

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2021 in the village hall

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

1. Apologies: Cllrs Mark Brown, Libby Turrell, Cathy Wetherden; MDDCllr Stuart Penny
2. Declarations of interest – MDDCllr Coren declared an interest in 5.1
3. Minutes of the last meeting 21st July 2021 - were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 From the minutes

- Howards Copse – a caravan was removed following a party in Rose Wood at which the police were called. A second portaloo has been put up and it's been reported that the owners of Rose Wood have consent to put up a shed. The Clerk to get in touch with MDDC Enforcement Officer, Sara Jenkins to find out what is allowed to be put up in woods in terms of structures as this is still not clear.
- Log cabin woodland at NGR 273448 97276 (north of Teighholt Cross) Treefield Farm – the cabin has now been removed.

4.2 Highways

Cllr Fisher had reported 21 potholes, 2 of which have been repaired. 15 of which were apparently not severe or unsafe enough for repair. No further news from Steve Tucker, Highways on the resurfacing of the Spreyton Wood Water (Quince Cross) to Dennis Down road that we are reassured is on the job list. A hedge trimmer has cracked a clay pipe in roadside hedge on the lane into the village (near where the land is for sale and where there is often the SWW leak). Cllr Dack to take photo and forward to DCCllr Letch.

4.3 Hittisleigh Climate Crisis Committee proposals – not discussed.

5. Planning

- 5.1 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) – permitted with conditions. The vote at MDDC Planning Committee had been close with the chairman having the casting vote. It was felt quite strongly that until the pitch quota is met, MDDC simply won't take into account local views. It was also felt that it would be useful to have clarification regarding the definition of a traveller who is not of an ethnic group, particularly in light of the potential increase in the number of self-identifying travellers. Additionally, it was commented that it would be helpful if the checking/vetting process undertaken by the DCC (via the DCC gypsy liaison officer) was made transparent.

Councillors then discussed the references made in the MDDC Housing Strategy 2021-2025 to the proposals for the number of gypsy & traveller pitches. There were differing numbers quoted: Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment 2015 (GTAA) identified need for 35 pitches plus 11 plots for travelling show people between 2014-2034; the Mid Devon Local Plan 2013-2033 provides for 25 pitches as part of planned urban extensions and Objective 16 of the MDDC Housing Strategy

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2021 -2025 has a target of 8 new pitches between 2021 and 2025 which, under the terms of the MDDC Local Plan, can be 'outside villages in the countryside'.

Councillors discussed the delay in the provision of pitches associated with the urban extensions and felt this delay in reality means that, regardless of local parish council and community views, applications in the open countryside, such as at Binneford will be passed. It was agreed to ask MDDCllr Coren to submit a question on our behalf to MDDC Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration, Richard Chesterton, at full Council in November to address this concern. The clerk and chair to draft and circulate to councillors.

- 5.2 APPEAL 20/01780/FULL | Erection of 2 dwellings following removal of agricultural buildings. Land and Buildings at NGR 276014 96794 (Binneford) – responses by 6th October. There were no further comments - our original comments will be taken into account at the appeal.
- 5.3 DCC/4231/2021 Retrospective change of use from small scale specialist waste incinerator to receipt and temporary storage of animal by-products at Old Tellams Yard, Road from Pitton Cross To Hook Farm, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6HH - DCCLr Letch has called this in and will let us know when it is due to come to the DCC Planning Committee.
- 5.4 2530/19/FUL Revised additional information received - Development of new farm shop and ancillary cafe with supporting secondary areas consisting of storage, WCs, offices and kitchen space (resubmission of 2701/18/FUL) – responses by 7th October – the clerk to circulate our previous responses so councillors can review in light of this application and its revised information. To agree a response by email.

6 Correspondence

6.1 For response

- 6.1 MDDC Housing Strategy 2021-2025 response by 30th Sept – in addition to the gypsy and traveller pitch targets and objectives already discussed, it was noted that 10% of new housing stock (786 new dwellings) are to be built in rural areas. The strategy acknowledges pockets of 'social isolation' in many communities defined by, among other things, slow broadband and lack of transport. Objective 1.21 mentions the gathering of new evidence to 'reappraise the role of villages and functional relationships between them and the rural areas in which they are located.' Councillors agreed that it would be good to be involved in this aspect. The clerk to find out more information.

6.2 For information – there were no comments on items circulated.

- Devon Communities Together: Community Emergency Plan webinar Mon 27th Sept 6pm zoom – Cllr Dack offered to attend.

6.3 New correspondence

- DCCLr Letch reported he is writing a regular column for local village newsletter (Yeoford) and also in the Courier. He invited applications for the Locality Fund. There is a 1.4m fund for improving rural roads NOT potholes – could any of this apply to the areas in Hittisleigh? Send photos, dimensions off area, description and location and DCCLr Letch will forward on to see if suitable.
- Cllr Gard raised the question of defibrillator for the village DCCLr Letch will find out some information from DCC.

Next parish council meeting Wednesday 17th November 2021