

# Minutes of the Virtual Woolfardisworthy Parish Council held on the 19th January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

## **1.0 Attendance**

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

County Cllr Inch and District Cllr R Boughton

Colin Savage (Devon Rural Housing Partnership)

Member of the public.

## **2.0 Apologies**

District Cllr Anna Dart

## **3.0 Public Comment Session**

A parishioner raised the following concerns, with a submission of a letter 19/01/2021) covering each point below in more detail:

1. The October 2020 meeting minutes were not published in the Woolsey Village News magazine but archived directly into the Parish Council website record, contrary to protocol. The reason and objective obviously explained by the content included in the public comment session.
2. The Manor development and MXB sub-committee . The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - public comments - stated that “ the people involved with the meetings do not understand what they are doing or what they are looking at”.

Justification for this is shown in the Agendas and Minutes produced to date and confirmed by their response to my letter offering a full and detailed explanation behind the Formal Complaint. The latest developments and detailed justification of all the issues raised is included in the attached letter.

3. Agenda for Parish Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 :-

( a ) Item 13 - Parking in the Village.

Paragraph 2. ( b ) of the attached letter questions the legality of the planned road works and pedestrian crossing across the Main Road between The Manor and Farmers Arms and its likely effect on parking and public safety at the centre of the village. Also the sewer connections, additional and different to those included in the approved planning application.

( b ) Items 6 & 7 - Presentation by Colin Savage ( Devon Communities Together ) & Affordable Housing - Paragraph 3 of the attached letter explains the history and background to the issue, together with the justification for including it in the Formal Complaint.

This email and supporting letter of explanation is the result of both Parish & District Councillors refusal to respond to public issues raised.

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

Cllr Heywood declared an interest for the financial item "Cllr Heywood Expenses".

#### **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 Raffe.

#### **6.0 Affordable Housing - Presentation by Colin Savage (Rural Housing Enabler - Devon Rural Housing Partnership)**

Colin gave a presentation on Affordable Housing in Woolsery, including an overview of the alternative delivery models (Traditional Housing Association, Community Land Trusts, Rent Plus and Private Developer).

Questions raised;

1. The Housing Association will own the lease on the land, how does this impact on any potential lease changes? It was stated a Community Land Trust is exempt from this.
2. With a CLT, 10% of the costs are to be met locally - how? This is the Community Housing Fund, of which Torridge District Council has a small amount remaining. Colin's time can also be used at match funding. In the larger grant from the Homes England is applied for, time can be used from Colin and the Wessex Trust.

**ACTION: All Councillors to review the options discussed and detailed in Colin's presentation, to discuss a way forward at the next meeting**

## **7.0 Clerk's Report**

- A. Lead for Footpaths** - Cllr Harding, Cllr Raffe and Cllr Heywood agreed to monitor the footpaths.
- B. Planning Training - ACTION: The Clerk to confirm a date with TDC.**
- C. Wildflower & Gateway Project:** To look at creating gateways to the Parish (4 in Woolsey and 4 in Bucks Cross and Bucks Mills), and potentially getting the school involved in the design.  
**ACTION: Cllr Harding to bring some ideas to the next meeting.**
- D. Grass Cutting Tender** - Is not due until 2022
- E. Parish Clerk Appraisal - ACTION: Date to be set prior to the January meeting**
- F. Salt Bin** - Reported to Highways who will assess the bin and fill.

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

### **County Councillor Inch**

- Salt Bins needs checking.
- Free Meals for Children - There has been media with regards to the standard of the food packs. However, Devon County Council provides excellent pre-pack meals, of which there has only been one complaint. As well as the packs, the School has the option to give out the £15 per week.
- Devon County Council will be increasing the Council Tax next year, as well as Torridge District Council.
- Footpath - Cllr Inch is the Vice Chair of the Rights of Way Committee, therefore those monitoring footpaths can also liaise with Cllr Inch.
- Wildflower & Gateway Project - Cllr Inch still has grant funds left and would be keen to support the project. Abbotsham has a similar project with wildflower on the verges, of which Devon County Council provided stakes in order to prevent cutting.

### **District Councillors**

**Cllr Boughton** - Setting the budget for 2021 / 2022 will take place over the next month, firstly with the review of potential spend and ways of increasing income through Council Tax, Parking and Green Waste Charges. Any proposals are to be reviewed at the C&R meeting, as well as the Internal Overview & Scrutiny, with any final proposals having to be approved by the Full Council.

**Cllr Harding** - Torridge District Council has Covid grants available to businesses. Devon County Council has funding available of up to £700, which can help with meals.

