

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st January 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mark Brown, Bernard Curtis, Gill Fisher, Brian Howell, Richard Gard (chairman), Libby Turrell (vice chair) and Cathy Wetherden; Ruth Curtis (clerk & minutes); MDDCllr Derek Coren; MDDCllr Heal; DCCllr Nick Way

1. **Apologies** –Cllr Libby Turrell
2. **Declarations of interest** – Cllr Brown declared an interested re: planning application 17/01898/FULL as a near neighbour
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th November 2017** were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1 Highways
 - Resurfacing – the stretch of road from the ford to Quince Cross (most urgent) and up to Swallow Tree cross. Steve Tucker (ST) is checking to see where this is on the programme of work and will respond within the week.
 - Potholes – 1) we are advised to choose the satellite maps option to make it easier to accurately report the location of potholes as the display which appears by default has no landmarks and as such is difficult to use. Cllr Gard reported he had buckled his car wheel and split the tyre as a result of hitting the potholes between Westwood and Davylands in the dark. 2) The potholes at Thorne Cross (Cheriton Bishop) are reportedly due to be attended to as a priority with the stretch of road from Hask Lane due to be patched/resurfaced when the weather improves. HGVs for Tellams have not been able to use the official designated route as a result of the poor state of the road and have been using the village route instead. Pot hole filling material – DCCllr Way to find out where we can source this.
 - Drains – 1) the drain past Easterbrook on the Spreyton road is blocked and water almost permanently over the road. Cllrs Gard and Howell have previously tried to clear it but it needs a jetter. This last stretch of road - from Quince Cross past Easterbrook towards Spreyton – was never resurfaced at the time with the rest of that road (presumably because of the water). ST responded that this is not a priority so we will need to do it ourselves. 2) Between the Church and the Village Hall – thanks to Cllr Brown for clearing out. Stones have been placed to locate drain and help prevent mud blocking it so quickly. The right hand side is blocked with mud/sludge and causing flooding area on that side – digging out the ditch on that side will solve problem.
 - Flooding - West Studham – the flooding is getting worse and spreading further across the road. We have applied for and been granted funds for this work although we've had no direct confirmation - ST will follow up. Cllr Howell has cleared out sludge on the right hand side (Mr Hand's side) and this has taken the water level right down there. The left hand side (Shepherds) is now not easily rectifiable since the ditch in the field - which previously took the water away towards the farmhouse and into a pipe - has since been filled in and a fence erected. To uncover the ditch and pipe would now entail significant disruption and digging

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in the field which the Shepherds do not want. Councillors discussed other possible solutions - putting in a pipe and sump and building up the verge to help prevent water building up - and felt strongly that Highways should make a formal appraisal of the situation and suggest a way forward. It was agreed that DCCLr Way would discuss again with ST and ask Highways to visit the Shepherds and assess possible options for the site.

- Quality of resurfacing/patching/pothole material - ST will check quality of recent resurfacing along the lane from Road Down Farm to the ford. PH has scraped away sides at the blind corner just up from Coltsfoot as some vehicles were slipping and had difficulty getting up the hill there following the resurfacing.
- Road Warden agreement - PH has read the agreement and happy for it to be signed.

4.2 Other matters arising

- Mare & Foal, Yeoford - advice from DAPC is that we can't purchase a share unless we have powers of competence, perhaps we can make a donation to support a specific element? There is a full planning committee on Weds will decide on the application for a dwelling behind the pub.
- Community garden - clerk to follow up with Jo Williams re: our proposal.
- Speed limit signs - The costs from Touchwood signs are approx. £24 + VAT for A3; £30 + VAT for 2ft x 18" - it was agreed to purchase 2 signs at this size or at a size which fits the Hittisleigh village sign. Agreed wording: 'SLOW DOWN PLEASE'.
- Outside notice board - Cllr Howell will repair with cork supplied by MDCCllr Heal.
- Dog fouling - A photo of the road notification from MDCC was circulated. Cllr Fisher requested the notice be included on the road 20-30 yards from Hittisleigh Cross going down towards Hittisleigh Mill where there is repeated dog fouling. MDCCllr Coren to arrange.
- Collapsed stile - this has now been repaired.

5. Planning Correspondence

- 5.1 Bowacre 17/01927/FULL - the application has been withdrawn.
- 5.2 Barton Farm 17/01898/FULL - Change of use of agricultural building to holiday let (revised scheme - retention) and alterations to agricultural building including erection of single storey and pitched roof extensions Cllrs discussed the two part application and noted the retrospective application in relation to the listed building. With respect to the agricultural building, MDCCllr Heal confirmed in relation to the proposed deer cutting room that if the meat is for own consumption a licence is not required, if for onward sale Environmental Health would have an involvement. Councillors agreed the following response: Hittisleigh Parish Council have discussed the application and would like to request the condition that the agricultural building retain its agricultural status.

6. Payments - all agreed

- 6.1 CPRE membership £36
- 6.2 Clerk salary July-Dec 2017 £400
- 6.3 HMRC paye £80

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 For response

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Mid Devon District Council Annual Church Service 15 April - Cllr Gard happy to accept invitation.

7.2 For information – no comments on correspondence circulated.

7.3 New correspondence – none

8 AOB

- DCCllr Way reported on the Okehampton to Exeter line –this is looking more likely. See DCC website for up-to-date information. Include on village notice board. DCCllr Way also commented on the priority issues around social services – DCC are encouraging integration between health and care services.
- MDDCllr Coren reported on the building going up at Flood Farm (West Devon District Council, opposite Thornbury) – now owned by IGER, 70 acres. It is a sheep unit. Cllrs discussed the likelihood of an application for a residential building would be forthcoming in future.
- The clerk reported that Paul Pearce had purchased No HGV access signs for the Hittisleigh Mill road and would be putting these up.
- Cllr Curtis reported police cars earlier this month in early hours (looking at farm entrances) reportedly following up an incident at the 'village hall'. Cllr Gard had noticed cars and rubbish (beer cans) at the entrance to the solar farm.
- Cllr Gard – the Binneford sign has been made, waiting for letters to be routed and will be put up by Highways.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.