**HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the March Meeting**

**Held in the King George V Memorial Hall on Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 7pm**

**APPROVED**

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| **3.1** | **Present**:  Councillors: Adam Pilgrim (Chairman), John Butler, Rupert Snook, Sally Barker,  Jane Lock & Nikki Orchard  Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Mrs Leslie Findlay  **Apologies**:  County Councillor Ray Radford – Report attached  District Councillor Jo Norton | **ACTION**  **TO BE TAKEN** |
|  | **OPEN FORUM**  No matters raised |  |
| **3.2** | **Declaration of Interests:** None declared |  |
| **3.3**  **3.3.1**  **3.3.1.1**  **3.3.1.2**  **3.3.1.3** | **Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters arising**  The February Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record and unanimously approved by all Councillors.  Matters Arising:  Street lighting update: DCC have been informed of the grant and the funding has become an earmarked reserve.  The Clerk approached DCC to replace the two signposts (Durleymoor Cross and in the centre of the village) but there is no funding available. Clerk has requested a quote to have them replaced.  Destruction of hedgerows around Wardmoor– a letter was approved by the Councillors and sent to the local farmers within the Parish. It was emphasised this was a general letter and no individual was being singled out. | **LF** |
| **3.4**  **3.4.1**  **3.4.2** | **Environment**  Westleigh Quarry: The Quarry Manager has responded to the PC in regard to the question of the Bundt between Holcombe Rogus and Westleigh being raised. No further action required.  The Parish Council have received a letter from the Environment Agency informing them of an illegal burning of waste at Twitchen. The letter has been put on the HR website to ensure everyone is aware of the rules and will be published in the Parish News as well. |  |
| **3.5**  **3.5.1**  **3.5.1.1**  **3.5.1.2** | **Highways**  To report on work carried out by Highways Dept:  DCC have responded to the reporting of the potholes at Kennels bridge to say that a repair has been undertaken or due to be undertaken!!!  Cllr Snook is obtaining a quote to have the verges ploughed in Black Lane and will report back at the next meeting. | **RS** |
| **3.6** | **Planning**  Application 22/00907/FULL (pondground Firing Ranges) Following the letter of objection sent to MDDC on 2nd March, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary have written to HRPC taking with paragraph 7  “*Firing ranges (of the kind previously in use at Pondground Quarry) should follow CIEH guidance. ACL on behalf of the Police Authority refuse to accept that it is relevant notwithstanding that the guidance has, we are advised, been adopted by the MOD and police and local authorities across the country as the appropriate guidance to follow for the type of use proposed for Pondground Quarry. This is no doubt because the Police Authority would not be able to meet those standards and would need to move operations elsewhere.”*  The police response was:  Given the technical references I have sought clarification from our advisors, Acoustic Consultants Ltd, who of course you have referred to above (as ACL). Their response is copied below, which I would encourage you to read. The bold emphasis is my own, made for clarification purposes. Just as a point we are **not** disagreeing with this on **behalf** of Devon and Cornwall. **This is our professional opinion**.  Regarding the CIEH guidance I am sure it has been used for many things (I have seen people trying to use it for skate parks) but that doesn’t mean it is an appropriate form of assessing the level of noise impact from the shooting range. Sometimes people will argue that in the absence of anything else it is the best they have but that does not mean that the guidance levels within it accurately determine noise impact for anything other than a clay target shoot.  This cannot be set out more clearly than in the guidance’s own scope.  [https://www.cieh.org/media/1236/clay-target-shooting-guidance-on-the-control-of-noise.pdfhttps://www.cieh.org/media/1236/clay-target-shooting-guidance-on-the-control-of-noise.pdf](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cieh.org%2Fmedia%2F1236%2Fclay-target-shooting-guidance-on-the-control-of-noise.pdf&data=05%7C01%7CDavid.WHITE%40devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk%7Cf70bea4dba5742240dd708db21606943%7C4515d0c5b4184cfa9741222da68a18d7%7C0%7C1%7C638140470203801768%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AccJlZtC5O03cqx9Ybgid63qc2yAsNqImRednSoR0G8%3D&reserved=0)  *1.1 Limitation in scope The scope of this guidance is limited to clay target (pigeon) shoots. It should not be taken as having any application to other outdoor shooting events or other gun club activities. Most of the guidance is provided in a general way. This is because local circumstances differ and consequently more or less restrictive controls may be appropriate in certain cases. In particular, where a shooting ground or site has been used for several years without giving rise to complaints, there may be no need for changes. Where specific criteria (e.g. distances, times or noise levels) are given these have been derived from experience and are not intended as precise rules to be routinely applied to every shooting ground or site. The guidance does not deal with safety issues in detail nor is it intended that it should override any restrictions or requirements that may be imposed under any statutory provisions.*  The guidance levels are based on research from the assessment of clay target shooting. That research did not include any other types of shooting so there is no evidence the same conclusions would apply.  Daniel Oldaker BSc. (Hons), MIOA  Director for Acoustic Consultants Limited  The Parish Council discussed this and have responded to both MDDC and Mr White. (Letters attached). |  |
| **3.7** | **The Mary Fewings Playpark**  The February monthly inspection highlighted that the basket swing had movement where the upright pole meets the crossbar. Has been reported to Sutcliffe Play and fixed by the contractors who installed the equipment. |  |
| **3.8**  **3.8.1**  **3.8.2**  **3.8.3**  **3.8.4**  **3.8.4.1**  **3.8.4.2**  **3.8.4.3**  **3.8.4.4**  **3.8.4.5**  **3.8.4.6**  **3.8.4.7**  **3.8.5**  **3.8.6**  **3.8.7** | **Clerk/Finance**  Income:  Monthly interest – February £25.24  Expenditure previously approved**:**  Microshade VSM – Internal Audit £330  Expenditure agreed outside of Committee:  Malware premium subscription - £29.99   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | It was resolved that the following expenditure was approved for payment by the RFO: | | | | | **Amount £** | **BACS/cheque** | **Payable to** | **Comments** | | 1500.00 | BACS | L Findlay | Clerk wages Sept- Mar | | 262.64 | BACS | L Findlay | Clerk overtime | | 150.00 | BACS | L Findlay | Broadband expenses | | 151.22 | BACS | L Findlay | Clerk annual expenses | | 25.00 | BACS | Grand Western Canal Trust | Annual membership | | 80.00 | BACS | SLCC | Annual membership | | Up to £750 for the Coronation Street party | | | |   The Clerk signed the new contract and was witnessed by the Chairman.  The Council received the following from MDDC in regard to the cost of the Playpark monthly inspections: “*You will be aware of increasing costs and budgetary pressures in the market place. Mid Devon District Council as with all local authority and as a business is exposed to the same pressures.*  *The Council has been considering a raft of measures to reduce cost and increase income to ‘balance the books’ – this task being an increasing challenge year on year.*  *Given the extraordinary circumstances prevailing the Council has resolved to increase its charges for its Parish play area inspection service by 40%. On the same basis as previous the charges for 2023/ 24 will be £1008+VAT – being 12x monthly inspections to include annual independent inspection.*  Councillors discussed this and agreed that although it was a very large increase, they were satisfied with the service that MDDC provides and will continue as before. Clerk to advise MDDC.  The February Bank statements were checked and the Chairman signed the account statement. | **LF** |
| **3.9**  **3.9.1**  **3.9.2**  **3.9.3** | **Matters brought forward for information or future agenda**.  Coronation Street Party – the medallions for the children have been purchased.  Annual Parish Meeting – This will take place at 7pm prior to the April Full Council Meeting. Councillors were reminded to produce the annual reports.  The Notice of Elections has been placed on the website, Facebook and the Notice boards. | **ALL** |
|  | There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm. The next Full Council Meeting will be on Thursday 27th April 2023 following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm in the Village Hall. | **ALL** |

