

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th March 2017 at
7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Richard Gard (chairman), Mark Brown, Bernard Curtis, Gill Fisher, ,
Libby Turrell and Cathy Wetherden; Ruth Curtis (clerk & minutes); MDDCllrs Derek
Coren and Peter Heal; Leader of MDDC Clive Eginton.

1. **Apologies:** Devon CCllr Nick Way; Cllr Brian Howell
2. **Declarations of interest** – none
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 31st January 2017** were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1 Highways matters
 - Drain between the village hall and the church – Cllr Gard now has cost for digging. Need to meet up with Stephen Tucker (ST) to progress.
 - Road outside West Studham – we have costing for doing part of the job (in Colebrook PC). DCCllr Way highlighted the Highway Maintenance Enhancement Fund (50% from DCC with matched funding in labour) – limited to parishes with Road Warden. We need to decide if we want to go ahead and apply.
 - Markers for drains at risk from flooding - Cllr Gard suggested coloured markers where we know gridded drains liable to clog up and ask councillors/community to clear as they notice them/if they are out walking.
 - Pipe between Easterbrook and Spreyton Wood Water – at end of tarmacked bit of road, water flooding over road. A pump is needed to take water away so can clear the drain under the road. Cllrs Gard & Howell to do clearing out.
 - Blocked pipe between Coltsfoot and Teighholt – water is undermining the road.
 - Drainage map for highways use – ST had no historical information about work completed in the parish. Cllr Gard has followed up with ST re: map which he has promised to provide.
 - Working party to clear a way to the ditch on left of hill out of the village – Gerald Downs has dug out ditch and replaced fence. Cllrs Gard & Brown to liaise with Gerald to complete this.
 - Working party to clear drain and pipe at bottom of the hill. Cllrs Gard & Brown to do.
 - New laws now mean lorry drivers can be prosecuted if don't have sat nav appropriate to vehicle size.
 - 4.2 **Other matters arising**
 - Bridlepath/ROW – the Public Rights of Way Warden had fitted a new eye bolt to the difficult gate at the Howard Lane end and is getting in touch with Mr Milverton to ask him to trim back the gorse and blackthorn.
 - Church access complaint – track from road to Church gate and from Barton to road are not owned by anybody nor appear on anyone's deeds.
5. Payments – all agreed
 - DALC £58.66
6. **Correspondence**

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6.1 For response

- MDDC Town and Parish Council charter review – responses by 4th May– Cllrs Gard & Fisher to review and collate comments on parish council's behalf.
- MDDC Local Enforcement Plan consultation – responses by 1st May – no formal response but Cllr Gard raised the issue of breaches in relation to listed buildings. For eg, what is considered to be acceptable terms of 'character & setting' for eg seems to be open to interpretation/opinion of the conservation officer which can vary. If there is to be enforcement then it would be helpful to have clear definitions. The question of hedgerows was discussed – are they protected? For eg if removed for a splay, MDDC would have to approve the planning of that aspect? Do we have any protected trees in the parish? The Tree Protection Officer is Cathy Lynch clynch@middevon.gov.uk and the clerk will contact.

6.2 For information – no comments

6.3 New correspondence – none

7. AOB

- Chair of MDDC changes every 2 yrs. Cllr John Dawe to step down and new chair is MDDCllr Heal. Cllrs congratulated MDDCllr Heal on his appointment.
- MDDCllr Coren reported that 53.7% of total waste recycled – highest level ever. There is an enforcement officer checking waste for households where no recycling is taking place. Fly tipping – two people have been caught and fined £300 each. If come across fly tipping, pictures can help in tracing offenders. Cybercrime is taking 35% of police time now and ransom-ware is a real threat and cost.
- Cllr Brown asked about the Okehampton to Exeter train. MDDCllr Eginton reported that the Royal Oak was a specially chartered train between London and Okehampton, part of Oak Rail. Mel Stride is trying to get things moving forward. A station is going to be built at Marsh Barton. Need a commitment from central government to make it happen. Cllr Brown reported that 'Airband' is now operating which could mean Hittisleigh parishioners might be able to get (better) broadband.
- No Lorry traffic signs - Cllr Brown had taken photos. The clerk to check where we got to with the discussion and email councillors.
- Cllr Fisher reported that Pearce's appeal (Tellams) was dismissed and condition 9 remains necessary. Decision was made on 9th Jan, Cllr Fisher has details if anyone would like them.
- Cllr Curtis queried whether verges are council owned. At Swallow Tree cross, the verge has been widened and road narrowed. The fire hydrant sign has been knocked out.
- Cllr Gard reported on the dumping of around ½ tonne dead chickens on land just outside Tedburn St Mary. Unless you can find the offender(s), it becomes the land owners responsibility and cost to have them removed.
- DCC election on 4th May – more details to come.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.