**HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the February**

 **Meeting**

**Held in the King George V Memorial Hall on Thursday 24th February 2022**

**At 7.00pm**

**APPROVED**

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| **2.1** | **Present**: Councillors: Adam Pilgrim (Chairman), Nikki Orchard, Rupert Snook and John Butler,6 members of the public  | **ACTION** **TO BE TAKEN** |
|  | **Apologies**: County Councillor Ray Radford - report attachedDistrict Councillor Jo Norton Parish Councillors Andy Cooling, George Triggs & Jane LockParish Clerk/RFO Leslie Findlay |  |
|  | **OPEN FORUM**Members of the public had come to hear the proposed response from the Parish Council to the Local Plan Consultation. |  |
| **2.2** | **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Orchard declared a personal interest in item 2.8.2.1 |  |
| **2.3****2.3.1****2.3.1.1****2.3.1.2** | **Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters arising**The January Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.**Matters arising**:Prince of Wales PubThe Clerk had responded to an email from Darren Summerfield (the Planning Consultant for the owner of the pub) confirming the 12th March would be a suitable date for a public meeting and the community has requested a second meeting to answer any questions in regard to the proposed plans put forward at the first meeting. *Still awaiting a reply.*Dog mess being left around the villageA proposal to obtain a second bin in the village was too expensive and it was the responsibility of dog owners to ensure they pick up after their dogs.  |  |
| **2.4****2.4.1****2.4.2** | **Environment** Canal Report – There is a joint advisory meeting on the 1st March, which will be attended by Cllr Pilgrim. Cllr Butler noted some silting in the canal from a stream that is piped under the towpath near the Waytown side of the Lock Cottage at Lowdwells and requested that it was raised at the meeting.PROW The forms for the survey have been submitted and the changes to footpaths 16 and 20 are in hand. |  |
| **2.5****2.5.1****2.5.2****2.5.3****2.5.4****2.5.5****2.5.6** | **Highways**Work carried out: DCC have dug out the ditch at Lower Besley and rubble has been thrown into the ditch. Potholes still remain.Repairs to be reported: NTRVerge ploughing at Pounds Hill update – to be discussed at next meeting with Cllr Cooling.20 is plenty signs update – The local police have been asked to clarify what signage is permitted, still awaiting response.Speed Indicator Device – Clerk to investigate costs and enquire with other Parish Councils.Road ClosureFrom 13th - 27th March road heading south from Beacon Hill Bungalow and lower Whipcott Cottages.The road past Waterslade will be closed on the 30th March. Details published on the website and a request for the Clerk to put the notices on the Community Noticeboard.  | **AC****LF****LF** |
| **2.6****2.6.1****2.6.1.1****2.6.1.2****2.6.1.3****2.6.2****2.6.3****2.6.4****2.6.5** | **Planning****The following applications were discussed:****22/00228/CAT** Notification of intention to remove 2 apple trees and 1 Eucalyptus tree within the conservation area at 29 Fore Street. *No objections.***22/00227/CAT** Notification of intention to remove 2 leylandii trees and 1 Elder tree within the conservation area at King George V Memorial Hall, 27, 28 &29 Fore Street. *No objections.***22/00242/HOUSE** Erection of garden building for use as home office and store at 45 Twitchen*The Council has no objection in principle to the proposed development but there is concern about the kind of base upon which the home office etc will sit. There is serious flooding in this area and waterlogged garden areas. It is considered that the creation of further hardstanding could well exacerbate the problem. It is suggested therefore that MDDC require the construction of a permeable base under the home office etc in order to alleviate flooding.*Appeal20/02137/FULL Erection of an agricultural storage building east of Battens Cottage. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State in regard to this application. Cllr Butler to draft a response on behalf of the Council*. Our Council has considered the appeal against Mid-Devon District Council’s refusal of planning permission for an agricultural storage building dated 6th January 2021 and in particular the Appellant’s statement and the attached sketch plan.**Our Council remains of the view that it is not appropriate to erect the proposed agricultural storage building in the proposed location for the reasons given in our Council’s letter of objection dated 31 January 2021. For the same reasons, our Council does not consider that the building should be located in another part of the hatched area shown on the Appellant’s submitted plan. The proposed storage building needs to erected in a less conspicuous location where its impact on this rural area is not so great. (Two photographs also included in response)***MDDC Decisions**:21/01161FULL Conversion of garage to holiday let at Beacon Hill House – *granted full planning permission with conditions*22/00057/CAT Notification of intention to fell 11 Ash trees and lift the crowns of 1 Eucalyptus and 1 Ash tree within the conservation area at the Vicarage – *No objections*Pondground Firing Range update. Still awaiting the planning application. Recent explosion of fireworks which alarmed many residents was due to the police disposing of confiscated fireworks. Residents nearby had been given advance notice.Mid Devon Local Plan Consultation. Cllr Butler went through the questionnaire with the draft responses that had been agreed at the Extraordinary Meeting on the 17th Feb and answered queries from residents. Some suggestions were incorporated into the PC response. Broadband was to be added to the list of requirements. Cllr Butler will redraft the response and circulate to Councillors for approval. | **JHB****JHB** |
| **2.7****2.7.1****2.7.2****2.7.3****2.7.4****2.7.5****2.7.6** | **Play area**The Playarea Reserve Fund currently stands at £46,079.74 with £3159.85 to find to reach the total amount required.The recent donation of £1000 from the All Saints' Church Holcombe Rogus Parochial Church Council was greatly appreciated and the Council thanked the Parochial Church Council for their very generous donation. The nearly New Sale was another very successful fund-raising event and raised £1457.60 for the Play area. The Parish Council are very grateful to all those concerned who made it such a successful event.No decisions were taken on new signage or name for the Play area. To be discussed further at the March meeting.Cllr Pilgrim is still awaiting a response in regard to Bye laws as raised at the January meeting. To be discussed at the March meeting.The playground warning signs on the road have been cleared back and are now visible. | **AP****AP** |
| **2.8****2.8.1****2.8.2****2.8.2.1****2.8.2.2****2.8.2.3****2.8.2.4****2.8.3****2.8.3.1****2.8.4****2.8.5** | **Clerk/Finance****Income received:**For the Playarea – £1000 from All Saints' Church Holcombe Rogus Parochial Church Council. £1457.60 Nearly New Sale**Expenditure:**The following expenditure was approved:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Amount £** | **DD/BACS/SO** | **Payable to**  | **Comments** |
| 66.00 | BACS | N Orchard | Defibrillator batteries |
| 504.00 | BACS | MDDC  | Playarea monthly inspections (7) |
| 72.00 | BACS | MDDC | Playarea annual inspection |
| 55.53 | BACS | L Findlay | Printer cartridges |
| The following expenditure was approved out of Committee: |
| 90.00 | BACS | Vision ICT | Updating the website |