Adam Pilgrim

Chairman Holcombe Rogus Parish Council

**County Councillor Report**

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| Our Cabinet has proposed a [10.5 per cent increase in our budget to fund vital services for the most vulnerable children and adults, as well as more cash to tackle potholes.](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..hQlCu-AXvHA1_BaHC74TZVHfM1VuK0p45dNspoTrXZ4%2Fs%2F2966150952%2Fbr%2F154392163560-l&data=05%7C01%7Cray.radford%40devon.gov.uk%7Cd649b2bb71fa4610b3c208db0dd8344e%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C638118994471115545%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qnUDdCOXFblWdIQ0zP0gR3LJzkSqrptfY9XexPWOpm8%3D&reserved=0)  There will be increases of 18.4 per cent in spending on children’s services and 8.8 per cent on adult services to keep up with a rocketing rise in demand.  And since the target budget was set last month, we have allocated an extra £2 million to tackle the increase in potholes caused by this winter’s icy spells and torrential rainfall.  “We fully recognise the strain that household budgets are under with soaring inflation and big rises in the cost of living," said Councillor Hart. "But we must look after the young, the old and the vulnerable and they account for some 79 per cent of this budget."  "It has been a very difficult budget to deliver but we’ve asked how can we make council taxpayers’ money work better for them and cut wastage in the system, and the savings strategies are tough but realistic."  The budget has been finalised by the full council on 16th Feb, we will all be getting our Council Tax bills in the next couple of weeks from MDDC.. [Read for the full story on our website.](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..aCzZe1RxPmQQ5SlNnyY2aS_-uOVQGluP8Onw9nVt9rA%2Fs%2F2966150952%2Fbr%2F154392163560-l&data=05%7C01%7Cray.radford%40devon.gov.uk%7Cd649b2bb71fa4610b3c208db0dd8344e%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C638118994471115545%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hNphpmJLLB8JfhA1kfvVxCAWgGbxJlJgATW%2BN8%2BB%2BTY%3D&reserved=0) |

Sorry I have given you a lot of figures, but County do deal with large amounts of money, and needs to be taken in context.

The Adult Social Services Budget is £336m per year and the Children and Young People Budget is £233m per year, these are all mandatory, we have to supply the service.

 The underlying forecast position for Integrated Adult Social Care services at month 10 is an overspend of £7.8 million, a deterioration of £765,000 from the month 8 position. The forecast overspend continues to be driven by risk around delivery of planned savings which form part of this year’s budget and a worsening position in Older People service budgets, particularly within residential and nursing care and personal care.

The reported position assumes that of the £18.2 million budgeted savings and additional income, £12.3 million will be achieved by year end, including £8 million one off additional income agreed with health partners. As at month 10, £12 million has been delivered with a further £350,000 due to be delivered before the end of March.

Additional in year savings of £4.3 million have been identified as part of the FSP.

Children and Young People’s Futures is forecasting an overspend of £19.5 million and an overspend of £41.1 million on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The underlying forecast position for Children and Young People’s Futures services at month 10 is an overspend of £23 million.

 The month 10 position assumes that of the £11.7 million of planned budget savings £3.8 million is deliverable (the £7.9 million of savings considered undeliverable contributes to the forecast overspend).

The rest of the overspend forecast continues to be driven by volume and cost pressures relating to placements for children in care and cost pressures within School Transport. 2.10. Additional in year savings and alternative funding sources of £3.5 million have now been identified as part of the FSP and are expected to be delivered.

 Children’s Social Care is now forecasting to overspend by £12.3 million by year end, an increase of £805,000 versus month 8.

Latest figures show that the recycling rate for the district has risen to 56.56%, compared to 52.02% during the same period in 2021/22.

The major contributor to the change has been food waste. More food waste has been stored correctly in food caddies instead of with non-recyclable waste meaning the amount of food waste collected has increased by 6.81%. On top of this, the amount of household non-recyclable waste has decreased by 14.46% meaning the total waste the Council collects has decreased.

Highways for maintenance of Devon roads had gradually fallen from around £35 million in 2012/13 to approximately £25 million in 2022/23. Coupled with inflationary change, in particular the rapid increase in inflation seen in 2022/23, this meant that the maintenance budget had halved in real terms compared to a decade ago. This also has the knock-on impact of forcing change in priorities with safety taking higher consideration and proactive works being stopped, leading to rapid deterioration of roads.

Ray Radford

Devon County Councillor

Willand & Uffculme Division

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**HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk – Mrs Leslie Findlay**

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David White BSc (Hons) MRICS

Estates Investment Manager

Buildings and Estates

Devon & Cornwall Police

Police HQ

Middlemoor

Exeter EX2 7HQ 24th March 2023

Dear Mr White

Thank you for your letter of 10th March enclosing a copy of Acoustics Consultants Ltd’s (ACL) letter of 10th March which has now been considered by the Council.

