

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mark Brown, Gill Fisher, Richard Gard (chairman), Libby Turrell, Cathy Wetherden and Ruth Curtis (clerk); MDDCllr Coren; DCCLlr Nick Way and one member of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Brian Howell, Chris Dack; MDDCllr Penny
2. Declarations of interest – MDDCllr Coren declared an interest in 5.3
3. Minutes of the last meeting 18th September 2019 - were approved and signed as a correct record
4. Matters Arising
 - 4.1 Highways planning & updates
 - Cllr Brown confirmed we have plenty of salt.
 - DCCLlr Way has arranged a meeting with DCC Planning/Enforcement (Barnaby Grubb & Mike Deaton), the local Highways team (Steve Tucker) Highways, Hittisleigh parish council Chair and Cheriton Bishop parish council Chair at County Hall on Nov 29th to discuss highways issues within the parishes. Parishioners submit questions in advance to respective Chair. Residents to have a separate meeting.
 - DCCLlr Way confirmed that the road from Tellams to A30 will be completed within this financial year – signs are actually up now, will be a proper resurface and likely to take 2 weeks.
 - Bridge at bottom of Southcombe Hill now fixed
 - Easterbrook and Quince Cross pipe under road – beyond volunteer capacity, needs a digger to clear it (Highways)

4.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

Cllr Gard had written to MDDC Chief Executive (CE) to follow up on some wider issues as a result of recent gypsy & traveller application. The CE passed this to Tristan Peat (TP), MDDC Forward Planning Officer and Cllr Gard had met with TP 19th November. Some points:

- MDDC rely on the gypsy & traveller liaison officer (a DCC employee) to clarify whether an application is from a legitimate gypsy & traveller.
- MDDC Forward Plan was rejected and MDDC have working for last 4 years on producing revised plan. The inspectorate has reviewed it and made recommendations.
- MDDC Planning are reviewing these recommendations and coming up with a plan to put to MDDC a fortnight today (Cabinet then full Council). In terms of gypsy & traveller sites, the number of sites allocated is related to population (approx 31 sites). MDDC have not met this figure which means 'windfall sites' (private sites) can be considered. Developers have to provide sites but these may be not immediately adjacent to a development (considered off-putting for new sales). MDDC are not funding sites, these are part of planning conditions.
- TP showed Cllr Gard draft paragraphs relating to gypsy & traveller sites which have developed following inspector comments. Regarding windfall sites, Cllr Gard read it that had to be 'away from' a settlement.
- The revised Forward Plan is likely to be put out for public consultation early January for 6 weeks. TP will email to clerk to circulate the draft before our next parish council meeting.
- The gypsy & traveller council have reviewed the draft and submitted comments/changes. The definition of traveller is now likely to be clarified and councillors will need to look at the plan

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

carefully when it comes through. Windfall sites are linked to the person. Enforcement is then an issue. If permission is granted, it is better it is given without conditions that are not enforceable.

4.3 Climate emergency update

The public meeting is being organised by Chris Wood (CW) with support from sub-committee and will be held on Saturday 7th Dec 5.30pm-7.30pm in the village hall. It will be in two parts – a speaker from Met Office for first part, and the second part to focus on the practical aspects about what residents and parish council can do. Advertising by leaflet and social media. Cllr Gard proposed the parish council allocate £100 towards the initiative (likely costs for this meeting £14 hall hire + speaker travel expenses) and review financial support in future. It was agreed by all that the parish council will allocate this sum (£100) and liaise with the village hall re: hall hire. DCCllr Way mentioned the Locality Fund as potential funding source for future climate meetings/activity. The parish council could have its own written declaration or sign up to the DCC one. CW circulated a draft declaration which councillors discussed. Comments were made for the mandate, suggesting an amendment so that we review our carbon footprint from the baseline we establish. It was noted that the mechanism we use to measure our carbon footprint may need to be developed particularly for our parish so it is meaningful and relevant to our particular situation (rural).

4.4 Caravans – Cllr Gard reported that two caravans in the locality have been moved on by MDDC Enforcement Officer. Two caravans currently parked near Whiddon Down - Cllr CW to look up details and report back.

5. Planning

- 5.1 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) – decision pending.
- 5.2 NEW application WD/2530/19 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) – decision pending.
- 5.3 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) – decision pending. Speed road check and hedge survey to be undertaken.
- 5.4 19/01473/FUL Siting of replacement caravan, The Orchard, Cheriton Bishop – councillors discussed the application and have no objections to a replacement caravan of similar size, however, the following comments were noted:
 - The replacement caravan is significantly larger (almost 4 times the size) than the existing one and the reason unexplained
 - We recommend a foul drainage assessment be undertaken, as there is only a septic tank and the river is very close by. Previous applications on this site have highlighted flooding risk and environmental concern.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Payment to MDDC – May election expenses £127.35 agreed
- 6.2 Budget 20-21 – Cllrs discussed the proposed budget and agreed that a contribution of £100 should be included to the church for graveyard upkeep/maintenance (grass cutting) and on an annual basis. It was resolved to agree the budget at £1701
- 6.3 Precept 20-21 – having discussed the budget in detail and it was resolved to request a precept of £1950

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

7. New correspondence
- 7.1 For response
- MDDC budget consultation – councillors were invited to make comments on the survey individually
 - MDDC Animal welfare licencing policy – no comments
 - Citizens Advice donation request – it was resolved to make a donation of £50
 - Fire & rescue service cuts judicial review- funds request – councillors did not want to make a donation and thanked Cllr Fisher for reviewing the various documents/policies.
- 7.2 For information
- Devon Communities Together free energy saving advice – put up on village hall notice board
- 7.3 New correspondence – there was no new correspondence

Next parish council meeting Weds 15th January 2020