

HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the October Meeting
Held in the King George V Memorial Hall on Thursday 26th October 2023
At 7pm

APPROVED

- 10.1** **Present:** **ACTION**
 Councillors: Adam Pilgrim (Chairman), Jane Lock, Sally Barker, Nikki Orchard, Rupert Snook, **TO BE**
 and Frances Freeman **TAKEN**
 District Councillors Gill Westcott & Jane Lock
 Police Sergeant Simon Andrews
 Leslie Findlay Parish Clerk/RFO
- Apologies:** County Councillor Ray Radford
- The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming PS Simon Andrews and thanked him for attending the meeting.
- OPEN FORUM**
- Councillors had been asked by several residents who were unable to attend the meeting to raise several issues.
1. The dogs by Ford Farm were continuing to run out into the road and intimidating anyone passing by. The dog warden had been contacted twice when children had been knocked of their bicycles but this has not stopped the dogs getting out. PS Andrews suggested the Clerk should report this on the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary website. *Clerk to action. Reported 27th Oct reference PWA-4916-23-5050-03* **LF**
 2. There have been loose dogs roaming around Ramsey Farm disturbing the cattle. The owners of the dogs need to be identified before any further action can be taken by the Police. **ALL**
 3. The hedge around Timewells House requires cutting back as vehicles are required to move into the middle of the road to get past. *Clerk to send letter to Mr Finch.* **LF**
 4. There have several complaints that the diversion signs for the road closure have been extremely badly placed causing vehicles to move into the centre of the road to avoid them. This has been on corners where the oncoming traffic has not been able to see the vehicles approaching. *Clerk to raise the complaint to Cllr Ray Radford and point out the diversion has also caused vehicles to go past the entrance to Westleigh Quarry which is in dire need of repair.* **LF**
- 10.2** **Declaration of Interests:** None declared
- 10.3** **Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters arising**
 The September Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record and unanimously approved by all Councillors.
 There were no matters arising.
- 10.4** **Police Report**
 Police Simon Andrews introduced himself and gave the Council an idea of what the Neighbourhood Team are responsible for and how they can be of assistance to the Parish. He advised the Council about the dog issues and explained that if the Council or community would like a police presence at a School or community event they would hope to attend if commitments permit. The Council requested to be given access to the Police Report issued on a regular basis and thanked PS Andrew for coming along.

10.5 Environment

- 10.5.1** PROW: 1. Several small trees and branches have fallen across the permitted footpath behind the Quarry. *Clerk to report to Aggregate Industries.* **LF**
 2. large tree fallen across the wooded section of Footpath 16 by the permitted Quarry footpath. *Cllr Freeman will contact the landowner.* **FF**

- 10.5.2** Canal Report: Cllr Pilgrim attended the Canal Advisory Meeting and can report that the canal is being very well cared for. He will be raising an issue concerning the lack of enforcement being shown by MDDC for planning application conditions. **AP**

- 10.5.3** Westleigh Quarry Liaison Meeting: Concerns were raised by residents in the neighbouring Parish about the lack of warning for blasting at Fenacre. Aggregate Industries are taking action to ensure all residents are informed.

10.6 Highways

- 10.6.1** Work carried out: The road to Sampford Peverell is currently closed and the potholes repaired. The broken street light at Whitebrook has been replaced.
- 10.6.2** Pothole reported in Whitebrook – DCC response
“The problem has been identified at the location you provided but does not meet the criteria for a safety problem and no action has been taken. “
- 10.6.3** The Village Hall Trust had reported that the hedge in Frog Lane had been damaged. Councillors believe this was caused by a bus coming down Frog Lane.
- 10.6.4** Village signpost damaged - this has been caused by the landowner cutting the hedges. No further action to be taken by the PC.
- 10.6.5** Road closure Trace Bridge to Brinscott Cross Mon 30th Oct until Fri 17th Nov.
 The Neighbourhood Highways Officer confirmed that Black Lane and the road up to Holly Tree Cottage are on the verge ploughing list for this forthcoming winter.