1. ACL are correct in saying that the CIEH guidance **says** that it is only intended for clay pigeon shoots.  However, what all other Acoustic consultants seem to concur on is that there is barely any difference acoustically between a firing range and a clay pigeon shoot. Of course, how can there be? They both create very loud impulsive noises intermittently and in fact the Police use shotguns at Pondground.  **There is much in the CIEH guidance that does not relate to firing ranges** e.g., specific safety measures etc **but in terms of the type of noise they both produce, it is by far the best guideline to apply and that is why it is regularly used when assessing firing ranges as well as clay pigeon shoots**.
2. To quote E2 Acoustic Consultants in their NIA for a **Rifle Range** at Eskdalemuir Forestry:” **The guideline (i.e., CIEH) provides clear reasoning and methodology for the measurement of Clay Target shooting. Although it states that it is not relevant for standard rifle ranges, the absence of any specific standard for noise measurements at rifle ranges has meant that this is still the ‘closest measurement guideline for gun-related noise impact assessments**.”
3. Perhaps ACL could explain to all of us, including MDDC, what substantial difference there is in terms of noise between the police firing shotguns at fixed targets in Pondground quarry and the same number of people firing shotguns at the same frequency at clay targets in Pondground quarry. In the Council’s opinion, the only real difference is that the police use much louder weaponry so the noise levels are higher but the sound characteristic is exactly the same.
4. In the Council’s opinion, it is inconceivable that the Police Authority would get permission to carry on making the level of noise they have been making under the CIEH guidelines ( i.e. **the** **closest measurement guideline for gun-related noise impact assessments**.”)
5. ACL say that the CIEH guidance, mentioned above, has no relevance to the firing ranges at Pondground Quarry. With respect, our Council considers this to be misconceived. The above guidance is **most relevant.** This is borne out by the adoption of the Guidance by the MOD and Police and Local authorities across the country.
6. The fact remains that the only independent and objective Noise Impact Assessment that has been carried out is that prepared by Parker Jones Associates dated 21st April 2021on behalf of members of the community which had regard to the most relevant guidance as explained above. This NIA was carried out without the knowledge of the Police Authority with a view to providing an accurate assessment on a typical day’s shooting. The results of the NIA clearly show a serious adverse noise impact which members of the community should not have to endure any longer.
7. Noise levels and firing frequency have increased materially over the years. Back in 2004 the Police Authority were talking about 20-25 officers visiting the site on average once a fortnight. The level of activity and noise level have increased substantially over the last few years making life intolerable for those living nearby. The noise levels may well have constituted an actionable nuisance
8. Whilst the Council does recognise the importance of the Police Authority’s work, it is for the Police Authority to comply with the appropriate noise guidelines as explained above.

Yours Sincerely

Leslie Findlay

Cc:

Richard Foord MP

Mr Richard Marsh, director of Place MDDC

MDDC Planning Committee

Mr Adrian Devereaux

**HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk – Mrs Leslie Findlay**

**c/o Ayshford House, Westleigh, Tiverton Devon EX16 7HL**

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MDDC Planning Services

Phoenix House

Tiverton

Devon EX16 6PP

Dear Mr Devereaux, 24th March 2023

**RETENTION OF DISUSED QUARRY FOR USE AS TWO FIRING RANGES**

**Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Pondground Quarry Holcombe Rogus**

**Application 22/00907/FULL**

**Relevance of CIEH guidance to Pondground Quarry Firing Ranges.**

The Parish Council has received from Mr White of Devon and Cornwall Police the attached letter dated 10th March 2023 (including a copy of a letter of the same date from Acoustic Consultants Ltd (ACL)) which relates to the relevance of CIEH guidance to Pondground Quarry firing ranges.

These letters were considered by our Council at its meeting on 23rd March.

We are enclosing with this letter a copy of the Council’s reply to Mr White ‘s letter.

ACL say that the CIEH guidance has no relevance at all to the firing ranges at Pondground Quarry. This is simply not correct.

As explained in the Councils reply to Mr White, the CIEH guidance is **“the closest measurement** **guideline for gun-related noise impact assessments”.** This is why the guidance has been adopted by the MOD and Police and Local Authorities across the countr**y.**

Devon and Cornwall Police need to comply with the “**closest measurement guideline for gun- related noise impact assessments.”** However, it is apparent that Devon and Cornwall Police is unable to do this, and accordingly Planning Permission must be refused.

Yours Sincerely

Leslie Findlay

Cc:

Richard Foord MP

Mr Richard Marsh, director of Place MDDC

MDDC Planning Committee

Enclosures:

Letter to Mr David White dated 24th March 2023

Letter from Mr David White dated 10th March 2023