

# Minutes of the Virtual Woolfardisworthy Parish Council held on the 17th November 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 stated that there has been no response from Torridge District Council regarding the email (15/11/2020) relating to the outstanding planning applications for The Manor Inn and Woolsey Sports & Community Hall.

If a response is not received by the end of the week, the parishioner can go back to the Secretary of State. It was stated that the Parish Council, District Council and others concerned have ignored points of concern raised, and therefore any action taken will be a tribunal decision, taking it out of normal court proceedings.

Concerns were also raised with regards to the illegal installation of the LPG Gas Tanks, which are not compliant with gas regulations, meaning a risk to all. This will also form part of the action taken.

The Parishioner asked if there were any questions. No questions were raised.

## **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 Harding, seconded by Cllr Hill

## **6.0 Minutes of the Planning Meeting 29th October 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 Hewwood, seconded by Cllr Spittles.

## **7.0 Clerk's Report**

- A. Christmas Tree** - Ordered to be delivered for the first weekend in December.
- B. Annual Parish Council Grants** - Deadline 4th December
- C. Budget & Precept 2021/2022** - The Clerk will present a draft at the December meeting, with the Precept to be set in January 2021.
- D. Removal of Phone Box at Bucks Cross** - Despite the email received the Phone Box has been removed, leaving a ground uneven. **ACTION: The Clerk to contact BT with regards to making the ground level.**
- E. Planning Training** - Unfortunately DALC cannot deliver this, however TDC can support. It was suggested that a case study would be good to work through, promoting Cllrs to ask relevant questions. It was agreed to hold the training on another evening. **ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Shaun Harrington at TDC to confirm date for training.**

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

### **County Councillor Inch**

- Liaised with Cllr Spittles with regards to the clear-up operation at Bucks Mills. Was pleased to see that authorities acted quickly.
- Sends out reports, highlighted the Economic Briefing for Torridge. It was noted that Bideford Town is the 3rd 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.
- Christmas Tree - Cllr Inch is happy to support the cost of the tree and lights. **ACTION: The Clerk to apply for the grant.**
- Cllr Inch has liaised with Highways with regards to the flooding on the double bends near Merry Harriers. It was noted that the problem is with the landowner not clearing the hedge on the other side of the road. Highways have written to the landowner. However, as previously highlighted, the drain is blocked and needs clearing. Cllr Inch stated that Highways were going to inspect this week. **ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Keiran**
- Bucks Mills Fencing is ongoing, In terms of the subsidence, gabions will be installed.

## **District Councillors**

**Cllr Harding** - Highlighted that 34,000 residents in Devon are registered as clinically vulnerable. If anyone is struggling they should contact Torridge District Council who will assist.

Prior to the second lockdown Torridge District Council agreed to provide funding to reopen the Torridge Pool. Unfortunately they are currently closed, but planning to open post lockdown. Holsworthy Pool is also looking to open in the near future.

## **Parish Councillors**

**Cllr Spittles** - The clear-up operation at Bucks Mills went very well with many volunteers helping to clear the area. There was an issue with surfers parking, which blocked the road, resulting in lorries having to reverse back up the hill.

Highstead Farm needs to put a water pipe across footpath number seven. In terms of ownership this would be Devon County Council. Cllr Spittles will pass on the details to the owners.

**Cllr Heywood** - In terms of the accessibility to broadband, BT are looking at installing fibre options in the area. **ACTION: Cllr Heywood to contact Torridge District Council.**

Unfortunately the finger posts have been bent as a result of wind conditions. They are not fit for purpose. **ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Highways.**

Lastly Cllr Heywood highlighted that Torridge relies heavily on agriculture. Cllr Hewood asked why Cllr Harding and Cllr Inch did not vote in favour of the amendment to the Agricultural Bill. Cllr Harding stated that he required additional information and felt that there were more questions to be asked, hence why he abstained. On the detail received, concerns were raised as to whether the amendments were an additional layer of bureaucracy.

Cllr Inch agreed with Cllr Harding stated that he voted against. From the information received from the MP, Cllr Inch stated that within the UK the Food Standards Policy is up-to-date. It was questioned whether the EU Lords were trying to add additional processes. It was noted that he agreed in principle, understanding the concerns of farmers, however considers that in the UK we will abide by our own Food Standards.

Cllr Heywood thanked Cllrs for their response, stating that from the responses he doesn't feel that the amendments had been properly read.

