and an email read, sent by a local person to TDC on the subject. Councillors were keen to get some definitive answers and clarification from a safety aspect. Should there be a cost involved, the Parish Council wish to be informed.	S Harding to follow up with TDC
23/24. 160.6	Refuse collections from holiday lets. The question about collections / if properties are registered for Council Tax / if TDC check holiday lets with a 12 months licence to ascertain residency status has been asked as directed. A reply had been received from two TDC officers who explained that there is no ability to check every holiday let, but if the Parish Council has concerns about specific properties, an investigation can be carried out as to whether they are liable for TDC waste collections or if the property owners need to be reminded of	

	<p>their responsibilities regarding waste disposal.</p> <p>Even if they do pay Council Tax, waste should not be placed out earlier than the day before, and the owners can be spoken to about this if the property details were supplied.</p> <p>All holiday lets should have a trade waste agreement in place. TDC would not be aware of a change of use unless the owner advised, and investigations are made when TDC are advised. If the Parish Council know of any address that are holiday lets, TDC wanted to be advised so the arrangements can be investigated.</p> <p>District Councillor Dart advised this was a grey area and gave the example of an Air BnB property not necessarily being a business. The Valuation Office deals with whether the property comes under business rates and then that property may receive business rate relief.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Spittles that a leaflet drop is made to properties in Bucks Mills requesting that waste is not put out almost a week in advance of collections as it attracts vermin, is unsightly and poses a health risk. Seconded by Councillor Harding and unanimously agreed.</p>	MH to prepare leaflet
23/24. 160.7	Planning response submitted.	
23/24. 160.8	Payments made and balances for March advised to Councillors.	
23/24. 160.9	Devon County Council / Torbay Council Devolution Deal. A response to the consultation has been submitted as directed and an acknowledgement received. After the Agenda for this meeting had been published, the Clerk circulated details of the Agenda for a DCC meeting to consider this item on 22/4/24.	
23/24. 160.10	<p>Annual Parish Meeting. The Hall has been booked for Tuesday, 14 May 2024 and organisations have been invited to participate and to date, 7 organisations have responded positively.</p> <p>It has been advised that the large Hall is also available if required.</p> <p>Councillors and the Clerk will be at the Hall from 6pm on the evening to set up.</p> <p>Councillor M Hill will prepare a poster for Facebook, Village News and the website.</p>	<p>MH to prepare poster.</p> <p>Clerk to send S Hill the text of what was sent to organisations</p>
23/24. 160.11	<p>Telegraph pole opposite the entrance to All Hallows Church. The Clerk called at BT premises in Barnstaple and the advice was to contact MXB as they would have had to make arrangements for this in the planning application.</p> <p>The Clerk has contacted MXB who had responded as follows:</p> <p>We contacted Open Reach, who own the pole, and told them of the Council's safety concerns, so they attended the next day. They said they had absolutely no concerns over the safety of the pole, as it is not leaning or showing any signs of instability. They did tidy up some of their cables and replaced a capping piece while they were there.</p> <p>As we are not the owners of the pole, if the Council has further concerns they can contact Open Reach directly at 0800 023 2023, selecting option 1 and quoting the reference number 236726976. That is the case number they gave us in regards to their inspection.</p> <p>The concern is that with vehicles driving in and out, it will be hit. The plans will not show details while the development is on hold.</p>	RH to have an informal chat with MXB about this, the planting adjacent to the road, the pipe where water is flowing onto the road and where the roadworks has sunk.
23/24. 160.12	Map of the village for site visit of DCC and Devon & Cornwall Police Road Safety Officers has been sent, with a copy to Councillors.	

