

# Minutes of the Virtual Woolfardisworthy Parish Council held on the 20th October 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

## **1.0 Attendance**

Parish Cllrs: M Hill (Chair), L Spittles, S Hill, R Heywood, S Raffe, S Harding (also District Cllr) and A Ashworth.

County Cllr Inch

Members of the public.

## **2.0 Apologies**

None.

## **3.0 Public Comment Session**

A member of the public raised the following points:

1. Why was planning application 1/0728/2020/FUL not on the agenda or minutes. An objection has been submitted by the parishioner challenging the 106 agreement. It was stated that these issues have been raised previously with TDC Officers and the Woolserly Parish Council and remain unanswered. They are also included in the Formal Complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman which has now progressed further for a legal resolution
2. Planning applications 1/0723/2020/FUL & 1/0724/2020/LBC, installation of ground source heat pumps system, including alterations and additions to the existing manor house and outbuildings. The application is for a considerable amount of change from the original application, all of which have been raised in previous applications. It was stated that there was no mention of the Enforcement or removal of the gas tanks
3. Minutes of the September meeting, Item 14, Parking in the Parish. The minutes state car parks, but not aware of which ones. It was stated that the Parish Council has continually raised this for years, without any reconciliations. The problem is the people bringing their children to school, along with the parking issues caused by the Farmers Arms.
4. Minutes of the September meeting, Item 13, MXB Working Group. The parishioner stated that he was surprised and annoyed to find District Cllr Harding voted off the sub-committee, when he is aware of the problems.

Cllr Spittles from Bucks Cross was voted on, together with others who have a lack of information on it.

The parishioner stated that he was asked by The Secretary of State to remove any action against Cllr Spittles for slander and libel. However, given the circumstances above, the parishioner is going to reinstate his claim against Cllr Spittles, which will be dealt with privately, informing The Secretary of State of his decision.

#### **4.0 Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interest for items of the agenda**

None.

#### **5.0 Minutes of the previous meeting to be approved and signed as a true and accurate record**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record, to be signed by the Chair at the next face-to-face meeting. Proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Spittles

#### **6.0 Clerk's Report**

- A. **Poppy Wreath** - To be laid by Cllr Hill
- B. **Christmas Tree** - Those present agreed to purchase a tree. **ACTION: The Clerk to order.**
- C. **Black Bag Distribution** - Went well and there should be enough stock for 2021.
- D. **Funding request from Life Education Wessex** - Services are being used by Woolser Primary School. It was agreed to invite Life Education Wessex to submit a grant request inline with the Parish Council Annual Grants. **ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Life Education Wessex.**

#### **7.0 Reports from County Cllr, District Cllrs and Parish Cllrs**

##### **District Councillors**

**Cllr Harding** - Torridge District Councillors voted to approve "buy 1 hr, get 1 free" car parking in the Torridge towns of Bideford, Holsworthy and Torrington.

**Cllr Dart** - Torridge District Council has funding available to those who are told to self-isolate and cannot work. There is also a Discretionary Fund to support businesses who have not received any support from the Government.

##### **County Councillor Inch**

- Updates sent to the Parish Council from Devon County Council
- Bucks Mills Fencing - Cllr Inch is liaising with Highways with regards to the ownership
- East Ash Hill is due to be resurfaced
- Ash Dieback work is ongoing on the A361 and A39

- Cllr Inch has funding available in his locality pot.

Other Parish issues raised for Cllr Inch to follow-up with Highways include;

- Resurfacing on the A39 at Bucks Cross
- Flooding on the second bend at Merry Harries, caused by block drains. It was suggested that the bank should be removed and the road widened. Cllr Inch is aware of the problem and will liaise with Highways.

### **Parish Councillors**

**Cllr S Harding** - Stated that he had not followed up on the Winkleigh Village Plan. Will wait for this to be complete and how it works for the community.

**Cllr Spittles** - Email received from BT asking if the Parish Council wish to adopt the phone box at Bucks Cross. It was questioned whether the Bucks Cross defib could be placed in the phone box.

**ACTION: Cllr Spittles to liaise with the Shop.**

Following the statement made by the parishioner in the public comment session, Cllr Spittles would like the support from the Parish Council, and to see if there is any legal support, should a case be submitted.

**Cllr Ashworth** - Stated that the repairs outside Claw Farm has subsided again. **ACTION: The Clerk to report to Highways.**

Cllr Ashworth will be moving to Bideford in the near future, and therefore as he will no longer be living in the Parish, he will be submitting his resignation as a Parish Councillor in the near future.

**Cllr Raffé** - The second drain up Copper Hill was overflowing on the 3rd October. **ACTION: The Clerk to report to Highways.**

Other areas of flooding outside of the Parish includes, the viaduct by the Big Sheep and before the Big Sheep turnoff on the A39. Cllr Inch will liaise with the District Cllr for that area, including Highways.

**Cllr Hill** - Recommend planning training for all Parish Councillors. This was agreed. **ACTION: The Clerk to arrange with TDC or DALC.**

**Cllr Heywood** - Fully supports Cllr Spittles, stating that in her role as Parish Councillor she has acted responsibly. The Parish Council should seek help with any legal advice. This was agreed by Cllr Hill, who stated that advice could be sought from DALC.

In terms of Claw Farm, the issue has been caused by a ditch adjacent to the road. As the ground is soft, any heavy vehicles have an impact. A drain is required to solve the problem.

It was noted that as the National Plan will override any local plans, it was questioned whether developing a local plan is the right approach.

## **8.0 Planning Applications**

### **Applications**

**1/0711/2020/FUL - Change of use of land and proposed siting of 1 no. multi-purpose facility and 3 no. glamping units. Old Pound House. Woolsery.**

Following discussion, Cllr Heywood proposed to object to the application. Due to a lack of information and clarity on the multi-purpose facility, the Council were unable to make an informed decision. Seconded by Cllr Spittles. Vote: Objects the application 6 In Favour of application 1.

**1/0804/2020/FUH - Single garage extension to the side of the property. 24 Old Market Drive, Woolsery.**

The Parish Council supports the application.

**1/0723/2020/FUL & 1/0724/2020/LBC - Installation of ground source heat pump system, alterations and additions to existing manor house and outbuildings. Site of Manor Inn, Woolsery.**

- Whilst there was support for the ground source heat pumps, the plans submitted lacked detail and clarity in terms of where they would be sited.
- With regards to the alterations and additions to the manor house, the plans submitted were difficult to interpret and lacked clarity on the proposed changes.
- In terms of procedure, it would be helpful if Torridge clearly presented the plans, i.e. original plan, amended plan, including a list of the changes.
- Cllr Heywood noted that there has been a proposed change to the loading bay for service deliveries, which included an incursion. If this is correct, this would prevent lorries for making deliveries off the road.
- Cllr Hill suspended Standing Orders to allow a parishioner to speak.
  
- The parishioner stated that these matters were raised in the formal complaint against Torridge District Council, and that they have broken every planning law. The plans affect the boundary of his property, as well as the neighbours. Matters have been raised in letters, which are not included in the minutes and have never been replied to.
- The parishioner also stated that the developer has dropped the plans for the wellbeing centre and swimming pool. He has tried to contact Laura Davies to clarify.
- He stated that he would offer the Council the opportunity to go through the case from day 1 until now, including what laws have been broken.
  
- Cllr Hill reinstated Standing Order
- Following discussion it was agreed that clarity needs to be sought with Torridge District Council.

- **ACTION: The Clerk to ask for an extension on submitting comments, to arrange a planning meeting for the 27th October 2020, asking for the Planning Officer to attend, so that clarity can be sought.**
- In the meantime should an extension not be granted, the Parish Council's response would be the following:  
Due to a lack of clarity and information within the plans, the Parish Council has found it difficult to review and submit any comments. It is the intention to clarify with Torridge District Council so that further comments can be submitted. Proposed by Cllr Heywood, Seconded by Cllr Spittles, all in agreement.

**1/0846/2020/FUH - Replace existing front door with French style doors, replace existing ground floor window with a new front door and installation of additional roof light. Rosies Barn, Woolsery.**  
The Parish Council had no objections.

### **Decisions & Appeals – FYI**

1/0667/2020/FUL - Erection of 1 holiday lodge (variation of condition 2 of planning permission 1/0501/2016/FUL). Forest Lakes, Woolsery. **Application granted.**

Appeal Letter - 1/0416/2020/OUT - Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 1 dwelling. Whitcott House, Bucks Cross. Appeal Start Date 1st October 2020. Representations by 5th November 2020.

## **9.0 Progress of Highways Issues**

### **Woolsery**

- A. Ashmansworthy - East Ash Hill on the Bradworthy side is to be resurfaced by Highways.
- B. Leaworthy Cross - The flooding and drainage issues have been reported to Highways.
- C. Pleademill Bridge - The Clerk to clarify if the work has been completed.

### **Road Closures**

None

## **10. Covid-19 Updates**

Cllr M Hill asked whether the Cllrs Project Fund of £1501 should be reserved as an emergency Covid fund if required. This was agreed.

## **11. Affordable Housing (Update Cllr Hill)**

A site meeting took place with representatives from Torridge District Council and Colin Savage from Devon Communities. The land in question is Gordon Leonards, adjacent to the hall. The next step is for Torridge District Council and Devon Communities to reconsider the land, which would allow room to build 6 properties.

## **13. Establishment of sub-committee with MXB Devon Operations**

Emily Harmon is able to meet this week to discuss the establishment of the sub-committee with MXB Devon Operations, including the Terms of Reference. **Action: The Clerk to send out an agenda and template for the Terms of Reference.**

## **14. Parking in the Parish**

There are concerns with regards to parking on the green at Old Market Drive. **Action: Cllr Hill to speak to the resident.**

## **15. Discussion re further Parish development (Cllr S Harding)**

As detailed above in Councillor reports, Cllr Harding is waiting for the Winkleigh Plan to be complete, to see how it works for the community.

## **16. Clerks Salary (revised NALC pay scales)**

**ACTION: The Clerk to send out the revised NALC pay scales to all Councillors. Agenda item for November .**

## **17. Discussion with School and potential AONB project**

Cllr Hill has spoken to the School. no project to date, however will speak to Matt again.

## **18. FINANCES**

### **Payments to be authorised**

- A. Lisa Hutchings - August 2020 - £352.00
- B. HMRC 20% Tax - £88.00
- C. Royal British Legion - Wreath - £17.00

**Cllr Ashworth proposed to authorise items a to c, seconded by Cllr Spittles. All in agreement**

### **18.1 Income received & Bank Account Balance**

Torrige District Council - 2nd Precept Installment - £7283.00

Current account - £6147.78 Reserve account - £17,502.78

## **19. Correspondence**

- Mr Willetts letters dated 14th September 2020 and 29th September 2020
- Planning for the Future - Torrige District Council Planning Reforms Workshop Presentation Slides

## **20. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Virtual meeting to be held on the 17th November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom (unless otherwise advised by the Government)