**HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the January**

**Meeting**

**Held in the King George V Memorial Hall on Thursday 27th January 2022**

**At 7.00pm**

**APPROVED**

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| **1.1** | **Present**:  Councillors: Adam Pilgrim (Chairman), Nikki Orchard, Rupert Snook, John Butler,  Jane Lock, Andy Cooling and George Triggs  District Councillor J Norton  Parish Clerk/RFO - Mrs Leslie Findlay  Members of the public | **ACTION**  **TO BE TAKEN** |
|  | **Apologies**:  County Councillor Ray Radford - report attached |  |
| **1.2** | **Co-option of new Councillor**  Councillors voted unanimously to co-opt George Triggs onto the Parish Council. The Office of Acceptance was signed and witnessed by the Clerk. The Chairman welcomed George to the Council. *Clerk to inform MDDC.*  Cllr Triggs will be taking on the role of environment (to include public rights of way) and will be a member of the Planning Committee. | **LF** |
| **1.3** | **OPEN FORUM**  A resident has raised concerns over the possibility of more cars parking outside the play area and causing a highway hazard once the new equipment is installed. Councillors discussed this and agreed that there is currently little to be done at present other than monitor the situation. A risk assessment will be carried out by MDDC on completion of the equipment. |  |
| **1.4** | **Declaration of Interests:** None declared |  |
| **1.5**  **1.5.1**  **1.5.1.1**  **1.5.1.2**  **1.5.1.3** | **Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters arising**  The November Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.  **Matters arising**:  The Chairman has not had a response back from the Headmaster of Webbers School in regard to the letter sent in regard to the exhaust pollution.  Prince of Wales Pub  The Council have been approached by the owner of the pub and the planning consultant from LRM to have a public meeting in order to present their idea for the way forward. An agenda was requested and provided as follows:   1. Overview of current situation 2. Planning policy position 3. Options for the future 4. Next steps   Cllr Snook updated the Council on a meeting that had been held between several residents with a proposal for two public meetings in order that everyone is given an opportunity to digest any material that is made available at the first meeting before having a carded question session at the second meeting. A further suggestion was for the meetings to be on a Saturday morning in order that there can be maximum public attendance with an independent chairman. Both meetings would be recorded. Any publicity for the meeting would be arranged by the community with a leaflet drop/Facebook/Parish News/ Community Noticeboard.  Councillors were in agreement that at this stage the Parish Council would not be involved other than for the Clerk to be the contact for communications, in order that they would not prejudice any planning application that might follow. Any Councillor attending the meeting will be as a private resident.  The proposal was fully supported by the Councillors and the Clerk requested to contact LRM with the proposals.  Complaints of dogs being aggressive to pedestrians on the highway next to Ford Barn Farm. Cllr Norton confirmed that the District Council have advised that they can’t take any action but it was a police matter and should be reported accordingly. It was suggested that a log of the complaints to the Parish Council should be kept. *Clerk to action.* | **LF**  **LF**  **LF** |
| **1.6**  **1.6.1**  **1.6.2**  **1.6.3**  **1.6.4** | **Environment**  There had been a complaint about human excrement being left in a layby in Burlescombe and possibly in a layby near Wiseburrow. The Council have no reports of this occurring in this Parish. The layby is cleared of litter by residents, for which the Council is very grateful.  Canal Report - NTR  PROW The forms for the survey/finance request are being completed by Cllr Triggs and Gordon Czapiewski.  Quarry Liaison Meeting – report attached | **GT/GC** |
| **1.7**  **1.7.1**  **1.7.2**  **1.7.2.1**  **1.7.2.2**  **1.7.3**  **1.7.4**  **1.7.5**  **1.7.5.1**  **1.7.5.2**  **1.7.5.3** | **Highways**  Work carried out: pothole repaired in Fore Street  Repairs to be reported:  The potholes along Whipcott road have been reported again and the BT barrier which had been left in this road *DCC have investigated this and informed BT.*  The ditch opposite Lower Besley Farm has been reported again as the potholes are increasing rapidly with the bad weather and the water is draining down onto the junction. Cllr Radford asked to see what action can be taken.  Drain Clearing Cllr Cooling confirmed the drains in the village have been cleared, the drains in Fore Street were in a bad state. The verge along the bottom of Pound Hill requires action to cut it back by 2ft, which will help to alleviate the flooding that occurs here. Cllr Cooling agreed to contact Stephen Hasell to see if he can assist. Councillors agreed funding to hire a digger (if required) would be made available.  The Chairman thanked Cllr Cooling and Dave Authers for the work they did, it has been much appreciated.  Road Closure  The road past Waterslade will be closed on the 30th March. Details published on the website.  Signs  Whipcott crossroads: DCC have confirmed that the two minor roads at Whipcott are not public highways and they are therefore unable to erect any signs.  Pedestrian warning signs: DCC were asked if it was possible to erect pedestrian warning in road signs in the village. The response was that as it was obvious to motorists when driving through the village that there are virtually no pavements and that any pedestrians will be walking in the road and should proceed accordingly.  “20 is plenty signs”: DCC have confirmed that if these signs are placed in the village to slow the traffic it could make the current speed limit of 30mph unenforceable. Cllr Lock has suggested the Parish Council investigate if DCC have any Speed Indicator Devices (SID) that could be borrowed to put up in the village as a temporary measure and moved to different locations. *Clerk to investigate and report back at the next meeting.* | **AC**  **LF** |
