

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 by Zoom

Present: Cllrs Mark Brown, Chris Dack, Gill Fisher, Richard Gard (chairman), Brian Howell, Libby Turrell, Cathy Wetherden; MDDCllr Derek Coren; DCCLlr Nick Way.

1. Apologies: MDDCllr Stuart Penny, Ruth Curtis (clerk).
2. Declarations of interest – Cllr Fisher declared an interest in planning application 20/01780/FULL.
3. Minutes of the last meeting 18th November 2020 - were tacitly approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising
 - 4.1 Highways update
 - DCCLlr Way re-confirmed that the road from Dennis Down to Spreyton Water is in The Program for resurfacing but the date for the work is still unknown.
 - The damaged pipe under the lane between Road Down Farm and Teighholt has been repaired by DCC. The road warden has erected a fence beside the road above the gully for safety, to be paid for by the community.
 - The road warden has done a lot of excellent work clearing drains and gullies but there is a section along the lane from Easterbrook towards Spreyton Water where the road has fallen away and requires shuttering and concreting. Highways have erected a fence, concreted a hole and taken a soil sample. It is hoped they will return soon to extend the pipe and protect the road from further water erosion.
 - Road drains getting blocked is an on-going problem. Cllr Brown clears the drains near the Cross and Cllr Howell offered his assistance. The chairman said that the reintroduction of the ‘Adopt a Drain’ scheme would be helpful so Cllr Turrell suggested a letter could be delivered to every household asking for help and/or an article written in the Parish magazine describing the road warden’s role and achievements and requesting help from the local community.
 - Cllrs were asked to email details of any potholes in the parish to the chairman who will liaise with the road warden. For outside the parish, DCCLlr Way said that although Highways maintenance is very over-stretched, the pothole filling system is working as before.
 - Mill Lane (from Hittisleigh Cross to Pitton Cross) was raised as a priority for Hittisleigh residents for whom it is the main route to Exeter. It was agreed that the chairman and road warden would draft a letter to be sent to Highways after approval by all the councillors.
 - 4.2 Howards Copse

Two plots are up for sale and it seems likely that ownership of these plots could change regularly so the position of what is permissible and what is not needs to be clear to the Parish Council and to the new owners. Cllr Turrell has received no reply from Sara Jenkins, the enforcement officer. The chairman will email Cllr Turrell with the specific points that need clarification and Cllr Turrell will raise them again with the enforcement officer and copy in MDDCllr Coren.
 - 4.3 Footpaths

The problem of the fallen tree blocking the footpath from Crayford west to the lane near Westwood has been resolved by clearing a pathway on higher (less muddy) ground to circumvent the obstacle.
 - 4.8 Salt bins

Cllr Brown, our snow warden, confirmed that the salt bins were refilled very promptly and that he has placed a salt bag close to every potential icy patch.

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5. Planning

- 5.1 20/01236/LBC | Listed Building Consent for installation of replacement windows | Woodgreen Farm Hittisleigh Exeter EX6 6LW
Granted.
- 5.2 20/01780/FULL | Erection of 2 dwellings following removal of agricultural buildings. Land and Buildings at NGR 276014 96794. Revised drawings.
After much discussion it was unanimously agreed that Hittisleigh Parish Council will object on the grounds that this proposed development is on a green field site. The chairman to draft a response and circulate to all councillors for their approval before submission.

6. Parish Precept 2021/2022

Councillors unanimously agreed to keep the precept at £1,950, as last year. The chairman to inform the clerk who will know how to proceed.

7. DCC Update included:

- Covid-19. Vaccinations are in progress and grants are available to help organisations offering Covid-related support.
- There are some funds available for this financial year in the Locality Fund and the suggestion was made that the parish could consider the need for a defibrillator.

8. MDDC Update

The Boundary Commission has made changes to the Yeo ward. It has removed Copplestone and included Colebrooke, Coleford and Newton St Cyres so it is now a significantly larger area being 15 miles across. This takes effect in 2023.

9. Payments

All agreed to the following payments:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| CPRE | £36 |
| Clerk's salary | £440 |
| PAYE | £88 |

10. Any Other Business

- a) Cllr Turrell raised concern at the speed of large vehicles on the lanes and significant damage to verges and hedges especially near the Mill. Most of these vehicles belong to the contractors farming the nearby land. Cllr Brown agreed to speak to Pam Toms and request her to ask her contractors to use Hittisleigh lanes more respectfully and with due concern for the residents whose house walls are right beside the lane.
- b) Cllr Fisher said the residents at the Mill are considering a proposal from Bush Broadband which would involve fixing two small radios to the Village Hall or on a mast nearby. All agreed that any improvement to the reception of broadband was welcome and the placing of the radios is a matter for the Village Hall committee.
- c) Cllr Fisher reported that the stream through Pitton Plantation is very smelly and has an excess of foam. Cllr Fisher needs to raise this personally with the Environment Agency.

Next parish council meeting Wednesday 17th March 2021

Minutes by Cllr Fisher