

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022 in the village hall

Present: Ruth Curtis (clerk), Cllrs Mark Brown, Chris Dack, Gill Fisher, Richard Gard (chairman), Brian Howell, Libby Turrell, Cathy Wetherden; MDDCllr Derek Coren; DCC Cllr Frank Letch

1. Apologies: none
2. Declarations of interest - none
3. Minutes of the last meeting 17th November 2021 - were approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising

4.1 MDDC Parish Review 2022

Councillors reviewed the parish map and discussed potential changes following the road or the river boundaries which could include properties at 1) western end of the parish (West and East Fursham and Easton Barton) and 2) at the easterly end from Hittisleigh Mill following the river up towards Binneford and joining the Yeoford road to include Road Down Farm. It was resolved to propose a revised boundary for the parish on this basis and Cllrs Turrell, Howell and Gard will meet to progress.

4.2 Highways

- Parish and Town Council conference - The clerk reported on the Parish & Town Parish Highways conference (virtual) attended in November – it had been a useful and informative event. People were interested in our ‘adopt a drain’ scheme and our road warden/community self-help experiences. Recordings of the sessions: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/events/events-and-conferences/conference-videos>
- Priority areas in the parish – the clerk follow up with Steve Tucker (ST) cc Lucy Barrow (Devon Highways) on priority work: road to Hittisleigh Mill; Dennis Down to Spreyton Wood Water; unfinished section from Quince Cross to Spreyton Wood Water. Cllr Gard reported volunteers have completed some road filling towards Hittisleigh Mill.
- DCCllr Letch has asked for clarification from ST re: liability when rural roads flood and will publish the response in the Courier.
- Roadside drain map - DCCllr Letch to ask ST if a digitised map of drains is now available

4.3 Village defibrillator – Cllr Fisher reported on the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) who are able to help with the whole process including grant applications via the National Lottery Fund which will include a cost for maintenance for 6 years. Estimated total cost is £3K. Support is also available via DCCllr Letch and the Locality Fund. Location wise the village hall was discussed as hook up to mains electricity is more readily available. It was resolved to propose proceeding with the project via the CHT to the Village Hall Committee.

4.4 Update on previous planning applications

- a) 21/00884 - Tourist lodges South West of Binneford Woods (Crediton Hamlets) – the parish council response supported Crediton Hamlets Parish Council and requested conditions to meet the concerns of the local community around secure fencing against dogs.
- b) 21/02419/PNCOU Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling under Class Q - Land at NGR 271245 92922, Fursham Cross – CPRE have

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written a response which challenges the Class Q qualification for the building. The determination date is 27th January.

- c) DCC/4231/2021 Retrospective change of use from small scale specialist waste incinerator to receipt and temporary storage of animal by-products, Tellams – will now be considered at March meeting (moved from January). DCCLr Letch will keep us updated and confirm meeting details
- d) 2530/19/FUL Whiddon Down farm shop and café (Drewsteignton Parish) – no news.

4.5 HPC proposal for closer working with MDDC Planning

Councillors discussed some of the challenges of the existing planning system and process, notably the lack of opportunity for parish councils to comment on prior notification applications, the increasing number of conditions being detailed with planning approvals and the reliance on local communities to monitor if conditions are being breached. Councillors will be attending the forthcoming planning training on 20th January on material planning considerations and there may be scope to feed back some of these observations. MDDCLr Coren kindly offered to circulate weekly MDDC planning list for the ward which includes notification of permitted development applications. It was resolved to make a site visit for each planning application.

4.6 MDDC Enforcement queries

- a) Howards Copse – MDDC Enforcement confirmed that the tents were erected temporarily to provide shelter/storage and have now been removed.
- b) Agricultural building & caravan, Swallow Tree Farm – the cladding of the barn relates to 05/00432/PNAG and has been checked by MDDC Enforcement. It was agreed to raise a query about the caravan.

5. Payments – Clerk salary & HMR PAYE approved

6. Correspondence

6.1 For response

- Request for donations – it was resolved to make the following payments: CAB £50; CHAT £25, Mid Devon mobility £25

6.2 For information – there were no comments on information circulated

6.3 District/Councillor Reports

DCCLr Letch reported on how he is disbursing Locality Fund and confirmed he is very happy to attend village events particularly as he has no surgery in Hittisleigh. MDDCLr Coren reported on recent committee meetings, on the Environment committee and new tenancy act.

6.4 New correspondence

- Wildlife Wardens – councillors were very positive about taking this forward. Cllr Gard to get more information.
- Defra map and potential water contamination (faecal organisms) – a Defra MAGIC map had been received showing the area around Hittisleigh as a high priority for faecal indicator organism issues. It is not known how the data is collected and there is no date on the map to indicate when the picture was made and if it was still current. Cllr Gard has asked the Environment Agency (EA) for urgent clarification and further information. Cllr Turrell proposed inviting the EA to the next parish council meeting or to a community meeting together with neighbouring parishes – whichever is most suitable - once more details are clarified.

Next parish council meeting 7.30 pm Wednesday 16th March 2022