	<p>County Councillor Wilton-Love and the Neighbourhood Highways Officer have been copied into the email requesting a site visit. PCSO Rendle has confirmed that the email has been passed to the appropriate Officer at Devon and Cornwall Police who has picked it up and will be in touch. No response had been received from DCC.</p>	
23/24. 161.	Reports from County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Councillors.	
23/24. 161.1	<p>County Councillor J Wilton Love. Not present, no apologies sent or Report received. There was concern that nothing had been heard from the County Councillor for a lengthy time.</p>	Clerk to draft letter about non attendance & circulate to Cllrs
23/24. 161.2	<p>District Councillors: Dart. TDC Councillors had been advised of the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Plan. She had noticed a disclaimer and read it after the Net Zero presentations, and had questioned the science after the Climate Plan meeting, which had been expected to endorse the document, but in the end, the Committee noted it. There had been a presentation on biodiversity net gain which is coming into the planning regime that ultimately has to offset development in terms of biodiversity, being carbon credit. This is being done on prime land and will increase imports carbon footprint. Councillor Salvidant noted there was a lot of building in progress and asked if it was part of the planning that heat source pumps, solar panels and water storage has to be put in place and if not, why not? Councillor Dart explained that all developers are encouraged to do this but it is not part of building regulations and design. There is the contradiction that it is expensive, making the houses less affordable. If there is no legislation, TDC cannot enforce it. There are government grants for ground source and air source heat pumps. Devolution deal. District Councillors had a presentation at Full Council which can be seen on YouTube. It was generally considered that North Devon would not benefit from the deal as all the funding would be going to large populated areas. Harding. At a Full Council meeting, an update on the project at Middle Dock was given. Due to an increase in prices, the building was being reduced by one storey, which could be added at a later date if necessary.</p>	
23/24. 161.3	Parish Councillors.	
	M Hill. The bus shelter and notice board at Woolsery require cleaning.	MH / DH
	<p>B Beech. Deferred. (1) Community Speed Watch. (2) Parking problems in Manor Park.</p>	
	<p>D Hancock. The building at Cranford, which had been reported to TDC Enforcement, has practically been finished. The Clerk to ascertain how Enforcement's investigations are progressing.</p> <p>Fencing at Copper Hill on the public footpath has fallen down. It is thought to be owned by the owners of the Cattery.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>Stagecoach bus driving onto grass verge of Manor Park on the evening of 6/4/24 causing considerable damage. The pictures supplied were sent the same evening by the Clerk to Stagecoach, DCC Highways, the Neighbourhood Highways Officer and County Councillor Wilton-Love for comment / information with a request that a reply was received to report at this meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk had attempted to contact Stagecoach on the day of the meeting, without success and had sent a further email requesting that the matter was treated as a priority and an urgent reply sent. Devon Bus replied, agreeing that the damage caused is quite substantial. They would expect that Stagecoach would reply to the Parish Council direct.</p> <p>A resident who followed the same bus out of the village had noted that everyone travelling into Woolsery were subjected to the driving ability of the bus driver, as they all had to reverse.</p> <p>Councillor Harding had provided details of matting that is used to protect grass. Councillor Hancock had obtained top soil and spread this to help alleviate the situation and the look of the area.</p> <p>The meeting was advised that the parking problems in Manor Park had improved. There was a discussion about reducing the width of the verge to make the road wider which would then make it less likely for large vehicles to mount the verge, but the question remained as to the reason why the bus was going through Manor Park when there was no road diversion in place.</p> <p>Councillor S Hill spoke about the ransom strip at the end of Manor Park, previously mentioned at a meeting. It was thought this could be spoken about at the site meeting with Road Safety Officers.</p> <p>Field next to potting shed. It was reported that the landowner is not aware of people living in the field.</p>	<p>RH to speak to landowner</p>
	<p>S Harding – Play Area. Not discussed having left the meeting by the time the meeting reached this item.</p>	
	<p>R Heywood. Deferred. (1) Bus Shelter at East Park (2) Disputed landownership bordering Woolsery’s Manor House (3) Occupation of field next to the Potting Shed</p>	
	<p>S Hill Map of the village highlighting highway issues had been prepared and sent to the Clerk who in turn had sent it to the Road Safety Officers.</p> <p>What are the verges going to look like outside The Farmers Arms with the vegetation obscuring the view at the school junction? The Parish Council had previously asked not to have the high growing plants.</p>	<p>RH will include this item when speaking to MXB</p>
	<p>S Salvidant. Some residents of Bucks Mills are unhappy about the unsightly metal gate that was installed on the cliff path when the demolition work on the lime kiln was undertaken. It was assumed at the time that this was a temporary safety measure but the gate remains. It is unclear whether it has conservation area approval or what its actual purpose is. A query about this has been raised by a resident with Chris Wilson, the TDC Coastal Officer, with a request for the gate either to be removed, but leaving the fixings in place in case of a future serious event or to be replaced with something more appropriate. There are already three safety notices on the path below the gate. It was agreed that the Parish Council would also contact TDC about this.</p>	<p>Clerk to advise TDC</p>

	L Spittles – no items to raise.	
23/24. 162	Planning. There were no planning applications to consider.	
23/24. 162.1	Planning Correspondence: Decisions, Enforcement & Appeals. The following TDC Decision Notice was noted: Approval for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1/0059/2024/FUL – Vehicle storage building – land at Cross Farm, Woolserly. 	
23/24. 163	Finances.	
23/24. 163.1	Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) Membership Renewal. To consider renewing the subscription at an annual cost of £396.00 + VAT. Proposed by Councillor S Hill not to renew the subscription. Seconded by Councillor Hancock and unanimously agreed. The Clerk to explain the reason for non renewal when advising DALC which included a second increase in the subscription after the 2024/25 budget had been set and fewer in house courses being arranged.	Clerk
23/24. 163.2	<u>Payments to be authorised:</u> Proposed by Councillor Spittles Seconded by Councillor Hancock and unanimously agreed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sue Squire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2024 salary £511.13 Expenses (broadband/photocopying/mileage) £ 16.50 £527.63 b. HMRC PAYE £127.60 c. DALC. Membership subscription Not approved d. <u>Income and Bank Account Balances</u> NatWest Business Current Account as at 16/4/24: £608.28 NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 16/4/24: £20,434.37 Interest on this account for the last month amounted to £23.58. 	Clerk to make the payments
23/24. 164	To consider a response to items raised under the Public Session. None.	
23/24. 165	Correspondence received. Emails from various agencies have been forwarded to Councillors. A letter from Winkleigh Parish Council to Chairmen of Town and Parish Councils in Torridge had been received and forwarded to the Chairman. It suggested a meeting, similar to the Area Advisory Meetings previously organised by TDC.	Clerk to reply saying WPC is interested
23/24. 166	Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 21 May 2024 at Woolserly Sports and Community Hall at 7.30pm. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the first items on the Agenda will be the Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman, Review of Compliance and Policies. Other items later in the meeting will include approval of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 and the approval of the Annual Return and Governance Return. The meeting ended at 9.08pm.	
Summary of Decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024 ➤ Leaflet drop to properties in Bucks Mills regarding waste / recycling collection ➤ Not to renew the 2024/25 DALC subscription ➤ Payments 		

These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.

Signed:
Chair Woolsery of Parish Council.

Date: