

Minutes of the Virtual Woolfardisworthy Parish Council held on the 15th December 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

1.0 Attendance

Parish Cllrs: M Hill (Chair), L Spittles, S Hill, R Heywood, S Raffe and S Harding (also District Cllr).
County Cllr Inch
Members of the public.

2.0 Apologies

None.

3.0 Public Comment Session

Presentation by Liza Oxford - Torridge Engagement Census 2021

- The Census is run by the Office for National Statistics(ONS), taking place every 10 years.
- The Census for 2021 will take place on the 21st March, with two new questions for veterans and LGBT groups.
- Parishioners data will remain confidential for 100 years.
- Following completion of the Census it will take approximately 12 months before information starts to come through.
- The Census provides information, helping the Government to shape policy, planning local services, allocating resources and funding. It is used by local councils, charities and other organisations.
- 2021 will be a digital first, with the ONS hoping to achieve 75% of households completing their surveys online. It is acknowledged that there will be challenges in rural areas and with those that don't have access to IT or lack digital skills.
- Paper copies will be available.
- Support will be in place to help people complete, whether it is online or paper based.
- Focus groups will be targeting those hardest to reach, which includes adults 80 plus, eastern europeans, gypsies and travellers, rough sleepers and those with low digital skills.
- The Census will have an access code, and can be accessed through all forms of digital, i.e. computer, laptop, Ipad and phone.
- The ONS would like the support of the Parish Council to raise awareness of the Census, encouraging people to complete. There will be promotional materials provided to the PC.
- The Census is compulsory and can be completed prior to the 21st March. Those who do not complete will receive a reminder and a visit if required. Non completion could result in a £1000 fine.

A parishioner asked whether the Parish Council is aware of the level of public dissatisfaction regarding MXB developments, which has been published on Facebook over the last two weeks. It was noted that nothing has been done by the Parish Council.

The parishioner notes that he had found the minutes of the MXB meetings (requested in email 10th December). It was stated that it was clear the people involved with the meetings do not understand what they are doing or what they are looking at.

Both points were noted by the Parish Council, and will be covered below under the MXB Sub-Committee agenda item. It was asked whether this was democracy, and suggested that the Chair should have a response.

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

Cllr Harding declared an interest in the Parish Council Grants "Project Linus".

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 Harding, seconded by Cllr Hill

6.0 Minutes of the Planning Meeting 17th November 2020 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 Hewyood, seconded by Cllr Spittles.

7.0 Clerk's Report

- A. Lead for Footpaths - ACTION: Agenda item for the next meeting**
- B. Cllr Inch grant for Christmas Tree & Lights - Submitted by the Clerk**
- C. Removal of Phone Box at Bucks Cross - BT has agreed to pay for making the ground level.**
- D. Planning Training - ACTION: The Clerk to confirm a date with TDC.**
- E. Parish Clerk Appraisal - ACTION: Date to be set prior to the January meeting**
- F. Grass Cutting Tender March 2021 - October 2023 - ACTION: Clerk to issue Tender with a deadline of February 2021.**

7.0 Reports from County Cllr, District Cllrs and Parish Cllrs

County Councillor Inch

- Sends out reports, highlighted the Economic Briefing for Torridge. It was noted that Bideford Town is the most deprived area in Devon, and therefore more work needs to be done by Torridge District Council and Devon County Council in lobbying for Torridge, reflecting the true picture of the area.
- Cllr Inch has liaised with Highways with regards to the flooding on the double bends near Merry Harriers. Highways is working with the landowner.
- Salt Bins to check if stock is required to contact Highways.
- The Government will be providing an update on the Tier's tomorrow. It is thought that Devon will remain in Tier 2.
- John Hart from Devon County Council attended a Torridge District Council meeting. Discussed budgets for next financial year, looks like Council Tax will rise again.
- The grant for the Christmas Lights & Tree is with DCC. **Action: The Clerk to email Cllr Inch when paid.**
- Highlighted the importance of nominating a lead for the footpaths. Cllr Inch is the Vice Chair of the DCC Public Footpaths Committee. it was noted that all footpaths have to be registered by 2026, therefore it is important that Woolsery has a definitive footpath map.

District Councillors

Cllr Harding - Torridge District Council held their full council meeting on the 14th December, where the head of legal and governance provided a report of localisation of local council tax support. It was agreed to roll over the council tax support, including the discretionary housing grant. Therefore if anyone is experiencing difficulties they should contact TDC.

There will be a review and updates to the North Devon & Torridge Local Plan.

At the External Scrutiny meeting, the Head of Police at Devon & Cornwall Constabulary gave an update on crime, which has dropped in Torridge. The Facebook messenger has proved successful in getting messages to PSCO's, and has been instrumental in arrests associated with County Lines. The biggest fear is the increase in mental health, where work is being done to support people.

Cllr Harding stated that he has visited Old Pound House with regards to the planning application. It was noted that the multipurpose facility and bar area is for use by those staying at the premises, a communal area only.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Heywood - Asked if the Black Bags had been distributed to the resident at Copper Close. Delivered by Cllr S Hill.

Cllr Raffe - Noted that there was a build up of water on the left hand side at Powlers Piece. This is outside Woolserly Parish Council and under County Cllr Barry Parsons area. However, the Clerk will report to Highways.

8.0 Planning Applications

Applications

1/1058/2020/FUL - Retrospective application for the construction of a ground source heat system - Land At Moorhead Farm Woolserly. Deadline for submission 25th December 2020. **The Parish Council made no comments.**

1/0711/2020/FUL - Change of use of land and proposed siting of 1. no. multi purpose facility unit and 3. no. glamping units. Old Pound House, Woolserly. Response by 2nd January 2021. **The Parish Council thanked the Architect for providing additional information, there were no concerns raised.**

Decisions & Appeals – FYI

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 the Manor Inn. Woolserly. Application granted

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, Woolserly. Application granted.

1/0890/2020/FUL - New Orangery replacing existing conservatory. The Old Shippon, Bucks Cross. Application granted.

9.0 Progress of Highways Issues

Review of priority roads in the Parish - to put forward for budget 2021/2022 - ACTION: The Clerk to send out the list of roads from last year, Cllrs to review with proposals to be discussed at the January meeting. The priority roads should be submitted no later than February.

Woolserly

- A. Leaworthy Cross - The flooding and drainage issues have been reported to Highways.
- B. Pleademill Bridge - The Clerk to clarify if the work has been completed.
- C. Repairs outside Claw Farm - Reported to Highways
- D. Finger Posts - Reported to Highways.

Bucks Cross / Mills

A. Double Bends at Merry Harriers - Covered above by Cllr Inch, Highways working with the landowner.

Road Closures

1st - 12th February 2021 - Road from the Farmers Arms to Alminstone Cross. EXCAVATE TRENCH IN ROAD TO RE CONNECT EXISTING SEWER PIPE. TAKE OUT EXISTING KERBS AND REPLACE WITH NEW GRANITE KERBS. INSTALL NEW DISH CHANNEL KERBS

16th - 26th February 2021 - Road from Fernlea to Auction Way, Woolsey - EXCAVATE TRENCH IN ROAD TO RE CONNECT EXISTING SEWER PIPE. TAKE OUT EXISTING KERBS AND REPLACE WITH NEW GRANITE KERBS. INSTALL NEW DISH CHANNEL KERBS.

1st - 26th March 2021 - Road from Cranford Water Bridge to Farmers Arms. TAKE OUT EXISTING KERBS AND REPLACE WITH NEW GRANITE KERBS. INSTALL NEW CROSSOVER. INSTALL NEW GRANITE DISH CHANNEL STONES. LAY GRANITE STONES IN FARMERS ARMS FOOTPATH.

10. Covid-19 Updates

The Government will be making announcements on the Tiers on the 16th December, as Cllr Inch reported it is thought that Devon will remain in Tier 2.

No further updates in terms of additional funding. The Parish Council will remain meeting on Zoom, until notified.

11. Affordable Housing, Parish Plan 2021 & Parking in the Parish (Update Cllr Hill)

Cllr Hill feels that there should be a new Parish Plan for 2021, gaining feedback from parishioners on their vision for the Parish. **ACTION: Councillors to consider a Parish Plan 2021, with a decision on a way forward to be made in January 2021. Cllr Harding stated that he would ask Ian Rawlinson at Torridge District Council to talk to the Parish Council.**

In terms of Affordable Housing, the flats built by the Parish Hall Committee are not associated with the Parish Council. The Parish Council only supported the planning application, and has its own plans for further affordable housing in the Parish. Colin Savage from Devon Communities Together will be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting in January, so that they next steps can be discussed.

13. Update from MXB Sub-Committee

The aim of the MXB Sub-Committee is to provide dialogue between the Parish Council and MXB. The minutes represent the response / answers provided by MXB. If there is an issue, the Parish Council can raise this at the MXB Sub-Committee meeting.

As in the previous minutes, Max Fordham carried out a noise assessment to address the concerns raised by the Environmental Protection Officer at Torridge District Council.

In terms of the Affordable Housing the enquiry was from an agent. Torridge District Council informed them that there was no access, therefore the impression was that this has been shelved. Cllr Harding asked whether this could be reviewed again when discussing the Parish Council and future parish development.

Cllr Heywood states that the Parish Council and Sub-Committee are aware of the comments on Facebook. The aim of the group is to disseminate information to the Public, therefore Cllr Heywood proposed to publish a brief statement on the "expected work in the next month" on the Parish Council Facebook page. Any questions, comments or concerns, etc, should be emailed to the Parish Clerk, who will then disseminate as required. Seconded by Cllr Harding, all in favour.

The full agenda and minutes of the Sub-Committee will be published on the Parish Council website.

ACTION: The Clerk to post the website link on the Parish Council Facebook page and in the Village Newsletter.

14. Co-option of Councillor

Adrian Sealey has applied to become a Parish Councillor, email previously sent to Councillors. Cllr Harding proposed to co-opt Adrian Sealey onto the Council, seconded by Cllr Spittles. All in agreement. **ACTION: The Clerk to write to Adrian and Torridge District Council.**

18. FINANCES

Payments to be authorised

- A. Lisa Hutchings - November 2020 - £439.68
- B. HMRC 20% Tax - November 2020 - £109.92
- C. Lisa Hutchings - Backdated pay from April 2020 - £613.76
- D. HMRC 20% Tax - Backdated pay from April 2020 - £153.44
- E. Stacey Christmas Tree Farm - £89.00
- F. Robert Stoneman - Grass Cutting Contract - £1250.00

Cllr M Hill proposed to authorise items a to d, seconded by Cllr Spittles All in agreement.

Cllr Harding proposed to authorise item e, seconded by Cllr S Hill. All in agreement.

Cllr Spittles proposed to authorise item f, seconded by Raffe. All in agreement.

Income received & Bank Account Balance

Current account - £5106.48 Reserve account - £17,503,15.

Parish Council Grants - To be approved

Details	Amount to be paid May 2021
Local Organisations	
Woolsery Primary School	£150.00
1st Woolsery Scout Group	£150.00
The Good Companions	£100.00
Woolsery Tiny Tots	NOT APPLIED
Woolsery Junior Football Club	NOT APPLIED
Woolsery Sports & Community Hall - Badminton Club	CLUB FOLDED
All Hallows Church	£150.00
Friends of Woolsery School (FOWS)	£150.00
Woolsery Youth Club	£150.00
Bucks Cross Village Hall	£150.00
Project Linus	£150.00
Proposed by Cllr S Hill, Seconded by Cllr Spittles. All in favour, excluding Cllr Harding who abstained due to declaration of interest in Project Linus.	
External Organisations	
Torrige, North, Mid and West Devon CAB	£150.00
South West Heritage Trust - ND Record Office	£50.00
Torrige Volunteer Cars	£150.00
Life Education Wessex and Thames Valley (working with Woolsery School)	Not approved
Proposed by Cllr Harding, Seconded by Cllr Spittles. All in favour	

Draft Budget for 2021 / 2022 - Questions

The Clerk circulated the draft budget for 2021 / 2022. Precept and budget to be agreed at the January meeting. Any questions, please contact the Clerk.

19. Correspondence

Interim Devon Carbon Plan

Mr Willetts Correspondence - 03/12/2020, 30/11/2020, 26/11/2020 - The Clerk noted that Mr Willetts emails dated 10/12/2020 and 15/12/2020 were not on the agenda, as it had already been issued.

20. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Virtual meeting to be held on the 19th January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom (unless otherwise advised by the Government)