

NYMET ROWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 182nd meeting of the Parish Council, held on Wednesday 11th August 2021 in the Village Hall.

Present:- Councillors Anthony Odhams (Chair) Babs Channing, Winnie Rookes, Viv O'Dell, Clerk Roger Cooper, County Councillor Margaret Squires, District Councillor Peter Heal, MoP's Mark Wooding, Roland Smith (The Pump).

Apologies:- David Gruncell.

Minutes of the last meeting to be approved and signed. Mark Wooding advised that he had been incorrectly described as Ward councillor, whereas RC meant to use the term Ward Candidate.

Matters arising:-

1. Pothole/road maintenance. MS had spoken to Highways who had stated that as long as the potholes are registered on the website they will be attended to. AO explained that he had repeatedly reported the state of the potholes on the Highways Portal in recent years. His last report still has not been acted upon. The PC are very dissatisfied with the lack of a permanent solution, despite a past on-site meeting with Stephen Tucker, MS and AO, during which Mr Tucker explained what was technically required. It was agreed at the time that if the PC arranged with the landowner adjacent to Barton Hill to clear an overflowing ditch, Highways would plough the verges and investigate a drainage solution. Despite the ditch being duly cleared, nothing else regarding this had progressed. Cllr Winnie Rookes explained that she clearly recalled the existence in the past, of a culvert running down the hill.
2. Change of Priority at Eggesford Cross junction. MS reported back that unless there is an accident/incident which would show the current priority to be unsafe, this change will not take place. AO explained that the need for the change of priority was precisely to prevent a potentially serious incident, not to wait for the consequences of for example, car occupants being hit by the very large front wheels on a heavily loaded fast moving tractor. The risks are particularly high when time short, agricultural contract drivers are working at pace during various periods throughout the year..
AO explained that the PC was not satisfied with the overall lack of action by Highways on points 1 and 2 above and would be referring the matter elsewhere.
3. Memorial Bench and Tree. As DG was not present matter postponed till next meeting, but a meeting with Richard Daw needs to be arranged.
4. Updated Emergency Plan . The author, MW explained that there are 5 areas of practical concern including the availability of a night landing site for Devon Air Ambulance. There is a Zoom Webinar by Mid Devon District Council on the content of emergency plans taking place on 27th September. AO has registered to attend, along with DG & MW.
5. Pony Paddock. Peter Heal stated that the correct contact is the land owner, Edwin Pike (known as Kitch)
6. Streetlight Pollution. RC reported that the CPRE (Campaign for Rural England) is interested in this matter and will provide some assistance, RC investigating.
7. Village Party. No specific conclusion has yet been reached, but the ongoing COVID-19 risks mean it would prudent to delay and potentially combine this with the Jubilee holiday 3-4 June '22.

8. 3 Rivers Development, PH reported that this is intended as a profit making organisation to benefit MDDC funds, run by Andrew Jowett at MDDC. Some development projects had already produced funds for the Council. A prominent scheme at present is the redevelopment of the old Tiverton Town Hall site, which may involve some outlay from the council at first, but should ultimately provide a good return. MW questioned PH on the viability of the scheme. As this was deemed as not directly PC business, the matter was closed

Finance Report:-

1. The current A/C balance is £1,596.41, Reserve A/C £450.37.
2. RC suggested sending a further £150 to the reserve for the Defibrillator. The amount was queried by AO who asked RC to find out what the costs of the replacement Pads and Batteries will be. Councillors were reminded that that grants to the Village Hall and Churchyard maintenance arise at this time of year.
3. RS had again agreed to perform the external audit of the accounts and duly signed a copy.

New Business. Zoom meeting included in item 4.

V.O'D raised the matter of a poly tunnel which has appeared in a field next to the A377 which she thought may belong to Nymet Mill. It was determined that as this is not believed to be within the Nymet Rowland boundary, the matter was closed

Date of next meeting:- Wednesday 10th November 2021. The meeting closed at 9.15pm