## **Parish Councillors**

### **Clr Spittles**

- The road has been closed down to Bucks Mills to allow extensive work with gabion baskets and fencing.
- The Police asked a second home owner to return home.
- It has been one year since the Bucks Mills drainage was discussed with no further updates. The Clerk noted that the SWW feasibility study was not due to March 2021. **Action: The Clerk to liaise with Mark Beer at Torridge District Council to see if there has been any updates from South West Water.**
- In the public comment session it was stated that the October 2020 minutes were not published in the Woolserly Village News, contrary to protocol. It was noted that whilst the Clerk submits the full minutes to the Village News, it is not protocol.

**Clr M Hill** - Received a complaint with regards to the scaffolding around The Smithy, stating that there were no lights at night. **ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with MXB regarding this.**

## **9.0 Planning Applications**

### **Applications**

1/1155/2020/FUL - Three proposed commercial fishing lakes, amenity building, parking and access. Land at Higher Ashmansworthy, Woolserly. Response by 20th January, as agreed by TDC.

An objection letter was received from Mr Bonnefin. **Following conversation the Parish Council supported the points raised by Mr Bonnefin, stating that these need to be addressed.**

1/1193/2020/FUL - Proposed extensions and alterations. Walland Barn, Bucks Cross. Response by 29th January 2021. - **Woolserly Parish Council raised no objections.**

### **Decisions & Appeals – FYI**

None.

## **10.0 Progress of Highways Issues**

**Review of priority roads in the Parish - to put forward for budget 2021/2022 - ACTION: The Clerk to ascertain what roads have been addressed in the Parish during 2020/2021. Priority roads to be set at the February meeting.**

### **Woolserly**

A. No parking cones during road closures below (Manor Park) - Highways stated that the diversion route is around the A39 and not through Manor Park. Whilst the cones will be placed on this occasion, they are not enforceable and not something that Highways would normally do.

**Action: The Clerk to liaise with Highways to see whether the Parish Council could place their own cones.**

- B. Leaworthy Cross , Pleademill Bridge and Repairs outside Claw Farm - No update.
- C. Finger Posts - Highways Team to inspect the finger posts, reporting back to the Parish Council.

Other Highways issues raised included:

- The junction from Parkham to Cranford needs attention, as there have been two recent accidents. This includes, repainting the junction road marking and adjusting the give way sign so that it is facing the right way. **ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Highways.**
- When the road is closed from School Corner to Copper Hill for the connection of a sewer pipe, could Highways also address the issue of the drain at the bottom of Copper Hill, which still overflows. **ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Highways.**
- The mirror on the bank at Merry Harriers has been broken. Permission was previously given. **ACTION: Cllr Heywood to liaise with the owner and replace the mirror.**

## **Road Closures**

**11th - 15th January 2021, 18th - 22nd January 2021 and 25th - 29th January 2021. Road closed from Buck Cross to Laburnum Cottage, Bucks Cross. Closed to allow Gabion Baskets and Fencing.**

**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, Woolsery - 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.**

## **11. Covid-19 Updates**

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

## **12. Parish Plan 2021 Update Cllr Hill)**

Following discussion it was agreed for Councillors to consider what they would feel is required in the Parish, i.e. Affordable Housing, Industrial Units, etc. Ideas to be submitted to the Clerk by the 9th February, who will summarise into a list, ready for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting, 16th February. **Action: Agenda item for the next meeting.**

## **13. Parking in the Parish (Update Cllr Hill)**

Complaint received with regards to parking in front of the Manor. No further updates.

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

The minutes from the meeting 14th January were circulated. Cllr Heywood noted the great efforts made by MXB in finding the benchmark stone.

The replacement of the granite kerbs were initially refused by Highways due to the cost of up-keep. It was thought that Highways changed their mind, as MXB will be responsible for the maintenance.

**ACTION: To ask the question at the next MXB Sub-Committee meeting.**

## **15. FINANCES**

### **Payments to be authorised**

- a) Lisa Hutchings - December 2020 - £439.68
- b) HMRC 20% Tax - December 2020 - £109.92
- c) SLCC Membership 2021 - £130.00
- d) Cllr Heywood - Reimbursement for Christmas Lights - £84.98

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

**Cllr M Hill proposed to authorise item d, seconded by Cllr Harding. All in agreement, excluding Cllr Heywood who declared an interest.**

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

Devon Council Council - Cllr Inch Grant - £200.00 (Christmas Lights & Tree)

Current account - £2977.32 Reserve account - £17,503,15.

### **To set the Budget & Precept for 2021 / 2022**

The Clerk went through the proposed budget and precept. Cllr S Hill proposed to keep the Precept the same at £14,566, seconded by Cllr Spittles. All in agreement. **ACTION: The Clerk to submit the Precept form to Torridge District Council.**

## **16. Correspondence**

Interim Devon Carbon Plan

Mr Willetts Correspondence - 10/12/2020, 15/12/2020, 16/12/2020

Mr Bonnefin letter 7/01/2021 (re planning application 1/1155/2020/FUL) above)

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

Virtual meeting to be held on the 16th February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom (unless otherwise advised by the Government)