

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 in the community garden

Present: Cllrs Mark Brown, Ruth Curtis (clerk), Chris Dack, Gill Fisher, Richard Gard (chairman), Brian Howell, Libby Turrell, Cathy Wetherden and DCCLr Frank Letch

1. Election of Parish Council Chair – Cllr Gard was re-elected and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
2. Election of Parish Council Vice Chair - Cllr Turrell was re-elected and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
3. Apologies: MDDCllrs Derek Coren, Stuart Penny
4. Declarations of interest – Cllr Dack declared an interest in item 8.5 planning application 21/00807/FULL and Cllr Fisher in item 8.1 planning application 20/01780/FULL
5. Election of planning sub-committee – Cllrs Wetherden and Brown were re-elected and Cllr Dack was elected, Cllr Howell having stepped down.
6. Minutes of the last meeting 17th March 2021 - were approved and signed.
7. Matters Arising
 - 7.1 Noticeboard

The new notice board is now in situ and has been another successful collaboration with the village hall committee and parishioners. Thanks were given to all the volunteers.
 - 7.2 Howards Copse

There was no further news from Enforcement and to date we have not received a response from Jenny Clifford.
 - 7.3 Devon Climate Declaration

The Hittisleigh Climate Crisis Committee (Cllr Dack, Cllr Brown, Ruth Curtis, Chris Wood) will review the ideas and priorities from the public meeting in 2019 and put forward recommendations for practical action at the next parish council meeting. The group will also review the request to the parish council to consider endorsing the Devon Climate Change Declaration.
 - 7.4 Highways

Cllr Gard gave an overview of Highways issues within the parish for the benefit of DCCLr Letch noting that there is a real missed opportunity for Highways contractors to join up their efforts with the local road warden to ensure best order of work and best use of funds. Contractors seems to have no recognition of the role of road warden despite it being a DCC Highways scheme. There was much discussion about the deteriorating state of the road from just above Davylands down past Swallow Tree Cross to Spreyton Wood Water and several parishioners have experienced damaged tyres and wheel hubs. It is on the list for repair but no news as to when it is likely to be resurfaced. Cllr Gard will provide DCC Letch with a parish map, highlighted with our highways priorities, with the proposal to then to meet together with the road warden and Steve Tucker (Highways) to visit the areas in person and agree a plan.
8. Planning
 - 8.1 20/01780/FULL | Erection of 2 dwellings following removal of agricultural buildings. Land and Buildings at NGR 276014 96794 (Binneford)- revised drawings – refused

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- 8.2 21/00580/FULL Change of use of agricultural land to allow 1 pitch for the siting of 1 static caravan, 2 touring caravans and associated works for the use of gypsy and traveller family on land at NGR 276600 96594 (North of Shortacombe Farm), Shortacombe Lane, Yeoford (Crediton Hamlets) – revised drawings – waiting decision
- 8.3 20/02084/FULL Erection of log cabin as holiday let and associated shower/wc building - woodland at NGR 273448 97276 (north of Teigholt Cross) Treefield Farm – withdrawn.
- 8.4 21/00489/CLU Woodside (Colebrooke parish council – application for a certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a dwelling house in breach of agricultural tie condition (g) of Planning Permission 87/02435/OUT for a period in excess of 10 years – waiting decision.
- 8.5 21/00807/FULL New House Farm - change of use of land for siting of shepherd's hut as holiday let. Councillors discussed the application and resolved to support it, acknowledging that there is a strong need, particularly in context of covid, for eco-friendly, sustainable accommodation for holidays, such as this will provide.

9. Governance & Accounting for year ending 31 March 2021

- 9.1 Internal audit report – this was reviewed and approved.
- 9.2 Annual governance statements – these were reviewed and approved. The keeping of historical records was discussed and Cllrs Turrell and Fisher kindly offered to review these with a view to making a display available at the village tea party on the 17th July.
- 9.3 Annual accounting statements – these were reviewed and approved.
- 9.4 Certificate of exemption from external audit – it was resolved to apply for the certificate of exemption.

10. Payments

- 10.1 DALC 2021 subscription £56.60
- 10.2 Notice board purchase £50.00
- 10.3 St Andrew's churchyard donation 2020 and 2021 £200
- 10.4 SE Sibley internal 2020 and 2021 audit £50.00
- 10.5 Community First Insurance £152.62 – councillors approved a 3 year Long Term Agreement at this rate.

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 For information:
The clerk will forward the CPRE May bulletin which had just been received. There were no other comments on the information circulated.

12. Reports from MDDC and DCC councillors

DCCLr Letch introduced himself. He joined Crediton Town Council in 2003 and served 13yrs as Mayor. A member of MDDC for 6yrs, he serves on Planning Committee and Scrutiny Committee. He is also a Trustee of Involve. For DCC, he sits on the Children's Scrutiny Committee and represents MDDC branch of HATOC. He has a social media presence on Twitter and Facebook - Frank Letch for local and parish councils.

The meeting closed at 18.46

Next parish council meeting Wednesday 21st July 2021