| **1.8**  **1.8.1**  **1.8.2**  **1.8.3**  **1.8.4**  **1.8.5** | **Planning**  The following application was discussed:  **22/00057/CAT** Notification of intention to fell 11 Ash trees, and lift the crowns of 1 Eucalyptus and 1 Ash tree by 5m within the conservation area at the Vicarage. *Councillors fully supported this application, especially as there was a possibility of danger of falling trees to the adjoining property.*  **MDDC Decisions**:  **21/02124/CAT** Notification of intention to coppice 1 Ash tree and remove 2 cherry trees within the conservation area at Buehills -*granted*  **21/01855/FULL** Retention of change of use of land for siting of 5.5Kw ground mounted solar panel photovoltaic array at Elder Farm, Greenham Reach - *Granted full planning permission*  **21/02161/LBC** Listed building consent for remodelling of first floor to include the creation of ensuite and larger bathroom at the Landmark Trust The Priest House – *Listed building consent granted.*  Pondground Firing Range  The Council have received an update: ***“****The Estates Team at Devon and Cornwall Police (DCP) is progressing this matter. The Noise Management Plan has been agreed with the District Council’s Environmental Health Officer (we are grateful for her support on this matter). We are meeting the Senior Highway Development Management Officer for Mid Devon on Tuesday 1st February to assess the visibility splays when vehicles exit site. Drivers must be able to see a safe distance, which is determined by the speed and frequency of vehicles on the road and the line of sight. These were not, to our knowledge, required for previous applications but the County Council has, quite rightly, requested that these be looked at for this application. Again, we are grateful for the co-operation of the Highways Officer who has been pragmatic and very helpful. DCP is optimistic of a positive outcome from the meeting on site, following which the application can then be submitted. Barring any complications, the Estates Team at DCP aim to submit the application in February”.*  The Clerk had received information from a resident that there was a proposal for a Wasteology at Greenham Quarry. The PC have not received any communication from Somerset County Council and believe this was a scoping exercise which is currently not going forward.  New Local Plan consultation. MDDC are preparing a new Local Plan for Mid Devon and will be conducting several online events during the consultation from 31st January to 28th March 2022. More details available on the noticeboards and website. |  |
| **1.9**  **1.9.1**  **1.9.2**  **1.9.3**  **1.9.4**  **1.9.5**  **1.9.6** | **Play area**  The current funding total is £59922.77 so Councillors approved for the Clerk to confirm the quote to Sutcliffe Play SW and to have the play area equipment installed. There is still a shortfall of £6000 which could be loaned from the Solar Fund if sufficient funding is not raised through the various fundraising events and possible grant application. *Clerk to action*  The Clerk thanked Cllr Butler for all his hard work on checking the terms and conditions so thoroughly. Sutcliffe Play SW have now confirmed they will remain responsible for the equipment on site until the project is complete and do not require the PC to provide water or electricity.  Councillors discussed new signage for the play area. It was agreed the family should be consulted over a new name for the play area. *Chairman to action*.  Clerk suggested the new sign should be placed on the outside of the gate, rather than on posts in the park and possibly for a sign on the inside warning the children leaving the park of a danger of passing vehicles. To be discussed further at next meeting.  Cllr Butler raised the possibility of having to adopt bylaws. Chairman agreed to investigate and report back at the next meeting.  There may be a requirement for signs to ensure the entrance to the play area is kept clear at all times. This will also aid the visibility for the children exiting the park. Cllr Orchard suggested she will approach the Primary School to incorporate road safety with the children as the play park is discussed. | **LF**  **AP**  **ALL**  **AP**  **NO** |
| **1.10**  **1.10.1**  **1.10.2**  **1.10.2.1**  **1.10.2.2**  **1.10.2.3**  **1.10.3**  **1.10.3.1**  **1.10.3.2**  **1.10.4**  **1.10.5**  **1.10.6**  **1.10.7**  **1.10.8** | **Clerk/Finance**  **Income received:**  For the Playarea – Locality budget £500  Anonymous donation £500  Actionfunder SWW £1000  Crowdfunder £3372.34  **Expenditure:**  The following expenditure was approved:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Amount £** | **DD/BACS/SO** | **Payable to** | **Comments** | | 54.00 | BACS | Parish online | Annual membership | | 21.60 | BACS | Vision ICT | New email hosting | | 363.42 | BACS | LJ Findlay | Clerk overtime for funding applications | | The following expenditure was approved out of Committee: | | | | | Payment from play area fund to Crowdfunder to reach required target- £449 | | | | | Countrywide grounds maintenance grass cutting £391.92 (BACS) | | | |   The statement of accounts as at Jan 22 were presented to the Councillors and approved for signing by the Chairman. These are available to view on the website.  The Clerk had received two quotes for cutting the DCC verges and cutting the grass in the playarea.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **contractor** | **verges** | **playarea** | **Number of cuts** | **Comments** | | MDDC | £381.21 | £549.64 | 7 | Excluding vat | | Countrywide | £1345.60 | | 4 | Excluding vat |   Councillors voted to accept the MDDC quote, *Clerk to action.*  As required in the financial regulations the Reserve Policy was reviewed and Councillors voted to keep the general reserve at £3000. There are currently two earmarked (specific) reserves, the Solar Fund and the Playarea Reserve Fund. Clerk to update Reserve Policy.  Addition of new signatories. Nat West required the signed November Minutes as additional documentation. *Clerk to action.*  The Council has received two requests for donations from Citizens Advice and CHAT. Cllr Lock proposed a grant of £100 to each charity, this was seconded by Cllr Snook and unanimously approved. *Clerk to action.* | **LF**  **LF**  **LF**  **LF** |
| **1.11**  **1.11.1**  **1.11.2** | **Training**  Cllr Trigg will be attending four online “New Councillor” workshops over the next few months. Councillors approved the expenditure of £18 +vat for each course. Clerk to action.  Online planning training organised by MDDC was attended by Cllr Pilgrim and Cllr Butler. The next workshop “permitted development” will take place on 24th Feb. | **LF** |
| **1.12**  **1.12.1**  **1.12.2** | **Correspondence**  All correspondence had been circulated to the Councillors and if appropriate placed on the website or noticeboards.  Ayshford Trust. A second trustee is required from Holcombe Rogus. Cllr Snook volunteered. *Clerk to action.*  Community Noticeboard. Due to the broken latch the doors had been accidently locked. Whilst new latches are being sought the key will be left by the board for residents to use. The Council are very grateful to John Lewis for his work on these boards. | **LF** |
| **1.13**  **1.13.1**  **1.13.2**  **1.13.3**  **1.14** | **Matters brought forward for information or future agenda**.  Councillor vacancies. We currently have two vacancies.  Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. This was postponed to the Feb meeting. Clerk to promote in the Parish News.  It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should take place after the April PC meeting which will be at the earlier time of 6pm. Refreshments will be available (grant to be agreed at a later PC meeting) and to be well advertised.  Future Agenda items  Dog mess not being picked up around the village | **ALL**  **LF**  **LF** |
|  | There being no further business the meeting closed at 2035hrs. The next Council Meeting will be on Thursday 24th February 2022 at 7pm. | **ALL** |

