

Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 7.30 on Thursday March 19th 2020 in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors Andrew Green, Marion Born, Chris Burrows, John Smith

Apologies, Jim Sampson, Jeff Burrows

Clerk Keyth Richardson

Open Forum – apologies from Helen Smith

There were two members of the public present, Mark Wooding and Malcolm Bedford. A query was raised about the casual vacancy caused by the death of John Daw. Mark Wooding indicated he would be standing as a candidate for the Mid-Devon Council Taw Ward, He lives in Nymet Rowland suggested there may be some scope for co-ordinating emergency plans. Coldridge Parish Council has considered the need for such a plan for the parish and decided it was not needed, as each emergency will require a different response.

Malcolm Bedford said he is interested in serving on Coldridge Parish Council. The Clerk informed the meeting was informed that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic all elections had postponed.

John Smith, on behalf of Helen Smith, was concerned that the work done on Park Mill Bridge had left a gap in the railings and that it was possible to miss the bridge and drive into the River Taw. Helen had also commented that the trees in Holy Cross churchyard in Crediton had been trimmed and looked very good, and queried why such work was not being carried out at St Matthew’s church, despite many years of requests from many people including Coldridge Parish Council.

The Parish Council meeting started at 19:40

	item	
2019/20-100	Recording of meetings	The meeting was not being recorded
2019/20-101	Apologies	none
2019/20-102	Declaration of interest	None reported
2019/20-103	Minutes	The minutes of the meeting on January 16 th 2020 were approved and signed
	Casual vacancy	The clerk reported he was still waiting to hear if there had been a request for an election by 10 registered voters. If not, the Council would be able to co-opt a member for the rest of the Late John Daw’s term of office. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic it was agreed that this process could wait until normal life had resumed.
2019/20-104	Clerk’s Progress Report	The Council had been re-enrolled with the Pension Regulator, as required. At present no council employees are enrolled in a pension scheme.

2019/20-105	Ride on tractor update	Chris Burrows and Andrew Green had found a suitable machine at Andrew Symons in Crediton, an ex-display model ATCO GT38HR ride-on mulching mower for £1542 plus VAT. It had all the features required, being mainly mechanical and not electrical in operation. It was agreed to purchase this, but if possible, for £1500 plus VAT. (post meeting update, the machine was purchased for £1500 plus VAT and collected on 24 th March. Serial number DD297091)
2019/20-106	COVID-19	<p>Two days before this meeting the Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman met to review the situation and formulate some action plans to be put to the Council. It is a very fluid situation and since then further regulations and advice have been published.</p> <p>It was agreed that the council has a duty and a wish to support all parishioners, and that part of that role is ensuring as many as possible receive accurate and up to date information. The Council is not competent to offer medical or similar advice but will circulate all useful official advice it receives.</p> <p>A significant proportion of the parish are over 70, seen as being particularly vulnerable at this time and neighbours will be encouraged to look out for these.</p> <p>John Smith had produced a draft information sheet to be sent to all those on the Coldridge Calendar list, which was discussed. He will continue to send out updates as and when they are received, most likely on a daily basis.</p> <p>It was agreed a single point of contact is required (SPOC) and that a specific phone be bought to do this. John Smith was given authority to proceed with this and the Council agreed to cover the cost. (Post meeting note this was done at a cost of £9:00 including a top-up)</p> <p>The early opening of some supermarkets was discussed, but John Smith explained these are not legally enforceable and the idea of early morning car runs to supermarkets for the elderly in the parish was discussed and then shelved.</p> <p>Tesco is supporting Community Groups known to it and it is believed other supermarkets are doing similar.</p> <p>Volunteers are being sought, preferably under 50, and a number have already come forward. This could work in a similar manner to Coldridge Car Pool. How this develops and evolves is unknown , but it must be tried.</p> <p>This is a summary of the very full, frank and wide-ranging discussion which took place including members of the public.</p>

2019/20-107	Defibrillator training	Whilst this is due in May it was agreed to ask for this to be done on 21 st October 2020.
2019/20-108	Finance	<p>The following payments were agreed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clerk's wages £149.95 clerk's expenses £6.69 St Matthews Church for graveyard maintenance £380 Allerbridge Chapel for graveyard maintenance £250 <p>The clerk distributed a copy of the income and receipts for the current year, and it was noted that there is sufficient funds for the normal operation, and also some significant amounts available to help if required in supporting action by the parish in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Arrangements for this year's audit are unclear, but the Clerk will inform the Council of any updates</p>
2019/20-109	Highways hedge trimming and ditches	<p>It was reported that the hedges which had been identified at the last meeting as needing trimming had been done, although it took a while for a lot of the debris on the highway to be cleared up.</p> <p>Correspondence has been received from DCC Highways. There was concern expressed over the claim that ditches had been cleared by DCC Highways, as stated in their letter to the Council: there was little evidence of this within the parish. The diagram indicating responsibility was considered useful. The downloaded document from DCC Highways was circulated, and it was agreed to re-visit this issue at later date.</p> <p>It is noted that the drains and road surface at Gilscott are very poor and need urgent attention, and that a car had damaged a hedge on the B3220 as a result of going through it in process of having a single vehicle incident, believed to be due to excess speed for the conditions.</p>
2019/20-110	Planning	MDDC has given permission for the applicant to repair the fireplace at Oak Farm
2019/20-111	Councillors reports	<p>Whilst the Council had agreed to help in the 75th celebration of VE day this was now less likely to occur, and the Council agreed to follow all official advice from Bruno Peek, the national organiser.</p> <p>The Village Hall is now closed as a precaution due to COVID-19</p>
2019/20-112	Dates of next meetings	These were noted as being planned for 14 May, 16 July, 17 Sept, 19 Nov but this would depend on guidance and regulations from the government.

		<p>The clerk explained that the Council cannot by law operate remote, closed or distance meetings, and all meetings must be open to the public, so that all decisions, especially those regarding expenditure are clear.</p> <p>In order to meet its commitments and to have decisions made during the time when public meetings are banned the Council needs to delegate its powers to the Clerk. This power cannot, by law, be delegated to any Councillors.</p> <p>The Council agreed to delegate full decision-making powers to the clerk for up to 6 months. The Clerk is required to discuss all decisions with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, preferably keeping the whole council informed. Cheques will still require 2 Councillors to sign them, so all expenditure will be effectively controlled through this mechanism.</p>
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The meeting closed at 21:00

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