

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's R Arnold (Chair), M Balment, J Boundy, J Mock, Mrs A Tayler-Ross and R Webber.

In attendance: Two members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

01/06/21. Election of Officers:

a) Chair. Cllr R Arnold was proposed by Cllr J Mock and seconded by Cllr R Webber. Cllr Arnold was unanimously elected as Chair and signed the Acceptance of Office Form.

b) Vice-chair. Cllr M Balment was proposed by Cllr J Boundy and seconded by Cllr J Mock. Cllr Balment was unanimously elected as Vice-chair.

02/06/21. To receive apologies. No apologies received.

03/06/21. Disclosure of interest in items on the Agenda. There were no disclosures.

04/06/21. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2021 as an accurate record of the Meeting. With an amendment in item 58/01/20 c) to add installation of the benches to the £6,024 cost the minutes were agreed.

05/06/21. Matters arising from the minutes. There were no matters arising.

06/06/21. To note payments authorised and decisions made since the last meeting.

The Clerk reported on payments made since the last meeting. Salary payments continued to be made and the insurance renewal was decided by the Chair, Vice-chair and Clerk. Other payments were agreed by email.

26th March 2020: Mrs J Larcombe - £139.70 Clerk's salary February & March 2020 and admin expenses (Chq no 524).

27th October 2020: Mrs J Larcombe: £233.20 Clerk's salary April, May, June, July, August and September 2020 (Chq no 526).

27th October: Mrs J Larcombe - £167.44 repayment of Zurich Town and Parish annual insurance premium paid by Mrs Larcombe in June 2020 (Chq no 527).

23rd November 2020: Festive Lighting Company - £445.80 lights for Christmas tree outside Village Hall (Chq no 528).

23rd November 2020: Mrs J Larcombe - £71.68 Clerk's salary October and November 2020 (Chq no 529).

15th January 2021: Washfield Memorial Hall - £20.00 hire of meeting room in January 2020 (Chq no 530).

15th January 2021: Mrs J Larcombe - £78.78 Clerk's salary December 2020 and January 2021 and postage (Chq no 531).

15th January 2021: Washfield PCC - £500.00 Churchyard Grant 2020-21 (Chq no 532).

10th March 2021: Mrs J Larcombe - £103.12 Clerk's salary February and March 2021 and admin expenses (Chq no 533).

17th May 2021: Zurich Town and Parish - £167.44 annual insurance premium (Chq no 534).

17th May 2021: Mrs J Larcombe – Clerk's salary April and May 2021 and expenses (Chq no 535).

The receipt of the precept for 2020-21 and 2021-22 and bank interest was noted.

07/06/21. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting. No applications considered.

c) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC 21/00275/Full Conversion of agricultural building to holiday let. Building at NGR 293030 116729 (Moorhayes Farm) Washfield. Decision: conditional approval granted.

d) Any other planning matters. There were no other planning matters.

08/06/21. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. Councillors noted the poor quality of pothole repairs. In particular they noted repairs on the road at Lower Washfield and near Emmerford Farm where the tarmac came out of the pothole very soon after the repairs and there have been no further repairs. It was noted that it took five attempts to correct the height of the drain at Emmerford Cross where the drain cover was higher than the road. Markings for repairs had been made on a hedge but the hedge has now grown and the markings have disappeared.

Cllr Mrs Tayler-Ross joined the meeting.

There is still flooding in Long Lane, just before Lower Pitt Farm if you are approaching from the Tiverton direction, and there are potholes where the road floods.

The road from Cotleigh Cross to Newbridge was reported to be full of potholes.

b) Any other highways matters. It was reported that there had been flytipping in Washfield Woods. If this takes place on privately owned land the land owner is responsible. Some other flytipping incidents that had happened over lockdown were noted.

During lockdown an email had been received from Steve Leigh, Highways Neighbourhood Officer, about Devon County Council's initiative "Doing What Matters" and how planning highway maintenance links with this important project. They hope they already do what matters in our Parish but know there is room for improvement and would like to pilot a new way of working. In doing so, they aim to prioritise budgetary spending on the roads which residents/visitors feel

are the most important and gain more valuable local knowledge which may help them provide a better service. It had been agreed that the two most important roads in the parish were the road from Rackenford Road through the village and the road from Cotleigh to Newbridge. It was noted that on the map provided if there is a ditch without a verge the landowner is responsible for the upkeep of the ditch.

09/06/21. Public questions. It was agreed to bring this item forward on the agenda.

Two members of the public asked the Parish Council to consider a request for a stainless-steel table tennis table to be installed on the Village Green. The members of the public said there are no sports facilities in the parish and table tennis is very popular. There are more children in the parish now. The group of interested residents have been asking people to sign a petition to support the request. The cost would be about £1,500. Cllr Mrs Tayler-Ross's son is now cutting the grass on the Village Green and he was reported to be happy to do the extra work that would be involved if one is put on the Village Green.

The Social Club have asked the Parish Council for permission to hold a Village Day on the Village Green on 26th June, subject to lockdown restrictions being eased. Councillors agreed, subject to a risk assessment being carried out prior to the event.

Cllr Arnold has arranged for the new benches and picnic table to be delivered on the 25th June ready for putting together on the morning of 26th June so that they would be available for the event. There was concern that if a table tennis table was installed on the Village Green it would reduce the amount of space for community events. It will be added to the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

10/06/21. Finance

a) To approve any payments. There were no payments to approve.

b) To agree to sign the Certificate of Exemption for 2020-21. It was agreed to sign the Certificate of Exemption.

e) To receive the internal audit report for 2020-21. The Internal Audit Report was noted.

f) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2020-21. The Annual Governance Statement was approved.

g) To approve the annual accounts for 2020-2021. The annual accounts for 2020-2021 were approved.

11/06/21. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence. The Chairman had no announcements and there was no further correspondence.

12/06/21. Date of next meeting. It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 7.30pm.