

# **HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Chris Dack, Brian Howell, Gill Fisher, Richard Gard (chairman), Libby Turrell, Cathy Wetherden and Ruth Curtis (clerk); MDDCllrs Coren and Penny; DCCLr Nick Way and one member of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Chris Dack signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Cllr Turrell signed the Vice Chair Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

1. Apologies: Cllr Mark Brown
2. Declarations of interest – there were no declarations of interest
3. Minutes of the last meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 - were approved and signed as a correct record
4. Matters Arising
  - 4.1 Highways
    - DCCLr Way reported that the section of road from Pitton Cross to old A30 is now scheduled to be completed within this financial year (Cheriton Bishop parish)
    - Easterbrook to Quince Cross – ST will look at this in next two weeks
    - Swallow Tree to Dennis Down – DCCLr Way confirmed that this is in the programme of works and will confirm whether scheduled for this financial year
    - Pot hole filling material – DCCLr Way confirmed that material now needs to be applied for through the HMCEF. 10kg will do about 2 potholes. Cllr Gard proposed we order some material via the grant and councillors approved this.
    - West Studham – DCCLr Way will address the question of work still to be completed by Highways on the house side with ST.
  - 4.2 Community Garden project – the S106 funds have now been received and councillors approved onward payment to the Village Hall Committee who are managing the project. Volunteers have done an amazing job and the garden is due to be completed and officially opened with a community tea party on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 3-5pm. The clerk to extend an invitation to JW (S106 officer) & CB parish council.
  - 4.3 Fibre broadband – Cllr Gard updated councillors on recent developments. Simon Foster, Open Reach surveyor, has talked to 18 properties with a proposal for fibre broadband in part triggered by an application for broadband at Easterbrook (coming from Bow) which is due to be installed by March 2020. We await the report and if approved, it could mean other properties could well have this option. There is a broadband infrastructure support grant available: £2K per business and £500 per residence.
  - 4.4 Appointment of internal auditor for year ending 31 March 2020 – Cllr Fisher proposed ES as internal auditor for the forthcoming year, all in agreement.
  - 4.5 Other matters arising
    - Climate Emergency – meeting in Exeter tomorrow re: dealing with climate emergency for parishes. A member of the public will be attending and offered to circulate notes. It was agreed to include on the parish council agenda and discuss at the next meeting. MDDC have declared a climate emergency and recently voted in favour of being carbon neutral by 2030.
5. Planning
  - 5.1 19/01010/FULL Erection of extension to existing garage to create an artist's studio; and change of use of agricultural land for the siting of a

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shepherd's hut to provide ancillary accommodation, Mapstone (Lower Fursdon) - response by 19<sup>th</sup> July. Hittisleigh Parish Council response: no objection to the application.

## 6. Payments – all approved

6.1 Internal audit for year ending 31 March 2019 £25

6.2 Village Hall Committee - Community Garden £3K cheque payable to Hittisleigh Village Hall. The clerk gave cheque to Cllr Howell to pass to Village Hall Committee.

6.3 Clerk salary Jan-June

6.4 HMRC PAYE Jan-June

## 7. Correspondence

### 7.1 For response

- London Hearts defibrillator grant – MDDCllr Penny advised the cost is round £1K with ongoing costs for maintenance. Grant from London Hearts is £200. Clerk to respond to email and find out more details and potential costs involved.
- Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service fire station closures - notice of consultation (email & pdf). DCCllr Way expressed concern the proposed closures will have on facilities and capacity at Crediton Fire Station. It is acknowledged the fire service do more than just fight fires, providing a valuable service to support ambulance and emergency services and he encouraged councillors to reply. HPC support DCCllr Way's request to have a meeting in Crediton.

### 7.2 For information

- DALC newsletters (email) - Carbon Footprint meeting Tues Exeter Community Centre – Cllr Howell hopes to attend.

### 7.3 New correspondence

- MDCllr Penny reported that MDDC have completed 2 out of a planned 5 dwellings for the Syrian housing project. MDDC don't have funds at present to continue the project. A private landowner has offered a house and MDDC are looking into whether they can find funding to move forward but budget competes with budget for the homeless. Deferred for further research and discussion.
- Appeal Whiddon Down shop & café planning application JW Mann Ltd (West Devon) – councillors agreed to review the appeal detail and send in further representation in light of climate emergency context and any new information. Comments to the clerk by 31<sup>st</sup> July, clerk to draft reply.
- RSA Commission 'Our Future in the Land' report – <https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/future-land>

**Next parish council meeting Weds 18 September 2019**