

# **HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in the village hall**

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

1. Apologies: Cllrs Chris Dack
2. Declarations of interest – MDDCllr Coren declared an interest in 4.5
3. Minutes of the last meeting 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - were approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising

### 4.1 Highways

The broken pipe Cllr Dack reported on last time has been repaired. Cllrs agreed to report the structural defects in the two key critical areas in the parish on the DCC Highways website: Hittisleigh Mill road and Dennis Down to Spreyton Wood Water. Cllr Gard to also send details and photos of the two areas to DCCLr Letch to see if they might qualify for the 1.4m fund for improving rural roads.

### 4.2 DDC Gypsy & Traveller policy pitch provision

We sent the relevant sections of the minutes of our last meeting to Tristan Peat (TP) who confirmed 1) the target of 8 pitches within period 2021-2025 is informed through the annual average for the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2015) 2) the assessment of gypsy & traveller status where required is undertaken by Devon County Council's Services to Communities Team and 3) further details about how we can be involved in the evidence gathering around the role and functional relationship of villages and rural areas should be available in early 2022. Cllr Gard has responded to seek further clarifications - for eg, does the recent approval of 6 gypsy & traveller pitches between Uffculme and Willand (also with the casting vote of the MDDC Planning Committee Chair) mean there is only allowance for 1 further pitch in Mid Devon until 2025? The 2015 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment is due to be reviewed this year – could this mean a revision of that allocation? It was noted that the Binneford application has 16 conditions and councillors expressed concern over how so many conditions can be effectively monitored. It was agreed to invite TP to a future meeting to discuss further and the clerk will liaise with Chair on this. MDDCllr Coren had added points to our question to Richard Chesterton (MDDC Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration) - not submitted to full council but sent directly – and will update us on his response.

- ### 4.3 Village defibrillator – Devon County do not supply defibrillators and suggested Red Cross or St John's. Planning is needed for the siting. There is an annual maintenance charge and some versions have better battery life than others. Cllr Fisher to find out more information from Cheriton Bishop and clerk to ask from Yeoford. It was agreed to make some flyers for coffee morning and for church to get people's views - Cllr Brown to organise. DCC Cllr Letch offered to write something for the Crediton Courier.

### 4.4 MDDC Enforcement matters

Howards Copse: 1) Caravan in Rose Wood – we are led to believe that the removal of the caravan was enforced and overseen by MDDC Enforcement possibly with police involvement allegedly because of the breaking of covid rules by the party/gathering. We are trying to get clarification from MDDC Enforcement about this. 2) Trony Wood – permission was given for a 'forestry storage building' to be erected (prior notification) for forestry maintenance and related activity in October 2020. A signal mast has now

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been erected that allows for surveillance. The hut contains a double bed and wood burning stove. We have had no response from Enforcement to our several requests for clarification on these and other matters. It was agreed the clerk would send a new email to Angharad Williams (MDDC Interim Development Management Manager) cc Sara Jenkins (Enforcement), Adrian Devereaux (Planning) summarising the details of the various enforcement matters and asking for response.

## 4.5 Update on previous planning applications

- DCC/4231/2021 Retrospective change of use from small scale specialist waste incinerator to receipt and temporary storage of animal by-products, Tellams – the application is going to legal. DCC Cllr Letch will keep us updated.
- APPEAL 20/01780/FULL | Erection of 2 dwellings following removal of agricultural buildings. Land and Buildings at NGR 276014 96794 (Binneford) - appeal dismissed
- 2530/19/FUL Whiddon Down farm shop and café – no decision as yet.

5. Budget – the budget was reviewed, discussed and approved. The fixed asset register was reviewed with no changes.

6. Precept – following review of the budget and further discussion, it was resolved to agree a precept of £1950.

## 7. Correspondence

7.1 For information – there were no additional comments on items circulated.

7.2 New correspondence

Reports from MDDCllr Coren: 1) Environment Policy Development Group (PDG) has appointed Jason Ball to work solely on carbon footprint, things are changing but not fast enough. The aim is net zero by 2030. 2) Three families in Crediton have offered homes to rent for refugees, costs met by Central Government. 3) The District Council will be reviewing all towns and parishes in Mid Devon as part of their Community Governance Review to run from Nov 2021 to Nov 2022. Parish councils will have chance to respond as will individuals.

Reports from DCCLr Letch: 1) DCCLr Letch attended briefing on climate change - efficiency of clean energy wind turbines 25%, solar panels 11%. Biggest polluters/worst for transmissions are school buses at 42%. 2) Risk Management and Fraud – fraud costs UK average £10K per household p/a. Any suspect/dodgy texts or communications can be forwarded to 7726. 3) Children’s Scrutiny Committee – very concerned about young carers, there are 100,000 child carers in the UK. What help are we giving them? Useful information [www.devoncarers.org.uk/campaign](http://www.devoncarers.org.uk/campaign).

**Next parish council meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**