

PUDDINGTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parish Clerk: Wendy Baldwin E-mail: puddingtonpc@gmail.com

[Website: https://middevonparish.co.uk/Puddington](https://middevonparish.co.uk/Puddington)

Minutes the 272nd Puddington Parish Council
Meeting on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7.30pm, to be held as a conference call.

- 1) **Public Session** – Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman, before the start of the Parish Council meeting. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself except with the Chairman’s permission – No comments.
- 2) **Apologies** – To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence. Cllr. Seward Folland sent his apologies.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest** - To declare any personal interests and any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Item 7a Cllrs. R. Price and S. Brick declare an interest.
- 4) **Minutes** – To consider for approval the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th January 2021. The minutes having been previously circulated. These will be signed at a later date. Minutes approved and adopted.
- 5) **Correspondence**
All electronic correspondence forwarded to Cllrs., no items from these circulations for discussion. However, the insurance renewal quote was sent the evening of the meeting. As the play/community area will now be the PC responsibility there was some discussion regarding adding this as a liability and at what point the play area equipment and changes to the grounds should be added to the policy. It was decided Cllr. Keatley would send the Clerk details of the new community space (orchard, fencing etc) and play area equipment so the Clerk can liaise with the insurance broker to obtain the most appropriate cover.
- 6) **Planning**
No planning items for discussion at this meeting.
- 7) **Matters arising from previous minutes**
 - a) **Shipping Container – update Cllrs Price/Wainwright.** Cllr. E. Wainwright had contacted MDCC legal department who are still processing the case and will update the PC once they had made their decision and contacted the land owner. There was some discussion as to why this issue was taking so much time to resolve as this had been ongoing for over a year. Cllr. Wainwright added that there was an Enforcement Working Group now set up at the Council where they are trying to establish why these orders are taking such a long time to resolve, and they are working on moving cases forward and added that the current situation with Covid-19 has also slowed the progress of cases.
 - b) **HMRC PAYE** –Clerk has now sent all outstanding cheque payments for NI/Tax to HMRC.
 - c) **Digital banking – Update RFO Pending.** Chairman Price and Cllr. Keatley have accessed the online system in order to add the new Clerk, some details required changing before this could be completed; Cllr. Keatley will make the amendments and remove the previous clerk in order to allow the new Clerk access.
- 8) **Current Business**
 - a) **Financial report: Receipts and Payments since last meeting, Cash Book & Bank reconciliation.** The Clerk had forwarded these for review by the Cllrs. Clerk to add her hours completed to the next meetings agenda for review and approval. Cllr. Keatley is also due a reimbursement from the play area funds for works completed and already

paid for by himself, he will forward details for approval and payment following the next meeting.

- b) Approval of the revised Financial Regulations** – These had been circulated prior to the meeting, following a brief discussion, Chairman Price proposed these regulations be adopted, seconded by Cllr. Keatley, all were in favour – approved and adopted.
- c) Approval of the revised Standing Orders** - These had been circulated prior to the meeting, following a brief discussion, Chairman Price proposed these regulations be adopted, seconded by Cllr. Keeble, all were in favour – approved and adopted.
- d) To consider registration to a professional Parish Council Governing Body such as DALC/NALC.** The Clerk had obtained an estimated annual fee of £50 for Puddington PC to be a member of DALC, this is based on the electorate number from last year. The Clerk suggested this option maybe more appropriate for a small PC, as NALC may be more useful to a larger Parish or Town Council. Amongst other benefits, the subscription can also provide legal advice and guidance. It was decided the PC join DALC. Clerk to arrange.
- e) The Tuck Inn – outdoor theatre event for the Summer of 2021 – to discuss supporting the event.** Chairman Price explained the premise behind the event to the rest of the Cllrs. There was much discussion, in summary, there was a question of whether this was good for the community, to encourage local social activities. Conversely, whether it was deemed an appropriate use of PC funds based on conversations some of the Cllrs. have had with the parishioners. Another view point was if the PC could afford to contribute any meaningful amount. It was decided the Cllrs. would carry out some further canvassing with parishioners to establish the general consensus – item to be carried over to the next meeting.
- f) Playground – update on plans** – Cllr. Keatley updated the group on the progress so far, including the tree and wild flower planting, the installation of nest boxes for Bats, Blue Tits and Tree Creepers, all of which was donated by the Joan Lakeland of Blackdog WI. The Chairman expressed great thanks to Cllr. Keatley for all his continued hard work with the play/community area as he gets started on his next project measuring up and obtaining quotes for the target net for the goal post. Thanks were also given to the WI for their donations and ongoing support. Clerk to write an official thank you to the WI via Cllr. Brick who also suggested a thank you to Devon CC for their contribution might be placed on one of the benches. There was further discussion on the next projects to be completed, it was suggested the surfacing of the entrance and positioning of the benches should be delayed until the play equipment is in place. The Chairman noted that the post holding the sign to the play area had rotted; Cllrs. Squires suggested DCC could look at replacing this when they are carrying out the works on the ground. The Chairman also pointed out the approach to Puddington from Tiverton direction to the playground was not very safe as it there was a blind corner approaching from that side and enquired as to whether the PC could place a sign there for traffic to slow down. Cllr. Squires explained that if the sign was on a public highway, permissions would need to be sought from the Highways Department, however, if the sign was positioned on private land this may be something the PC can arrange as long as the sign is not red or trying to identify with official highways signing. She also mentioned the Neighbourhood Highways Officer would soon be talking to local Parishes regarding their requests and suggestion for the Parish; however, this may take some time to conclude. The Chairman raised the finger post and missing finger at Tristram Chapel and who might we contact to arrange fixing this. Cllr. Squires didn't believe this was covered by Devon CC but if Clerk should enquire via her, she may be able to find out who best we can contact. Clerk to email request.

9) **Councillors/Committee Reports** – The Chairman opened up to the Cllrs. for any comments. Cllr. Squires confirmed the budgets had now been approved and there was an increase to Council Tax. Thanks were given to her for arranging the repair of the road from Puddington to Hensford Cross; however, it is believed this had fallen into disrepair again and was awaiting another repair as there maybe an underlying issue. Cllr. Wainwright mentioned Working Groups being set up to improve engagement and democracy, she also mentioned the new Climate Change Specialist who would be assisting with local community issues in the near future once they had settled into the role. Cllr. Keatley gave assurance that the footpaths although a bit wet, were still in order. There is an ongoing issue with footpath 6 (Pitt Lane) as its not easily passable. As a point of note, it was suggested the Ash Tree by the Playground be addressed before it causes an issue. It is thought this is on a farmers property rather than on a public highway. Chairman Price mentioned Cllr. Folland may know the land owner and he will ask if he can approach them regarding its removal.

10) **Confirm Date of next meeting**

Parish Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.30pm

Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40hrs.