

# HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

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.
2. Declarations of interest – none
3. Minutes of the last meeting 15th January 2020 - were approved and signed
4. Matters Arising
  - 4.1 Highways updates  
50 tubs of tarmac have been delivered to Hittisleigh which will fill a lot of potholes but not all of them. Every lane in the parish has been allocated to a councillor to survey and report back on its condition to the chairman. The road from Dennis Down to Spreyton Water is beyond patching and needs to be resurfaced but there is no date as yet as to when it will be repaired.
  - 4.2 Howard Copse  
Cllr Turrell gave a brief resume of the activities to date. MDDC is aware that structures have been erected in the woods and are determining the ownership of the plots of land and what the various owners' intentions are.
  - 4.3 Tree safety  
The Parish Council received an Email from a new resident who was taken to Exeter A&E after the branch of an oak tree fell on her head while she was walking on a lane near Teighholt Splash. The clerk contacted the neighbouring landowners and it is not known if any further action has been taken but the Parish Council feel that this is a matter for Highways and/or the landowners. DCCLlr Way said that Highways should be notified as they routinely inspect trees for dangerous overhanging branches. Cllr Gard said that Highways will be notified.
  - 4.4 Hittisleigh Climate Emergency update  
In abeyance pending resumption of public meetings.
  - 4.5 Website accessibility – MDDCllr Derek Coren advised that MDDC planning are aware of the difficulties.
  - 4.6 CPRE subs renewal – not discussed
5. Planning
  - 5.1 19/01188/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)  
At the MDDC Planning Committee this afternoon (12<sup>th</sup> August) the application was **rejected** by 5 votes to 3. The next stage is the writing of an Implications Report. Several councillors expressed concern at their failure to access the Committee meeting online using Zoom as it had been stated that the number of virtual attendees was taken into consideration by the committee. MDDCllr Coren said he would raise this concern.
  - 5.2 20/00882/HOUSE Conversion of existing garage and erection of extension to create artist's studio (revised scheme), Mapstone – **permitted**
  - 5.3 20/00668/FULL Erection of WC/store St Andrew's Church – **permitted**
  - 5.4 APP/Q1153/W/19/3230781 Appeal - Development of new shop and ancillary cafe with supporting secondary areas consisting of storage, WCs, offices and kitchen space (resubmission of 1255/18/FUL), Whiddon Down.  
The Parish Council have already written in support of an oral hearing. Cllr Howell proposed that the Council should also comment on the Retail Impact Assessment

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(RIA) and Cllr Turrell agreed to draft an email expressing concern about the detrimental effect on existing local businesses and send it to all councillors for their approval prior to submitting it to the Planning Inspectorate.

## 6. Governance & Accounting for year ending 31 March 2020

- 6.1 Internal audit report – was received, reviewed and approved
- 6.2 Annual governance statements – were reviewed and approved
- 6.3 Annual accounting statements – were reviewed and approved
- 6.4 Certificate of exemption from external audit – will be applied for
- 6.5 Risk Assessment – was reviewed. It was agreed that details of access to Council information should be available to at least one other member of the Council (apart from the Clerk). Cllr Dack suggested that the Coronavirus Pandemic should be an item on the Risk Register.

## 7. Correspondence

- 7.1 For response
  - New model code of conduct consultation. No response.
- 7.2 For information
  - MDDC Adoption of Local Plan- this was passed unanimously 2 weeks ago.
  - Local Electricity Bill reintroduction – no comment
  - Greater Exeter Plan consultation – no comment
  - MDDC Town & Parish newsletter July & August – no comment
  - Rural Service Network bulletins May – no comment
- 7.3 New correspondence – there was no new correspondence.
  - Jonathan Rowlands, the Public Rights of Way warden, has been contacted regarding unclear footpath routing over the A30 as reported by the Hittisleigh Walking Group and this has been rectified by additional signs.
  - Following a further incident where a dangerous dog came through a hedge and attacked a walker's dog on a footpath, the dog has been put down.
  - Residents have reported a high number of dog faeces on Parsonage Lane and on the main lane through the village. Cllr Turrell will compose a letter, Cllr Wetherden will print it and Cllr Fisher will deliver it to every house in the village. MDDC provide laminated A4 posters concerning dog mess which state the possibility of a £1,000 fine and MDDCllr Coren offered to source some which councillors can display.
  - In July DCC cleared overhanging foliage from 4 footpaths in Hittisleigh. Councillors could confirm 3 of these and Cllr Brown offered to walk the footpath from Crayford west to the lane near Westwood to check that the 4<sup>th</sup> one is also clear.
  - DCC Nick Way reported that verge markers have been erected between Thorne Cross and the bridge over the A30 where there is a sharp drop off the edge of the resurfaced lane and that the verge will be raised to be level with the surface of the road. Steve Tucker will examine the road near Swallowtree very soon and hopefully schedule the necessary repair work. Devon's Public Health has done a good job in combating Covid-19 and the local authority has the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest reported number of cases. MDDCllr Coren agreed and praised all the staff who have kept the frontline services running during lockdown, particularly refuse collection and recycling.
  - The planning notice at Newmead farm is under permitted development and HPC have not been asked for a response.
  - Following comments from the auditor Councillors are to put forward suggestions at the next meeting concerning allocations of HPC funds.

**Next parish council meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Minutes by Cllr Fisher