

**Minutes of Woolfardisworthy Parish Council held on the
15th January 2019 7.30pm at Woolsery Sports & Community Hall**

1.0 Attendance

Cllrs Hamilton, Spittles, Hill, Heywood, Ashworth and Medd.
County Councillor Inch and District Cllr Julian
Members of the public

2.0 Apologies

None

3.0 Public Comment Session

Mr Willetts

Raised two issues:

Birch Farm

North Devon & Torridge Local Plan in particular reference to the developments within the Parish and the number of planning applications relating to Birch Farm. Mr Willetts stated that people should be aware of the need to understand the full developments and how it will affect the infrastructure within the Parish.

Auction Way / Copper Close Car Park

A second planning application has been submitted, mainly due to the objections raised. Mr Willetts stated that the same issues apply in terms of the residents' rights under their properties title of register and the conversance that exists in the original planning application.

Mr Willetts stated that he has reached an agreement with Torridge District Council Solicitor, who has confirmed that they are free to progress forward to the Secretary of State to apply for land registry. This is to rule on the contradiction of the planning and the contracts between the residents' title of register and what the developers are applying for.

It was noted to Mr Willetts that there is a clear distinction between planning and ownership. Ownership is a legal matter not a planning consideration. Mr Willetts stated that the discussion with the solicitors included separate issues with planning and ownership, highlighting that planners have not followed government guidelines detailed the Planning Act.

The delegated report provided by Torridge District Council states "Concerns regarding land ownership issues are a legal matter and not a material planning consideration. The applicant has submitted land registry documents which confirm that the applicant is the sole owner of the site."

Mr Willetts stated that he is raising awareness of the issues, however in the agreement that Torridge District Council agreed that it was up to the Parish Council to resolve the issues. It was made clear to Mr Willetts that the Parish Council has not received any correspondence on this matter and that it is not within the remit of the Parish Council to resolve any issues. Mr Willetts responded stating the Parish Council represents the community and that advance warnings have been given, but that the Parish Council refuses to discussion and understand any matters.

Mr Willetts asked if there were any comments regarding Birch Farm developments. The Parish Council has not received any planning applications for Birch Farm and therefore will not be discussing the application.

Mrs Bonnefin

Potholes – East Ash Hill from Ashmansworthy Bridge to East Ash Farm is extremely bad.

Action: The Clerk to report to Barry Parsons at Devon County Council, copying in Cllr Inch. Also submit a joint letter with Bradworthy Parish Council, highlighting the importance of the road being the main route between Bradworthy and Woolsery.

Mr Lott highlighted that the road to his properties, EX39 5BZ, has not seen any tarmac for approximately 40 years. The whole lane, which serves four houses and three holiday cottages, is one pothole. Visitors constantly comment on the state of the road. **Action: The Clerk to report to Highways.**

Gravel outside the pub still remains; this is due to Highways and the Farmers Arms being in discussion with regards to the surface to be used. – **Action: Cllr Hamilton to liaise with Farmers Arms obtaining an update.**

Derek Lott

Explained why the planning application 1/1820/2018/FUL was retrospective.

4.0 Declarations of Personal / Prejudicial interest for items on the agenda

Cllr Medd, Cllr Spittles, Cllr Hamilton and Cllr Ashworth declared an interest for item 13.0 below, Cllr Allowance payments.

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

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

6.0 Clerk's Report

- a. **Natwest Online Banking** – Cllr Hill has taken his ID to Natwest. **Action: The Clerk to chase Natwest to ensure that we can now progress with Online Banking.**
- b. **Communities Together Fund 2018/2019** – Parkham will be joining Buckland Brewer, with their allocation of funds supporting the School.
- c. **Defibrillator Box (Woolsery)** – The photographs of the rusted case has been sent to Debbie at the Community Heartbeat Trust. To date there has been no response. Cllr Spittles stated that the box at Bucks Cross is also rusting. **Action: The Clerk to contact Community Heartbeat Trust with regards to box cases.**

7.0 Planning

Applications

None

Decisions

1/1132/2018/FUL – Variation of condition 2 of application 1/0610/2017/FUL (variation to plans schedule). Cross Park, Woolsery. **Application granted.**

8.0 Highways

Woolsery

Repair of Huddisford Cross to Duerdon Cross erosion and subsidence – This has been completed. Clifford Gate/Forest to Harris Cross resurfacing scheduled for 16th January though only one third is marked for resurfacing.

