

**Minutes of the Virtual Woolfardisworthy Parish Council held on the
18th August 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

1.0 Attendance

Parish Cllrs: Spittles (Vice-Chair - Chaired the meeting), S Hill, Ashworth and Harding (also District Cllr)
A member of the public.

2.0 Apologies

Parish Cllrs Hill and Heywood.

3.0 Public Comment Session

None

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

Cllr S Hill declared an interest for 19.d finance payment detailed below.

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

Proposed by Cllr Ashworth , Seconded by Cllr Spittles. All in favour. The minutes will be signed by the Chair at the next face-to-face meeting

6.0 Clerk's Report

- a) **Cutting of hedgerow by bench at Copper Hill** - Cllr Harding spoke to the landowner who stated that he has arranged a cut for the Autumn and Spring.
- b) **Resignation of Cllr V Hastings** - Resignation received and circulated to Cllrs. **Action: The Clerk to inform Torridge District Council.**
- c) **Sign Post at Crossway near West Country Nurseries** - The Clerk has reported this to Highways.

7.0 Reports from County Cllr, District Cllrs and Parish Cllrs

District & Parish Cllr S Harding - The slipway at Westward Ho! is now complete, making it accessible to all. A C&R meeting at Torridge District Council took place, where the free 2 hours parking for the towns was approved. Cllr Harding also reported that Steve Hearst is the newly appointed CEO at Torridge District Council.

In terms of the Parish, Cllr Harding noted that he had reported the Moorhead Bridleway, which has now been sorted by Devon County Council.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Ashworth - Thanked the Clerk for reporting the road between Lower and Higher Venn, which has been marked.

Cllr Hill - Noted that the roads Woolsery side of Ash Hill have been addressed by Highways. However, Ash Hill, Bradworthy side remains in a state.

It was noted that there is weeds, etc, growing out of the drain on the second Bucks Cross corner, which will require cleaning before it causes a blockage and consequently flooding. **Action: The Clerk to report to Highways.**

Cllr Spittles - Noted that the drainage spots have been cleared at Bucks Mills, including some repairs to the road.

Cllr Spittles asked about the Defib project at Ivy Cottage. This has been on hold since Covid-19 due to the owners of Ivy Cottage having to shield. The project was due to be funded by MXB Devon Operations, however the Clerk suggested that this agreement should be revisited in light of the Pandemic. **Action: The Clerk to liaise with Emily Harmon.**

8.0 Planning Applications

Applications

GE400/2020 - Removal of payphone, Bucks Coss. Response by 16th August. **Parish Councillors had no objections to it being removed, however the Clerk to check that the area of land will be made right for the landowners.**

Decisions & Appeals – FYI

1/0416/2020/OUT - Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 1 dwelling. Whitcott House, Bucks Cross. **Application refused.**

9.0 Progress of Highways Issues

Woolsery

- a) **Road between Lower and Higher Venn** - reported by the Clerk
- b) **Lane Mill Bridge** - Repairs booked for the 24th August 2020 for 1 week.
- c) **Update re installation of fingerposts** - The fingerposts have been installed with number 8 remaining.

Bucks Cross

- a) **Fencing at Bucks Mills** – Agenda item next month
- b) **Bucks Cross Dropped Kerb** - Confirmed by Highways that this will form part of the Stage 4 Safety Audit
- c) **Bucks Cross Speeding** - Councillors agreed to a SCARF should it add more weight in providing evidence for the dropped kerb. **Action: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Inch, whose support is required for a SCARF.**
- d) **Road Verge outside Whispering Winds, Bucks Cross** - Reported to Highways

Road Closures

None

10. Covid-19 Updates

Torrige District Council stated in writing in June 2020 that there was no deadline to spend the funds, a further email has been received today stating that the Covid funding has to be spent by 7th September 2020. **Action: The Clerk to write a joint letter from Woolsery, Welcombe and Hartland raising concerns with regards to the above, as Councils have held their funds for the winter and support after the furlough scheme ends in October. Cllr Harding agreed to speak to Torrige District Council.**

11. Parish Council Website - Website Accessibility Regulations - September 2020

Kieren Spittles and the Clerk have been working on the website. The Clerk is waiting for Kieren to check the Accessibility Statement and complete any work. The statement will be presented to the Council at the September meeting. **Action: The Clerk to liaise with Kieren.**

12. Japanese Knotweed

It was noted that the Japanese Knotweed has now been sprayed. It agreed to monitor the situation to ensure that it dies off.

13. Wildflower Project Update & Village Gateways (Cllr Hill)

Agenda for next meeting.

14. Children's Skate Park or Pirate Ship

Despite the resignation of Cllr Hastings, she has agreed to proceed with this project. The Parish Council will provide any support required. **Action: The Clerk to write to Vicky Hastings.**

15. Affordable Housing (Update Cllr Hill)

Colin Savage is now lead of Affordable Housing at Devon Communities Together. He would like to arrange a site appraisal either the 8th or 10th September. **Action: Cllr Hill to confirm meeting with Colin.**

Cllr Harding suggested that it would be beneficial to look at ideas and discuss how the Parish may expand and where. Cllr Harding has some ideas and will draft a paper for discussion at the next meeting. **Action: Agenda item next meeting.**

16. Establishment of working group with MXB Devon Operations

Action: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr M Hill.

17. Black Blag Distribution – addition of food caddy bags and how will it be carried out in 2020

Torrige District Council were not able to confirm how many within the Parish are using food caddy bags. Due to the lack of evidence of use and the high cost of the bags of £2156.64, Councilors agreed not to pursue with this, until evidence of need has been demonstrated.

However, Black Bag Distribution will possibly take place in October. **Action: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Heywood with regards to a date. Once confirmed, the Clerk will promote the day.**

18 Co-option of Parish Councillor

An email from Scott Raffe has been received informing the Council as to why he would like to become a Parish Councillor. Cllr Spittles proposed to co-opt Scott Raffe, seconded by Cllr S Hill. All in agreement. **Action: The Clerk to send Councillor forms and information.**

19. FINANCES

Payments to be authorised

- a) Lisa Hutchings - July 2020 - £352.00
- b) HMRC 20% Tax - £88.00
- c) Lisa Hutchings - McAfee Anti-Virus Software Annual Fee - £89.99
- d) Cllr S Hill - Food Packages (Covid) - £61.14

Cllr Spittles proposed to authorise items a to c, seconded by Cllr Ashworth, all in agreement. Cllr Ashworth proposed to authorise item d, seconded by Cllr Spittles, all in agreement, excluding Cllr S Hill who declared an interest.

19.1 Income received & Bank Account Balance

Current account - £8779.25, Reserve account - £10,219.42. It was noted that £7283.00, 50% of the Precept, had been transferred from the Reserve account to the Current account.

20.0 Correspondence

- The Local Government Ombudsman Final Report is now available in the public domain <https://www.lgo.org.uk/Decisions/SearchResults?q=Torridge&t=both&fd=0001-01-01&td=2020-08-19&dc=c%2Bnu%2Bu%2B&sortOrder=descending>
- Mr Willetts letter to Mr Cameron Black (LGO Investigator) - 30th July 2020.
- Mr Willetts letter to Ms Thackrey 7th August 2020

21.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Virtual meeting to be held on the 15th September 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom (unless otherwise advised by the Government)