

## WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in Washfield Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr's Mrs A Trout (Chair), M Balment, R Arnold, J Boundy, P Crease, J Mock and R Webber.

**In attendance:** District Cllr R Stanley and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**61/03/19. To receive apologies.** Apologies were received from County Cllr Mrs P Colthorpe.

**62/03/19. Disclosure of interest in item on the Agenda.** Cllr Boundy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 66/03/19 b).

**63/03/19. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 as an accurate record of the meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

**64/03/19. Matters arising from the minutes.** There were no matters arising.

**65/02/19. Planning**

**a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.**

**19/00330/House** Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation, Exe Vale, Washfield.

Comment: Washfield Parish Council has no objections.

**b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC**

**18/01861/PNAG** Prior notification for the proposed construction of a culvert and formation of a forestry track. Land at NGR 293151 11888888141 (Barehills Wood), Stoodleigh.

**c) Any other planning matters.** There were no other planning matters.

**66/03/19. Highways**

**a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed.** Mud has built up over the drain at the bottom of the hill by Worth House and the road is flooding when there is heavy rain. The jetter has been in the parish and cleared some drains. The stone parapet of the bridge at Badcott, near Hatherland Mill, is still damaged. On Stoodleigh Drive the drains are blocked with leaves. In Long Lane water is collecting where potholes have been fixed because there is nowhere for it to go. Potholes were reported at Park House Water. A salt bin has now been installed at the Rackenford Road end of Washfield. It was reported that two salt bins in Washfield have the same number.

**b) Update on refurbishment of the fingerposts signs at Cotleigh and Warren Cross.** The fingerpost sign at Warren Cross has been removed for refurbishment and has been taken to be shot blasted. New wooden arms have been made and new letters, in the appropriate font, are being sourced from a foundry in Dorset. The fingerpost at Cotleigh needs to be taken out but the Post Office need to remove the post box first because the nuts fastening it to the post are inside the box. It needs to be put on its own post but there was concern that it might be removed completely.

**c) Any other highways matters.** Cllr Mrs Trout raised concerns about tractors speeding through the village.

**67/03/19. Finance**

**a) To approve any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payment: Mrs J Larcombe - £97.39 Clerk's salary and expenses (Chq no 512)

**b) To note the letter of thanks from Washfield PCC for the Churchyard Grant.** Noted.

**68/03/19. County & District Cllr Reports.** Cllr Stanley noted councillors were now in purdah. Phase 1 of plans to rejuvenate the Pannier Market and Market Walk has seen landscaping completed except for tree guards. The entrance from Fore Street will be widened with the removal of a shop. Eighteen new social houses are being built, six at Burlescombe and twelve at Palmerston Park. Two years ago there were 600 empty houses in the district and that has now been reduced to 200. Council tax now has to be paid after a property has been empty for three months. Planning charges are increasing as planning fees are not covering costs.

**69/03/19. Reminder about Town & Parish Elections 2<sup>nd</sup> May.** Councillors considering standing for election again were reminded that the closing date for nomination forms to be handed in at Phoenix House is 4pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Nomination forms were available at the meeting.

**70/03/19. Annual Parish Meeting – to agree a speaker.** Cllr Mrs Colthorpe was unable to arrange for the Highways Department to give a presentation at the APM. The meeting will go ahead on the 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm and it is hoped that another speaker can be arranged.

**71/03/19. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence.** The Chairman had no announcements.

A request was received from Washfield Social Club for permission to hold an event on the Village Green. Permission was given subject to insurance being in place for the event and a risk assessment provided.

The Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) is going to be reviewing Mid Devon during 2019. The review itself will be conducted in two stages, the first of which will consider the number of councillors that will most effectively reflect the future governance needs of Mid Devon District, ie how many members are required. The second phase takes the agreed number and looks at how the district should be 'warded' in terms of its new boundaries. Draft recommendations from the review are likely to be published by the Commission in December 2019, with the final ratification process following in 2020. Although any changes will not be implemented until the district elections in 2023.

**72/03/19. Public Questions.** There were no members of the public present.

**73/03/19. Date of the next meeting.** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2019. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.