

# **HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 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 – none
3. Minutes of the last meeting 12th August 2020 - were approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising
  - 4.1 Highways update
    - Cllr Fisher and John Hyson undertook highway surveys for their areas and the information has been passed to the road warden. Work has begun on filling potholes with the supplied tarmac but it can only be used to fill an actual hole whereas the terrible state of the lanes is frequently caused by top surface deterioration and edging falling away.
    - DCCllr Way confirmed that the road from Dennis Down to Spreyton Water is in The Program for resurfacing but was unable to ascertain whether a date has been assigned for the work.
    - Notice has been given that the lane between Road Down Farm and Teignholt is to be closed 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December for drainage work. Councillors hope that this work is to repair the collapsed section currently coned off for safety, but no details of the work are known.
  - 4.2 Howards Copse

The MDDC Enforcement Team has been in communication with the owners of three of the plots in Howards Copse. The owners of Rose Wood and Troney Wood have removed their tents. The shed in Coopers Wood has been there for 5 years so is now immune from enforcement action and no decision has yet been made concerning the caravan which has been in place for 2 years. Councillors would like to know whether the owners are allowed to stay on their plot for a prolonged period of time and if so, for how long and what form of shelter is permissible (shed, caravan, tent). Hittisleigh Parish Council's (HPC) concern is to prevent inappropriate development in this rural location. Cllr Turrell thanked MDDCllr Coren for his help and said she would email Sara Jenkins (enforcement officer) with our questions.
  - 4.3 Tree safety

Cllr Gard notified DCC Highways concerning the accident caused by a falling oak branch.
  - 4.4 CPRE subs renewal

Councillors are unclear as to whether this has been actioned.
  - 4.5 Governance and Accounting Risk Assessment – HPC records

A copy of HPC records is to be kept off-site i.e. not at the clerk's house. Cllr Fisher has offered to keep the copy and will liaise with the clerk to arrange implementation.
  - 4.6 Certificate of exemption from external audit

The certificate has been applied for.
  - 4.7 Footpaths

Following the last meeting, Cllr Brown walked the footpath from Crayford west to the lane near Westwood and reported that it was clear but recently a tree has fallen and blocked the path. Cllr Howell offered to speak to the landowner. DCCllr Way said that the Rights of Way officer responsible for Hittisleigh is now Stuart Howell and therefore the person to contact if HPC needs assistance.
  - 4.8 Dog fouling

Councillors feel that the situation has improved since the distribution of the letter requesting dog walkers to clean up after their dog.

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## 5. Planning

5.1 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, Whiddon Down.

Cllr Howell reported that the Appeal hearing was by Zoom and seemed very thorough and fair. There is no target date for a decision but it should be before Christmas.

5.2 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 Shortacombe Lane, Yeoford (Credon Hamlets) – Implications Report.

The Implications Report has been accepted and therefore the application is refused. No appeal has been launched to date.

5.3 20/01759/CLU | Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a dwelling in non-compliance with an agricultural occupancy condition (d) of planning permission 86/01316/FULL in excess of 10 years | Newmead Farm Hittisleigh Exeter Devon EX6 6LQ.

The farm has an agricultural tie but has been used for keeping horses.

Councillors did not wish to make any comment to MDDC.

5.4 20/01236/LBC | Listed Building Consent for installation of replacement windows | Woodgreen Farm Hittisleigh Exeter EX6 6LW

Routine maintenance. No comment to MDDC.

## 6. MDDC Update

- MDDCllr Coren thanked DCC Way for his hard work
- The consultation on boundary changes is now closed. Hittisleigh parish will remain in Yeo ward but the boundary of Yeo ward may be altered.

## 7. DCC Update

- Councillors should report empty grit/salt bins to our Snow Warden so that he can arrange for them to be filled ahead of freezing weather.
- Devon is working well to combat Covid-19.
- Construction work on Credon's new Health Hub has started this month.

## 8. Any Other Business

a) Cllr Turrell advised that residents in Binneford had contacted Hittisleigh residents by email concerning: 20/01780/FULL | Erection of 2 dwellings following removal of agricultural buildings. Land and Buildings at NGR 276014 96794. Cllr Fisher and MDDCllr Coren declared an interest. The Binneford residents are asking for support in opposing the development. Following discussion Cllr Turrell offered to circulate the email to all the Hittisleigh councillors who can respond individually if they wish. Hittisleigh Parish Council has not been approached to comment and is advised that it would be inappropriate to do so until Credon Hamlets PC had met and responded.

b) The Parish Precept must be agreed at the next meeting so councillors need to consider how to proceed.

c) There is a vacancy for the Hittisleigh Correspondent who provides a brief summary of community activities for the bi-monthly Whiddon Parishes magazine.

d) It is unlikely that there will be any of the usual services at Hittisleigh church over Christmas but there will be a Windows Festival. Everyone is invited to call in at the church, admire the decorations and celebrate Christmas in their own socially-distanced way.

**Next parish council meeting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Minutes by Cllr Fisher