

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st November 2017

Present: Present: Cllr J Wescott (Chair), Cllr M Adams, Cllr P Reed, Cllr T Conway, Cllr J Briden, Cllr B Hatton, MDDC Cllr A Moore, DCC Cllr P Colthorpe, K Ward (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Meeting opened 7.35pm

1718-68 Apologies

Cllr J Andrew

1718-69 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Conway and Reed declared an interest in agenda item 14, but remained in the meeting and did not vote on the item.

1718-70 Dispensations

None

1718-71 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2017

The minutes were approved as a correct and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

1718-72 Open Forum

No items raised

1718-73 Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Colthorpe reported that she had attended the P3 workshops which was informative. DCC has achieved its highest rate of recycling at over 57%. MDDC has now signed up to the landfill tax rebate sharing scheme. Road builders who defrauded residents have been jailed and ordered to repay £11000 to victims after Trading Standards took them to court. Cllr Colthorpe also attended the Spotlight review into local policing. The effects of cuts to neighbourhood policing were high on the agenda and the police will instigate their own review of the impact on communities.

1718-74 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Moore attended the State of the District debate which also covered policing where it was clear the police's highest priority is on safeguarding and neighbourhood policing is a low priority. Many attendees complained on speeding in rural areas and the police will look into this. The Market Walk in Tiverton is being reviewed by a street scape expert and it is hoped more units will be occupied by Christmas. The Council is introducing electric charging points for cars in a number of car parks, not extra parking meters.

1718-75 Improvements to the centre of Morebath

Cllr Conway reported he has verbal agreement from the Rothwell family for changes to the land next to the village hall, but this has yet to be confirmed in writing. It was agreed the scheme cannot progress without written permission. To date the only volunteers for the project are Cllrs Andrew and Briden. The noticeboard will not need planning permission to install if it is below 1.55m. It was confirmed that any landscaping would not interfere with the events marquee when it is erected. It was **RESOLVED** to install the noticeboard as soon as practical, and other items to be deferred until written permission has been received from the Rothwells.

Actions:

Clerk to contact Rothwells for written confirmation of permission.
Cllr Conway to arrange for installation of the noticeboard.

1718-76 Snow Warden arrangements and grit bins

- a. Cllr Adams indicated he wished to stand down as Snow Warden. There was some debate as to the merits of the scheme, how it operated and where liability fell. Cllr Wescott agreed to become Snow Warden, subject to when the next training session is arranged.
- b. It was reported that the broken grit bins have been replaced, but DCC have stated they will not install any additional bins. The open day for salt collections will be arranged for December if possible. After the event an assessment will be made as to the size of any cover needed for the remaining salt.

Actions:

- Clerk to contact DCC re snow warden training
- Cllr Conway to arrange an open day for salt collection by residents.
- Cllr Adams to investigate costs for a salt store cover.

1718-77 Grants to local organisations

- a. It was confirmed that there is currently £2275 in the Amenity Reserve.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council does not require a refund of the contribution of £200 to Bampton Town Council for Devon Air Ambulance landing site.
- c. Village Hall: Cllr Conway, acting for the Village Hall Committee, confirmed that £6000 of works were needed. £2000 will be raised by the Hall and £500 has been promised from the Locality Fund. There remains a shortfall of £3500. Cllr Conway stated that plans to relocate the Hall were on hold so major repairs were needed now. After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to grant £1000 to the Village Hall for repairs as a one-off capital contribution.
- d. Churchyard: Cllr Wescott referred to the letter received from St George's Church, noting that no specific amount was requested. It was further noted that any ongoing contribution did not obligate the Council into future commitments should the churchyard close, but in future the Church should be clearer as to what their overall financial position is and how the council can support it. It was **RESOLVED** to award St George's Church £500 towards grass cutting and other maintenance.

1718-78 Consideration of a defibrillator / medical pack for Morebath Village

- a. General discussion: Cllr Conway enquired as to whether local residents had shown any interest on installing a defibrillator, and Cllr Hatton queried how it fits in with NHS services and First Responders. Cllr Wescott said that it would still take more time for ambulances to arrive, but that general 1st Aid training would provide the most benefit and provide people with confidence to use a defibrillator. Emergency services would "sign off" the installation as well. It was confirmed the main benefits will be to users of the Village hall and residents in the immediately vicinity. Cllr Briden reiterated the first action to take always be to ring 999 and stay with the sick person. It was agreed to investigate the cost of providing 1st Aid training, and for the Council to consider subsidising the training. It was further agreed to draft a leaflet for distribution to residents to canvass interest.
- b. Costings: the minimum cost for a fully automated defibrillator and heated cabinet will be £1200 + VAT. Further estimates will be needed for installation costs. Cllr Conway stated repairs would be needed on the Village Hall before installation.
- c. Insurance: the Clerk confirmed the insurance would cost an additional £21 per year.
- d. Funding: £500 has been awarded from the Locality Fund. There was discussion on meeting the funding shortfall. It was concluded that the project probably does not qualify for TAP funding. Cllr Conway asked about fund raising from residents. Cllr Wescott suggested that charges for the training would help offset costs. Cllr Adams suggested councillors make a personal contribution.

