

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 29th November 2016
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 and Peter Heal; Devon CCLlr Nick Way

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Libby Turrell
2. **Declarations of interest** – none. The clerk had been contacted by MDDC re: register of interest forms for some councillors (MB, BH, BC and CW). The clerk had scanned all previous forms and will check the files and follow up with MDDC and councillors again as needed.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th Sept 2016** were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1 Highways matters
 - Potholes and drainage problems map – Cllrs Gard & Howell to follow up on blocked drain along from Easterbrook.
 - Road warden – DCCLlr Way has been in touch with Victor Gough (VG) and forwarded Chp 8 training forms and related information re: remit of road warden to clerk.
 - No lorry signs on Hittisleigh Mill road – the clerk reported on her discussion with Steve Tucker (ST). To erect a sign on the highway, or that relates to the highway, a full safety audit with data analysis is needed including collision analysis data (minor, serious & fatal accidents) as held by the police. Signs are unlikely to be approved where there is no data. All roads are inspected for signage every year. It was agreed to find out how much signs would cost and Cllr Fisher to research this.
 - Recent flooding incidents – Cllrs noted the following in response to DCC's request for information from local parishes 1) between Hittisleigh cross & church (floods not just in winter) 2) West Studham (Colebrook parish) 3) Yeoford chapel. Re: 1) the hedge has been trimmed so better access but still floods. Need long enough drain rods to clear through - water runs on the right hand side then under road and into drain and ditch running into Mr Milverton's field on left hand side. Pipe and ditch get silted up. Parishes can borrow tools as part of road warden scheme. The community is prepared to deal with this and it will involve work beside the road. Cllr Gard to meet with DCCLlr Way & ST on Friday 2nd December to review. Re: 2) Cllr Gard recapped on work to date. Historically, it used never to flood – apparently a drain was broken and this is the cause for flooding. DCC legal department have been involved in the past but to little effect. Phil Hancock (PH) has been in touch with ST – he can supply some pipe. A sump is needed between road and field which would need to be emptied regularly. Would the council/highways take responsibility for that? Cllr Gard & DCCLlr Way to ask ST on 2nd December. Re: 3) Cllrs asked MDDCllrs to raise with Crediton Hamlets parish council and highways as needed – a depth measure here could help.
 - Cllr Curtis reported on a broken drain on 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 add to ST's list.

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- Road clearances Goslings/Hyson's – the clerk to check previous response from Highways. Cllr Gard/DCCLlr Way to ask ST.
- 4.2 **Dog fouling** – cllrs reported that the situation seems to have improved. A thank you letter to follow in New Year.
- 4.3 **Audit comments for 31 March 2016 accounts** – the clerk read out the comments from the audit. Unpresented cheques have been included in Box 8 and that this should be corrected in the next return as advised by the auditor. Regarding the approval of the annual governance statement, cllrs agreed to have a separate minute reference to clearly show that the statement is considered and approved separate to and in advance of the consideration and approval of the accounts.
- 4.4 **Precept 2017/18** – councillors discussed a potential rise in precept to allow for additional work the community is undertaking which is only likely to increase (elements of highways work for eg). After much discussion, it was proposed to increase the precept to £1850 – the proposal was approved (5 in favour, one abstention).
- 4.5 **Other matters arising** – the clerk reported on her discussion with the Fire Authority. Hittisleigh comes under Chagford and all hydrants have been inspected in the last 12 months. Inspection is on a 3 year rotation – there are over 50,000 hydrants to be checked by 4 personnel. In general, fire prevention is much improved and the hydrants are not used so much now. Fire engines carry sufficient water for the average domestic room fire. The database shows 10 fire hydrants in and around the parish. If we do any kind of mapping of the hydrants around the parish, it would be useful to pass this on. Hedge cutters often take out the fire hydrant markers and if this has happened, potentially these hydrants may not get checked. Cllr Curtis reported that there is a hydrant at Bowacre and at Swallow Tree, although the latter looks like it's buried by the recent verge/ditch work there.
5. **Correspondence**
- 5.1 For response
- Financial support request Citizens Advice – it was agreed by all to make a donation of £50.
 - Financial support Ring & Ride – not able to support financially but it would be useful to download info for village noticeboard.
 - DCC recent flooding information request (email) – details in 4.1
 - Tough Choices meeting 5 Dec – Cllr Gard unable to attend. Send apologies.
 - Waste management consultation by 23rd Dec (email) – Cllr Fisher gave following comments: reasonable proposals waste reduction and compost; proposal 3 unwanted oil tanks where do they go? MDDCllrs Heal/Coren to find out (if sound, it was suggested they could be put in Cheriton Bishop auction); charging for all DIY waste (soffits etc) a big cost and a concern that fly tipping might increase
 - NEW Devon CCG Your Future Health consultation (pdf) - councillors to respond individually. Cllr Fisher suggested we respond as a parish council that we need to keep beds in Exeter.
 - MDDC Parish Matters (email) – cllrs confirmed they would like to have it (as per Town & Parish charter) but not news that's repeated elsewhere.
- 5.2 For information - no comments
- 5.3 New correspondence – none

6. AOB

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- Road closure Hask Lane, Cheriton Bishop 5th Dec – 9th Dec
- Bus shelter at Swallow Tree cross – Cllrs happy for Cllr Curtis to arrange erection of replacement shelter.
- Bridle path from ford below Teighholt Cottage to the top Hittisleigh road (also Two Moors Way)– it is very overgrown. Can it be cleared? A footpaths officer was meant to be repairing the catch on gate. The clerk to follow up.
- MDDCllr Heal reported on DCC decision to take up to five Syrian families (over 5 year period of the scheme) within Mid Devon (probably Crediton, Cullompton, Tiverton) on assumption that private sector landlords come forward prepared to accept rent allocation provided. Councillors discussed ways in which we might be able to help.
- MDDCllr Coren reported that:
 - Recycling is now at 56.2%. Garden waste scheme is also doing well.
 - MDDC Local Plan to be submitted by the end of March 2017.
 - Licencing and regulatory department has had a very busy period, 6 hearings in November alone. Taxi drivers for eg are under tighter scrutiny.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.