10.7 Planning

- 10.7.1** Applications to be discussed:
23/01419/FULL erection of replacement agricultural storage building (720sqm) at Ebear Farm Westleigh. *This is in Burlescombe Parish and HRPC have been asked if they have any comments as a neighbouring authority. Councillors were puzzled as to why HRPC were asked to comment but discussed the application and had no comments to make.*
23/01644/CAT Notification of intention to coppice 2 Ash trees and remove 1 Ash tree within the Conservation area at Buehills. *The trees have Ash dieback and Councillors supported this application.*
- 10.7.2** MDDC Decisions:
23/01415/CAT notification of intention to raise the crown of 1 Cherry tree by 2m within the Conservation area at Pear Close – *no objections*
- 10.7.3** Update on the Pondground Firing Ranges application from MDDC - *“I can confirm that this application was deferred from the Planning Committee in September following the late submission of information from third parties. We are currently considering this information which has required consultation. I can confirm that the next available Planning Committee is that on the 8th November 2023 and the agenda for this Committee is not to be finalised until Wednesday next week (25th October). Once this application is confirmed on an agenda for a Planning Committee, the Planning Support Team will be in contact to confirm the date and times.”*
The PC have further learnt that this has been delayed further due to a recent heritage statement being submitted.

10.8 Mary Fewings Playpark

- 10.8.1** The Monthly inspection (September) was carried out with no comments.
- 10.8.2** The “No fires or BBQs” sign will be put up shortly.

- 10.8.3** The annual inspection was carried out in October and the only comment for action was to consider replacing the bench which shows signs of rotting. *Clerk asked to investigate the costs of benches and the different materials that could be used to ensure longevity.*

LF

10.9 **Clerk/Finance**

- 10.9.1** The Clerk informed the Council that whilst doing a bank reconciliation for the meeting, an apparent un authorised payment of £4500 from the Nat West current account on 23rd Oct was identified. The Fraud Dept of Nat West were immediately informed and are investigating further
One of the account signatories confirmed at the meeting that this was a payment made from their personal account which was incorrectly deducted from the HRPC account by a Nat West Branch. Clerk to advise Nat West and ensure the PC account is reimbursed. Councillors were extremely concerned that an account that requires two signatories for any Branch payments should have been approved. Clerk will be discussing this further with Nat West. The signatory is not at any fault over this matter.

- 10.9.2** The following income had been received:
September interest £40.81
Second half Precept £5807.50

10.9.3 **Expenditure:**

10.9.3.1 Expenditure paid:

MG Groundcare – strimming & weed spraying £123.00 – (approved Jan 23, item 1.6.5)

10.9.3.2	It was resolved that the following expenditure was approved for payment by the RFO:			
	Amount £	BACS/cheque	Payable to	Comments
10.9.3.2.1	156.00	BACS	MDDC	Litter bin emptying in Playpark May – Oct 23
10.9.3.2.2	273.60	BACS	SCRIBE	Annual membership

The bank statements and bank reconciliation for September were checked and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors approved funding for the Internal Audit in January. Clerk to confirm with Paul Russell.

10.10 **Training**

The Clerk and Councillors Freeman and Barker attended the Class Q permitted development conversions webinar run by MDDC on 19th Oct.

Clerk to attend Budget and setting precept webinar on 16th Nov.

10.11 **Matters brought forward for information or future agenda.**

- 10.11.1** There are three Councillor vacancies.

- 10.11.2** The Risk Management Committee will meet towards the end of November. The Chairman and

- 10.11.3** Cllr Freeman will attend, Clerk to arrange suitable date.

The precept will be discussed at the November meeting.

LF

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm. The next Full Council Meeting will be on Thursday 23rd November at 7pm in the Village Hall. There is no Full Council Meeting in December.

Adam Pilgrim
Chairman
Holcombe Rogus Parish Council