Adam Pilgrim

Chairman

Holcombe Rogus Parish Council

**Quarry Liaison Meeting Monday 17th January 2022**

The meeting was held virtually and started at 16.00. The Chairman was Councillor Ray Radford.

Various reports concerning quarry activities were received. It was noted that there had been an increase in night working in the past few months since there had been a significant increase in demand for tarmac due to substantial road works in Torbay. Aggregate Industries had attempted to limit this by spreading supply across other quarries in the group. Lorries returning after delivering were loaded with road waste for recycling resulting in a reduction in empty lorry journeys.

AI has made considerable efforts to reduce airborne dust associated with work in Rocknell Quarry in particular in the past year. A measure of its success has been an absence of dust-related complaints.

Quarrying activities in the main pit are being increased prior to increasing extraction in Fenacre Quarry.

The works to transfer tarmac production to Broadpath were proceeding well and on schedule. Burlescombe should soon benefit from a significant reduction in lorry traffic.

Lewis Worrow, Chairman of Burlescombe and Westleigh Parish Council, asked if additional members of the Liaison Group could be included; Canonsleigh Residents, Burlescombe Community Together and the Sampford Peverell Team Mission which services Burlescombe Church. There was general opposition to this suggestion since it was felt that the proposed groups could feed their views through Burlescombe and Westleigh Parish Council’s existing representation thereby avoiding the risk of the Liaison Group’s becoming unwieldy.

It was agreed that members would review the Group’s membership at the next meeting having been circulated with the Liaison Group’s terms of reference.