Actions:

Cllr Conway to investigate costs of installation – building and electrics.
Clerk to investigate costs of providing 1st Aid training, and draft a leaflet for distribution to residents regarding 1st Aid training, the defibrillator and fund raising.

1718-79 Communications Working Group

Cllr Hatton said Signpost have offered to publish Council information, however it would be limited to a few paragraphs maximum, and timing may be an issue.

Action: Clerk to submit a few paragraphs based on the meeting minutes, after consulting with Cllr Wescott.

1718-80 Highways and Traffic Calming

- a. Highways: Cllr Briden reported the overgrown tree at the Toll House, Exebridge has been cut and visibility is greatly improved. He has also had reports of pellet holes in trees from rifle shots and this was being monitored. Bonny Cross will soon be resurfaced. Cllr Adams reported complaints to DCC about pot holes towards Snapbox and Blights Hill.
- b. Traffic calming: Cllr Hatton has still had no progress from his queries with DCC, but is pursuing them.

1718-81 Footpaths

Cllr Hatton said he has received the claim form from DCC and this would be completed shortly. A further bid for funds would be put in for 2018/19. Walks around the parish would begin shortly and issues reported back. The biggest concern is Loyton Bridge. Other works are being undertaken as they arise.

1718-82 Environment / Amenities

- a. Litter picking: Cllr Briden reported the litter picking collected 10 bags which was an improvement on last year. He would like to thank everyone who volunteered.
- b. Bus shelters: Cllr Adams reported that he had approached a couple of firms for estimates but no responses received as it was likely the job was too small. It was **RESOLVED** to award the work to Adams & Ellicott for £150.
- c. Grass cutting: it was agreed to contact MDDC for a price for grass cutting the verges in 2018/19, based on similar terms to 2017/18. The Council agreed it was happy with the work of Steve Kelland for the grass cutting the play area and bridge, subject to confirming charges for 2018/19. Other one-off works to be awarded as required.
- d. Weed spraying: It was **RESOLVED** that this should also be carried out in 2018/19.

Actions:

Cllr Adams to arrange for preserving treatment to bus shelters

Clerk to contact MDDC re grass cutting quotes

Cllr Briden to contact Steve Kelland re grass cutting arrangements in 2018/19

1718-83 Planning

- a. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the comments submitted under delegated authority:
 - 17/01292/FULL: Erection of 3 dwellings following demolition of existing livestock building, Veltham Barn, Morebath – “Council fully supports”
- b. The Council **RESOLVED** to make no further comments on the following application:
 - 7/01292/FULL: Erection of 3 dwellings following demolition of existing livestock building, Veltham Barn, Morebath revised drawings
- c. The Council **NOTED** the following notifications:
 - 17/01062/ARM Reserved Matters for the erection of a holiday let/workshop/therapy room following Outline approval 16/00442/OUT, Whitehall Farm Morebath - Approval of Reserved Matters by MDDC
 - The Exmoor National Park Local Plan 2011-2031 (including minerals and waste policies) has been adopted.

1718-84 Finance 2017/18

- a. The Clerk reported the current financial position as set out in the agenda. After taking into account payments at this meeting, including grants, the balance in the accounts will be £18675 of which approximately £5800 is in contingency. The remaining funds are in earmarked reserves.
- b. Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:
 - K Ward / HMRC wages £214.43
 - K Ward expenses £11.26
 - S Kelland grass cutting & hedge cutting £497.40 (£414.50 + VAT)
 - MDDC grass cutting £285.16 (£237.63 + VAT)
 - Adams & Ellicott installation of posts and gets (P3 funded) £327.00 (£272.50 +VAT)
 - Morebath Village Hall room hire £45.00
 - FMB Outdoor Services weed treatment in car park £120.00
 - WC Dart grass cutting in car park £198.00
 - St Georges Church grant £500.00
 - Morebath Village Hall Grant £1000.00Payments to Cove Nurseries and DALC are deferred, awaiting invoices.

1718-85 Draft Budget 2018/19 and review of Reserves

- a. Draft budget 2018/19: the Clerk presented a draft budget for consideration based on expenditure patterns for 2017/18. It was noted the Council Tax Reduction Grant has been cut and is likely to be nil for 2019/20. However a surplus is still projected for the year. The draft budget was **NOTED**.
- b. Proposed Council Tax level 2018/19: the Clerk presented the Council with options for 2018/19 taking into account the reduction in the CTRG and a drop in council tax base. Having considered the options, the Council **PROPOSED** to keep the Council Tax at the same level as 2017/18, and the draft budget be adjusted accordingly for approval at the January meeting.
- c. Reserves Policy: The Clerk presented a draft Reserves Policy, prepared in consultation with Cllr Hatton, noting that funding levels in reserves should, where necessary, be linked to the long term repair / replacement needs of the Council's assets. Funds also need to be put aside for the election in 2019. Grant funding received is held separately to ensure it is only used for its intended purpose. The Council **NOTED** the Reserves Policy, and it was recommended the Policy and levels of reserves should be reviewed at least twice per year – at the budget and outturn.

1718-86 Other item to note only

The MDDC Chairman will be attending in March 2018.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 23rd January 2018, 7.30pm, Morebath Village Hall**
Meeting closed 9.45pm

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