The summaries as at Jan 22 for the Playarea Reserve Fund, Public Rights of Way Account and the Solar Fund were approved for signing by the Chairman. These are available to view on the website.Clerk has sent the completed application form for two new signatories to be added to the account but no response yet from Nat West.  |  |
| **2.9****2.9.1****2.9.2****2.9.3** | **Training**Cllr Trigg attended two online New Councillor courses. Cllr Pilgrim and the Clerk attended the virtual Local Plan Consultation briefing by MDDC on Thursday 3rd Feb. Cllr Butler, Cllr Pilgrim and the Clerk attended the online Permitted Development briefing by MDDC on Thursday 24th Feb.  |  |
| **2.10****2.10.1****2.10.2** | **Correspondence**All correspondence had been circulated to the Councillors and if appropriate placed on the website or noticeboards.Letter of thanks received from CHAT. Facebook – Dog walking field. Councillors discussed this but agreed it was not within the remit of the council and would need to be a private enterprise. |  |
| **2.11****2.11.1****2.11.2****2.11.3** | **Matters brought forward for information or future agenda**. Councillor vacancies. We currently have two vacancies.Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Council have not received any requests for funding yet.Annual Parish Meeting: Councillors agreed that refreshments should be offered and funded by the Parish Council and to be discussed further at the next meeting. | **ALL** |
|  | There being no further business the meeting closed at 2028hrs. The next Council Meeting will be on Thursday 24th March 2022 at 7pm.  | **ALL** |

Adam Pilgrim

Chairman

Holcombe Rogus Parish Council

**County Councillor Report**

This time of year, we have to prepare our budget for April 2022/23, this in actual fact is an on going thing as soon as you start a new year. Ever year is more difficult than the previous year, this is no different this year.  I have set out some of the budgets/issues we have had to grapple with.

The draft budget attached has already been agreed, this report complies with the Targets set by Cabinet on 8th December which total £629.4 million. The total includes funding for budget pressures of £87.4 million that mainly relates to additional expenditure to allow for service growth to cater for demographic changes such as increased children and adult service users and unavoidable cost pressures. Savings and income initiatives of £38.7 million are required to set a balanced budget. 1.4 The targets set for each service area have been subject to different pressures and influences. The table over shows the 2022/23 Budget Targets by service area.