Bucks Cross

40mph zone at Bucks Cross progressing request with DCC Highways to move zone to Bideford side of slip road to Walland Drive – At the previous meeting it was reported that Cllr Inch has suggested moving the zone to the Bideford side of Atlantic Academy. Following further discussion Cllr Hill proposed that the 40mph zone should be moved to the Bideford Side of Walland Drive at Bucks Cross. Cllrs present were in agreement.

Cllr Inch agreed that he would place this on the agenda for the HATOC meeting, 26th February. Cllr Inch will advise the Clerk, the Parish Council can attend the meeting and speak in the public comment session. The Clerk will need to advise Cllr Inch should anyone wish to attend.

Gully & Stream, Bucks Mills - The wood clearing is ongoing. It was agreed to move this item down under future items. Cllr Spittles to advise the Clerk should it require discussion.

A39 Lighting outside Atlantic Academy – A response has been received from Highways and Atlantic Academy (below):

Atlantic Academy – The Principal, Mrs Slater, stated that the issue of the school lighting had been raised by the Site Supervisor. Atlantic Academy will explore how they can change the settings for the site to better fit within the local environment and will seek advice from the installers of the building management system on how this can be done.

Highways - An initial response from Matthew Collins stated that Highways would ask their street lighting engineers to look into the issue. Unfortunately, “Highways no longer have a dedicated street lighting engineer covering Northern Devon, therefore this may take some time.”

A subsequent email was received from Darren Kelly, Devon County Council, which states the following:

“I can confirm that the street lighting has been installed as per design with a pre-set dimming regime in place. This means the luminaires will be on all night as referred, but they will drop to 75% from 21.30 and 50% output from midnight.

It is often the case that the human eye does not recognise the drop in Lux levels, as the uniformity (the spread of light) is not affected by the dimming, so essentially the area in question appears to have the same level of light.

The dimming policy in place here replicates all other main roads in Devon that have been recently been converted to LED.”

Action: Following discussion it was agreed to respond to Darren Kelly, highlighting that as there is no difference to the human eye, can the lights remain on 50% throughout the night. Copy to Cllr Inch.

Road Closures

Woolsery Primary School to Duerdon Cross – 7th & 8th February from 06:00am to 13:00pm. To enable safety for engineer to work in underground structure.

9.0 Parish Signage (using secured 2018/2019 funding of £2014)

The Parish Council is waiting for the revised drawings and costings. **Action: The Clerk to pursue with Julie Pepworth.**

10.0 East Park Bench – Plaque (Cllr Hill)

To be completed.

11.0 Appropriate Affordable Housing Survey (Cllr Hill)

The results of the survey will be available from Devon Communities Together for the February Parish Council meeting.

12.0 Parking in the Parish – Old Market Drive (Cllr Hill)

Cllr Hill will continue to liaise with Torridge District Council, with regards to planning requirements and possible funding to support the project. It was questioned whether the TAP Fund would support some of the costs. **Action: The Clerk to liaise with Bradworthy and Clovelly Parish Councils.**

13.0 Finances

Payments to be authorised

- a) Lisa Hutchings, December 2018 - £327.97
- b) HMRC 20% Tax, December 2018 - £81.99
- c) Society of Local Council Clerks Membership - £89.00 (amended to £106.00 see *below)
- d) Old Market Drive Bench Repair (Mike Smith) - £255.00
- e) Woolsery Sports & Community Hall - £28.00

*The clerk stated that an amendment was required for the cost of the SLCC membership from £89.00 to £106.00. Proposed by Cllr Medd, Seconded by Cllr Ashworth. All in agreement.

Cllr Hamilton proposed to authorise items a, b and e. Seconded by Cllr Medd. All in agreement

Cllr Ashworth proposed to authorise item c, seconded by Cllr Spittles. All in agreement

Cllr Hamilton proposed to authorise item d, seconded by Cllr Spittles. All in agreement

Councillor Allowances

Cllr Medd - £200.00 – Proposed by Cllr Hamilton, Seconded by Cllr Spittles. Remaining Cllrs, excluding Cllr Medd were in agreement.