**Cllr Ashworth** - Noted that this will be his last meeting. He asked who would take over the lead for Footpaths. **ACTION: agenda item for next meeting.** Those present thanked Cllr Ashworthy for his hard work on the Parish Council.

**Cllr Hill** - Felt that it would be beneficial to reconsider undertaking a Parish Plan. He asked Cllrs to think about this prior to the next PC meeting. **Action: agenda item for the next meeting.**

## **8.0 Planning Applications**

### **Applications**

1/0961/2020/FUL - Erection of three agriculture dwellings (removal of condition 3 of planning permission 1/1154/1989, agricultural occupancy condition). Huddisford Lea, Woolsery. **The Parish Council raised no comments.**

1/0940/2020/FUL - Side extension to incorporate two storey extension over existing extension (variation of condition 2 of planning permission 1/0839/2019/FUL). 2 Cransford Cross, Woolsery. **Response by 22nd November 2020. The Parish Council raised no comments.**

### **Decisions & Appeals – FYI**

1/1804/2020/FUH - Single garage extension to the side of the property and creation of access. 24 Old Market Drive, Woolsery. Permission granted.

## **9.0 Progress of Highways Issues**

### **Woolsery**

- 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.

**ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Highways with regards to progression of the above.**

Cllr Ashworth noted that the weeds and debris had been cleared from the bridge at Venn.

### **Road Closures**

None

### **Bucks Cross / Mills**

- A. Double Bends at Merry Harriers - Covered above.

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

Funding available from Devon County Council, however due to the specifics with the grant, it is not relevant for the Parish Council.

As mentioned above if anyone is struggling they should Janet Williams at Torridge District Council who will sign-post to relevant support. There is funding for businesses through the District Council.

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

Cllr Hill is going to ask Colin Savage from Devon Communities Together to attend the next meeting. Following a site meeting with Torridge District Council, Colin felt the response was positive and something to work on. Cllr Hill will send details out prior to the next meeting, so that the next steps can be discussed.

## **13. Update from MXB Sub-Committee**

The minutes of the meeting 12th November were circulated. Cllr Heywood thanked those for making it a good meeting. In order not to misrepresent anything said, the updates will refer to the minutes, with members being able to ask questions if required.

In terms of update since the meeting:

- The legal obligations to replace Benchmarks ended in the 1980's, as confirmed by the Ordnance Survey. Despite this being lost, Emily is keen to track the stone and relocate it.
- The Parish Council had raised concerns with regards to the perceived insertion that would prevent parking onsite. Following discussion, the architect has provided an overlay of the plans, which confirms that the detail on the plan is a planter, but more importantly vehicles will be able to make deliveries onsite.

The next meeting is the 10th December, therefore any agenda items are to be sent to the Clerk by the 4th December, am, at the latest.

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

An ongoing issue which may form part of the Parish Plan, asking residents what they would like.

## **15. Bucks Mills Clear-Up Operation**

Detailed above.

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

Cllr Spittles proposed to increase the Parish Clerks salary to Scale 21, in line with the NALC pay scales, and backdating to April 2020 as stated by NALC. Seconded by Cllr Hill, all in agreement.

It was noted that going forward the Chair at the time should keep an eye on the Clerk's salary. An appraisal was also discussed. **Action: Agenda item for next meeting.**

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

Will not be progressing with a project.

## **18. FINANCES**

### **Payments to be authorised**

- A. Lisa Hutchings - October 2020 - £352.00
- B. HMRC 20% Tax - October 2020 - £88.00
- C. Lisa Hutchings - Reimburse of 123 reg for website - £14.39
- D. Hartland Parish Council - Shared Zoom Licence - £21.58
- E. TTVS Membership - £20.00

**Clr Harding proposed to authorise items a to e, seconded by Clr Hill.. All in agreement**

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

Current account - £5514.75, Reserve account - £17,502.78

## **19. Correspondence**

- a) TTVS - New Trustees
- b) Household Waste Recycling Centre
- c) Emails x 3 from Mr Willetts, 21st October 2020
- d) Email from John Andrews re mobile catering unit - **ACTION: The Clerk to write to Mr Andrews, thanking him for the email, but unfortunately as long as the business is adhering to Health & Hygiene regulations there is nothing that the Parish Council can do. The Parish Council spoke to Emily Harmen (MXB) who stated she welcomed competition into the area, providing different options for the community.**

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

Virtual meeting to be held on the 15th December 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom (unless otherwise advised by the Government)