The next meeting will be 25th April at 16.00 and will be held virtually.

Adam Pilgrim

Councillor

**County Councillor Report**

This time of year, sees all Authorities struggling with the budgets. Currently and we have a few more months to go, we are over budget, this is not unusual at this point during the year.  We have always brought it back in line by the end of the year and we will do the same this year. We do not want to dip into our reserves. By law we have to produce a balanced budget.

1. This report outlines the financial position and forecast for the Authority at month 9 (to the end of December) of the financial year.

2. At month 9 it is estimated that budgets will overspend by just over £8.3 million, an increase of £1.3 million from month 6.

3. The Dedicated Schools Grant projected deficit, relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), is forecast to be £39.0 million. In line with Department of Education guidance this deficit will not be dealt with this financial year but carried to future years.

4. Central government has continued to provide a number of grant funding streams this year to help support Local Authorities during the pandemic. The confirmed additional funding Devon County Council is expecting to receive directly this financial year is currently £50.7 million, in addition to the £25.6 million carried forward from 2020/21.

5. Adult Care and Health services are forecast to overspend by just over £5.1 million, a reduction of £71,000 from month   6. This position includes £3.2 million of budgeted savings.

6. Adult Care Operations is forecasting to overspend by just under £5.4 million, this is a mix of price and volume pressures. Within Learning Disabilities and Autism higher demand has continued into this year with client numbers in these areas being 142 more than the budgeted level of 3,569. Older People is also experiencing significant pressures, mainly due to price pressures on residential and increase in the number of nursing placements which are 36 more than the budgeted level of 516. Adult Commissioning and Health and Mental Health is forecast to underspend by £230,000.

7. Revenue Expenditure Children’s Services are forecasting an overspend of £9.1 million an increase of £1.8 million from month 6. However, this figure does not include the projected deficit of £39.1 million on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Part of my duty is to serve on the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRA). I thought you might like to know what they have been up to during the pandemic crisis.

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| --- |
| Firefighters from across the five south west fire and rescue services are to continue to provide vital life-saving support alongside the ambulance service.  Since the early stages of the pandemic, firefighters have been working with ambulance crews from South Western Ambulance Service (SWASFT) to assist during medical emergencies.  The partnership has led to countless lives being saved and received praise from government and royalty.  The shared crews have so far attended in excess of 30,000 calls, more than half of which are within the highest two priority calls, which are to people in life-threatening or serious conditions.  With the current winter pressures on the NHS and surge in Omicron cases, this arrangement has been extended and will now continue until April 2022.  Strong partnerships between fire and ambulance services aren’t new. Fire crews are often called upon to gain entry to houses so that paramedics can see to patients and some fire stations have staff who are trained to give basic life support to people until the arrival of an emergency ambulance.  Under the agreement, fire officers will continue to work alongside ambulance staff by driving vehicles and assisting clinicians to provide patient-focused care.  Lee Howell, Chief Fire Officer of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, said:  ““I couldn’t be more proud of the firefighters who when the call came, put their hands up to step outside of their normal duties and come to aid of our partners and our communities. Their dedication, selflessness, and resolve has been, and continues to be, exceptional.” |

**In adult social care in Devon right now:**

* We currently serve around 11,000 people and the majority of our spend is on working age adults
* We commission 34,000 hours of personal care each week in people’s homes and the same amount again of enabling care helping to promote people’s independence.
* We are supporting over 100 more older people in nursing care from last year which may be reflective of increasing complexity of need
* We are seeing unprecedented requests for care, and when we receive those requests, they are from increasingly poorly people, with increasingly complex needs, that requires complex care from more people.
* We continue to struggle to meet assessed need for personal care and in any week we have around 6,000 hours of care that we are unable to supply. This relates to approximately 460 people who will have their needs met in a different way including extra support from family members, other voluntary sector services or some other support to keep people safe. Nobody is left without some support and teams are constantly monitoring the risk and targeting the care we can source to the most needy and urgent cases.
* Alongside the growing requests is a stretched workforce, between Aug to Oct 2021 there were 3081 care worker vacancies, a rise of 86% on the same period in 2019. The supply of staff is extremely challenging and putting a huge strain on those in the caring workforce.
* Nurse shortages in nursing homes is leading to some homes having to cancel their registration to provide nursing care.

We have set up a working group to investigate what really is going on with broadband, particularly the harder to reach areas and also some of the easier to reach areas. I believe what is happening is broadband providers are cherry picking and the harder to reach areas are suffering, we intent to find out.

Because of Covid I have not been able to attend Parish Council meetings as I would have liked, it is worse now than it ever has been, I hope this will improve as the omicron virus recedes, I hope.  I am always around if there is something I can help with.

Regards,

Ray Radford

Devon County Councillor

Willand & Uffculme Division

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