Cllr Spittles - £200.00 – Proposed by Cllr Hamilton, Seconded by Cllr Medd. Remaining Cllrs, excluding Cllr Spittles were in agreement.

Cllr Hamilton (Chair's Allowance) - £200 – £200 donated towards Cllrs Projects Fund – Proposed by Cllr

Medd, Seconded by Cllr Hill. Remaining Cllrs, excluding Cllr Hamilton were in agreement.

Cllr Hill - £200 donated towards Cllrs Projects Fund

Cllr Ashworth - £50.00 - £150.00 donated towards Cllrs Projects Fund – Proposed by Cllr Hamilton, Seconded by Cllr Medd. Remaining Cllrs, excluding Cllr Ashworth were in agreement.

Income and Bank Account Balances

Current account - £13,605.07

Reserve account - £8,301.36

Setting of the Parish Precept 2019 / 2020

Following a review of the budget and discussion it was agreed to increase the Precept from £12,000 to £12,500. Proposed by Cllr Hamilton and Seconded by Cllr Medd. All in agreement.

14.0 Correspondence

An email was received from Anne Turner with regards the footpath at Atlantic Academy. The footpath in question lies in the Parish of Parkham. **Action: The Clerk to forward the email to Sue Squire (Parkham Clerk), copying in Anne Turner.**

15.0 Publications received

These were available to look at prior to and after the meeting.

16.0 Reports from County Cllr, District Cllr and Parish Cllrs.

County Cllr Inch

- The next HATOC meeting is the 26th February, as detailed above will place the 40mph zone at Bucks Cross on the agenda, as well as the Refuge. Cllr Inch will inform the Clerk.
- Cranford Bends – At the last visit the corner was flooded and the damage previously caused was not visible. The bends have been drained by Highway with tarmac placed on each corner is not suitable.
- The Torridge Bridge expansion joints have now been completed.
- An additional £18.75 million has been secured for Devon for bridges and potholes. Cllr Inch will be pressing for funds for North Devon, discussing with Stuart Hughes to ensure that North Devon has its fair share.
- There is a nationwide shortage of staff in the Care Sector. Devon County Council is running a Proud to Care campaign, raising the profile to encourage more into the industry. The Foster Care allowance has also been reviewed with a new pay scale.
- Cllr Inch continues to press for more funding for schools.

- Unfortunately Highways has decided to have one Highways Officer for our area (Appledore to Welcombe Cross). Julian Roskilly will be the new contact, with Julie Pepworth being made redundant. The Parish Council stated that the service provided from Julie Pepworth is invaluable and that the area is too big for one person to manage. **Action: It was agreed to write to Highways, highlighting our concerns.**
- Verge markers at Bucks Cross are to be done.
- Dipple- Julie Pepworth was going to speak to the landowner. **Action: The Clerk to obtain an update and check if correct landowner contacted.**
- Chevron Bends at Bucks Mills – Residents have questioned whether a chevron would make a difference. It was suggested that a mirror would be better. Cllr Inch stated that Highways do not recommend mirrors and that Julie Pepworth was going to look at the site.

District Cllr Robin Julian

The Leadership & Members meeting took place, where a number of topics were discussed, including the unsatisfactory state of Northam Swimming Pool.

The Community & Resources Committee have been looking at green spaces. A proposal included the wish to spend £20k on independent advice to look at open spaces. The vote on this was 4 approve and 7 reject, therefore this will not go ahead. Instead it was suggested that the £20k could be invested into something like Northam Swimming Pool. Cllr Heywood noted his disappointment with the Pool going cashless. Cllr Julian stated that Torridge District Council is looking into this.

Cllr Hill asked Cllr Julian for an update regarding the Cattle Market site. Cllr Julian stated that this will become a Sports Hub.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Heywood noted that the proposed dropped kerb at Bucks Cross will affect access to the field gateway.

Cllr Heywood has purchased an 1836 Parish Map. Cllr Hill will make a copy if required, subject to copyright.

Cllr Ashworth thanked Cllr Heywood for the Christmas Tree display.

Cllr Hill distributed copies of the revised plans for the Car Park. It was agreed that an additional planning meeting will take place to discuss this. Date suggested 31st January @ 7.30pm. **Action: The Clerk to confirm.**

17.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

19th February 2019 at 7.30pm at Bucks Mills Village Hall.