

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st January 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Richard Gard (chairman), Mark Brown, Bernard Curtis, Gill Fisher, Brian Howell and Cathy Wetherden; Ruth Curtis (clerk & minutes); MDDCllrs Derek Coren; Devon CCllr Nick Way

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Libby Turrell and MDDCllr Peter Heal
2. **Declarations of interest** – none
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 29th Nov 2016** were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1 Highways matters
 - Cllr Gard reported on a good meeting with DCllr Way, Stephen Tucker (ST) & Phil Hancock (PH) in December to discuss roadway flooding. ST has agreed Highways will undertake the work needed to clear the blocked pipe and ditch between Hittisleigh cross and the church. No work has been done as yet. ST was unaware of flooding outside Yeoford chapel. Cllrs Gard and Howell will put in a temporary depth marker and this was proposed to Crediton Hamlets parish council via DCllr Way. ST to provide a map on which we can mark pipes, ditches, drains etc for better highway management. ST has a surgery on Thurs and DCllr Way will remind him re: agreed work and map and let us know outcome. Cllr Gard also raised the flooding at West Studham – pipe has been offered but owners don't want to dig up their field. There wasn't time to review other ongoing issues – these to be added to the next tour.
 - Cllr Curtis reported on a broken drain on the Spreyton road going down to Spreyton Wood Water. Cllr Gard to add to list for ST to view.
 - Cllr Brown raised the issue of the road eroding near to the Woodlands For Sale (just down from Coltsfoot). To check this is on ST's list.
 - Cllr Brown reported that Gerald Downs has cleared the ditch. The gully right next to road now needs clearing – this could be done by volunteers.
 - Road clearances near Swallow Tree cross – the clerk to check Highways' previous response and Cllr Gard/DCllr Way to ask ST.
 - Bridge barriers at Cheriton Bishop - road closure for 1 month but work might be completed sooner. After concerns raised by parishioners, the parish council and MDDCllrs, alternative arrangements to the long diversion, such as weekend traffic lights, are to be put in place.
 - 4.2 **Other matters arising**
 - Dog fouling – Thank you letter to be distributed to parishioners and Cllr Fisher kindly offered to distribute.
 - Unwanted oil tanks - MDDCllr DC had checked on this, cost is £230 to get rid of oil tank but can put in Cheriton Bishop auction (no rules/regulations), next one April 23rd).
5. Payments – all agreed
 - Clerk salary July-Dec 2016 £400
 - HMRC PAYE £80

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6. Correspondence

6.1 For response

- MDDC Local Plan Review and Revised Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule Consultation until 14th February 2017 – there is nothing which materially affects Hittisleigh. Cllrs discussed potential developments at neighbouring parishes including affordable housing at Cheriton Bishop.
- Mid Devon District Council Annual Church Service, St. Andrew's, Cullompton Sunday 12 March 2017 – no-one is able to go.
- North Devon Line Rail Survey 2016/17 – cllrs completed individually. DCCLr Way says they are interested in why people don't use the railway despite the increase in use. Additional carriages have been promised. Okehampton line: there's a good chance there will be a Saturday train in Summer 2018 from Exeter to Okehampton.

6.2 For information – no comments

6.3 New correspondence – none

7. AOB

- DCCLr Way: DCC are going through the scrutiny process for the budget. One of largest populations of over 60 yrs and over 85 yrs, there is huge pressures on social services, may be looking to raise council tax as a result. Underfunded in schools by average of £290 pp – means teacher cuts. On highways, hoping that the new highways contractor Skanska will help improve situation.
- MDDCLr Coren: government contribution is cut from £6.2m to £2.6m – serious cuts to MDDC services as a result.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.