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**Totals for this years budget.  21/22   £580.671m   inflation etc.  22/23  £629.362m  increase of  £48.691 (8.4%)**

We will see an increase in our Council Tax, at this point not quite sure until it goes before the Full Council on 17th Feb, even then we will not know until the Fire Authority, Police authority and Mid Devon submit their budgets.

**Devon Elevation Fund**

**New Funding – Devon Elevation Fund *to be launched in January 2022***

*Be the first to know when it goes live*

There will be a new funding opportunity for businesses and community organisations across Devon starting in January 2022.

**The Devon Elevation Fund**, being part of the Community Renewal Fund, will provide grants of between £2,500 and £25,000 for projects that help businesses and community organisations to do any of the following:

* Respond to the different trading environment resulting from COVID-19
* Plan for future growth and development
* Develop new products and services
* Improve infrastructure
* Assess the feasibility of future initiatives

The funding is mostly revenue, to buy in help, advice and expertise to achieve these objectives, and there may be an opportunity to include small items of equipment in support of this.  This funding cannot be used to pay for your own staff time or for your running costs.

For grants above £5,000 you will also need to make a contribution to the costs of the project.

Details of this new fund will be available from January 2022.

To benefit from this opportunity, you will have to be quick as the money must all be spent by June 2022.

To ensure that you are notified as soon as more information is available, please click [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3DgzehjWjLP0S7S5l_d_1b-8ERH9apujpIh6I6tLCU22tUMTNGVFNIVUhIMUxRM0w4MVRGV0lJODhKSy4u&data=04%7C01%7Cray.radford%40devon.gov.uk%7C682d3f4964084b2b474608d9ea62c772%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C637798532264492131%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=AtLO9RRxOrwzM81%2B%2F8j2l16Gbjn3YmclN80sGAcL2No%3D&reserved=0) to provide your [Email](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3DgzehjWjLP0S7S5l_d_1b-8ERH9apujpIh6I6tLCU22tUMTNGVFNIVUhIMUxRM0w4MVRGV0lJODhKSy4u&data=04%7C01%7Cray.radford%40devon.gov.uk%7C682d3f4964084b2b474608d9ea62c772%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C637798532264492131%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=AtLO9RRxOrwzM81%2B%2F8j2l16Gbjn3YmclN80sGAcL2No%3D&reserved=0) address.

*NOTE: THE DEVON ELEVATION FUND IS PART OF THE COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND, MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES AND DELIVERED LOCALLY BY DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND  NORTH DEVON +, BUSINESS INFORMATION POINT AND THE DIVERSE REGENERATION COMPANY CIC.*

Devon County Council (DCC) has a large road network of nearly 8000 miles, 7000 miles of which is rural. Over 6000 miles of the rural network are comprised of the more minor C-Class (C) and Unclassified (UC) roads. Within DCC more road deaths, serious injuries and slight injuries occur on our rural roads than on our urban routes.

4610 or 63% of injuries occurred on our rural roads compared to 2694 or 37% on our urban routes. Furthermore, 1,108 fatal & serious (approx. 70%) accidents occurred on rural roads compared to 528 (approx. 30%) on the urban areas. The highest proportion of rural road injuries occurred on our A-Road network.

The County’s A-Roads only comprise a small proportion of our total rural road network length, but it should be noted that our A-Road routes carry significantly higher volumes of vehicular traffic. (80% of traffic use 20% of roads)

 The urban roads generally carry higher traffic flows with a larger number of vulnerable road users such as pedestrian and cyclists.

Another indicator for the condition of the road network is the number of recorded potholes. In general, the number of potholes recorded each month in 2021 has been below the five year average. In addition to the general improvement in the condition of the network discussed above the relatively benign weather throughout autumn and the start of winter has been a benefit. The above average figures recorded for June and August were due to the wet weather experienced in May and June and the reprogramming of annual inspections to the summer months.

The gully cleaning gangs are slightly behind programme but are confident of addressing this gap by dedicating some ‘hand clean’ gangs to some problem areas and increasing resources if necessary.

 The start to the winter season has been relatively quiet with below average levels of salt spread in both November and December. The forecast for the start of 2022 is indicating milder, damper conditions. The risk of a short, sharp winter event has not been discounted.

As always, if there are any issues brewing in and around Holcombe Rogus that you need me to deal with, please let me know.

Regards,

Ray Radford

Devon County Councillor

Willand & Uffculme Division

Email: ray.radford@devon.gov.uk