

# **HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in the village hall**

Present: Ruth Curtis (clerk), Cllrs Mark Brown, Chris Dack, Gill Fisher, Richard Gard (chairman), Brian Howell, Libby Turrell, MDDCllr Derek Coren; DCC Cllr Frank Letch and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr Cathy Wetherden
2. Declarations of interest – none
3. Public discussion on prior notification planning applications – Cllr Gard reported there have been 5 prior notification applications within the parish this year already and MDDCllr Coren summarised the different types of permitted development and the process these types of applications follow (in general 28 days). Questions asked were around the number of agricultural buildings/sqm a landowner is allowed to erect and in relation to what acreage/level of farming activity and whether neighbours to a proposed site are required to be notified (sometimes it seems to happen and other times not). There was further discussion about the conversion of barns erected under prior notification into dwellings under class Q and the impact this is having and will have on the countryside. Cllr Gard proposed to write a letter to Mel Stride on the latter point and circulate to councillors for comment.
4. Minutes of the last meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - were approved and signed.
5. Matters Arising
  - 5.1 MDDC Parish Review 2022 - there have been no objections by neighbouring parish councils to our proposals. The draft proposals are due to be published by 31<sup>st</sup> July.
  - 5.2 Highways - no further news from Highways (Steve Tucker) on the priority areas in the parish or on the availability of a digitised map of drains.
  - 5.3 Village defibrillator – The telephone kiosk is being repaired and made watertight and painted. The Community Heartbeat Trust organise electricity etc with BT. Training will be provided, ideally if possible before the Annual Parish Meeting (18<sup>th</sup> May) and installation by the Jubilee celebrations. We are waiting a quote for insurance. Cllr Gard thanked the community for coming together to support the project and all those working to make it happen, with special thanks to Gill & Will Fisher. Councillors recorded their thanks to DCllr Letch for £500 from Locality Fund.
  - 5.4 Wildlife Wardens - community based approaches to wildlife being coordinated locally by Cllr Gill Westcott (Cheriton Bishop). Cllr Dack offered to get in touch and to include something in parish magazine as appropriate.
  - 5.5 Potential water contamination – Cllr Gard has now written to Natural England and is waiting a reply.
  - 5.6 MDDC Enforcement queries – no updates as yet apart from update to say short staffed
  - 5.7 Article 4 direction – a lengthy process. Consider presenting at a future meeting.
6. Planning
  - 6.1 Updates
    - a) 21/00884 - Tourist lodges South West of Binneford Woods (Crediton Hamlets parish) – the conditions we requested have not been included. It was agreed to contact the applicant and discuss our concerns.
    - 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 – refused

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- c) DCC/4231/2021 Retrospective change of use from small scale specialist waste incinerator to receipt and temporary storage of animal by-products, Tellams - new date for the meeting has not yet been set. DCCLr Letch will keep us updated and confirm meeting details.
  - d) 2530/19/FUL Whiddon Down farm shop and café (Drewsteignton parish) – no further news. Determination date 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 6.2 New applications
- a) 22/00189/PNAG Prior Notification for the erection of an agricultural livestock and storage building, land at NGR 272886 95044 (East of Medlake Farm) – permitted
  - b) 22/00404/PNAG Prior Notification for the erection of agricultural storage building on land at NGR 272658 94551 Hittisleigh - Cllr Gard reported on the site meeting. There was much discussion and councillors reiterated the concerns already expressed to MDDC Planning (size, location, access track, gateway and highways access) and raised further concerns informed by the site visit, in particular around the huge amount of groundworks which will be required because of the size and proposed location. Councillors agreed that a concreted level turning area/apron would be required for machinery to turn and access the barn but this is not included in the application. It was strongly felt that the plan should be progressed under a full planning application. Notes were taken at the meeting and Cllrs Brown & Howell will forward these to the clerk to send on to MDDC Planning.

## 7. Correspondence

7.1 For information – there was no comments on information circulated.

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

7.2 New correspondence

- Noise from village hall – councillors discussed a parishioner’s concern about the level of noise from the village hall and the clerk confirmed the matter will be responded to by the Village Hall Committee
- Jubilee celebrations – Cllr Brown made a request for £250 towards costs for celebration mugs on behalf of the Jubilee committee and it was agreed to donate.
- Ukraine – some parishioners have signed up through the government website to offer space in their homes for Ukrainian refugees and councillors discussed the ways in which people and the parish council might help to support both the refugees and those parishioners hosting them. This might be by supporting events and activities for eg in Crediton/Exeter or with practical help like shopping or driving/lifts. Cllr Turrell will let the community know of the parish council pledge of support via the Hittisleigh community email.

7.3 District/Councillor Reports

DCCLr Letch reported on DCC budget and the increases for various areas with Highways at only 0.4%, effectively a decrease in relation to other areas. The Locality Fund has been reduced to £8K (from £10K). There are 12,000 people waiting for elective surgery for 12 months or more. MDDCllr Coren reported on the council tax allocation and the Environment Policy Development Group and also on the Homes group where there has been a lot of discussion around new affordable housing in Tiverton.

**Next parish council meeting 7.30 pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**