

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th November 2021 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: District Cllr A Moore, County Cllr R Chesterton and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

- 38/11/21. Election of Chair.** Cllr Mrs A Taylor-Ross was unanimously elected as Chair. Proposed by Cllr J Boundy and seconded by Cllr M Balment. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross accepted and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. There was an official vote of thanks to Cllr Arnold for his term of office as chair and for all the work he had done for the parish.
- 39/11/21. To receive apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr R Arnold.
- 40/11/21. Disclosure of interest in item on the Agenda.** There were no disclosures.
- 41/11/21. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2021 as an accurate record of the meeting.** With an amendment to remove Cllr Balment as present the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.
- 42/11/21. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda).** There were no matters arising.
- 43/11/21. Co-option of a councillor.** This will be advertised again on the notice board and website.
- 44/11/21. Public questions.** There were no members of the public present.
- 45/11/21. Planning**
- a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.** 18/01711/MFUL Formation of an open clamp (4630m²) for the storage of silage and provision of new access. Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 288069 117081 (Gibbet Moor Farm), Rackenford. As this application was not in the parish and had no impact on the parish the Council decided not to comment. It was questioned why the Council was being asked to comment on an application for another parish and Cllr Moore said he would find out.
 - b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.** No decisions received.
 - c) Any other planning matters.** No other planning matters.
- 46/11/21. Highways**
- a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed.** It was reported that the gully sucker has been through Washfield. Some drains have been tagged for the jetter to try and clear. It is hoped

that the gully sucker has resolved the flooding problem at Ennerleigh Cross. There is also a flooding problem in Long Lane which needs to be fixed.

Councillors questioned how South West Water could close a road without giving a weeks' notice and then keep it closed although once they have dug up the road surface they are waiting for parts. The road closed sign didn't say where the road was closed and the diversion signs were felt to be confusing.

Between Stoodleigh Drive and Shilhay Bungalow the road gully grating is still jammed open.

The 3 salt bins need topping up.

The road surface between Dryhill and Shilhay was reported to be in a poor condition.

Cllr Boundy asked whether the MDDC road sweeper still came through the village.

Cllr Moore said he would find out.

b) Highways Town and Parish Virtual Conferences 2021. The Clerk reported that she had attended some of the sessions of the virtual conference. Recording of the sessions and the presentations will be circulated to Town and Parish Councils.

c) Any other highways matters. Steve Leigh will be retiring at the end of the year and DCC will be recruiting a full time Highways Neighbourhood Officer to replace him. Until the appoint the area will be covered by the North area.

47/11/21. Reports

a) County Cllr. Cllr Chesterton reported that a new highways network response team had gone live this week and this will inform the road gang in a different way. Cllr Balment said he was concerned that road repairs were not being checked to make sure the repairs were good enough. There are vegetation management trials on managing things in a different way. As a DCC representative on the Devon and Somerset Police Authority Cllr Chesterton reminded councillors about the consultation on their draft Community Risk Management Plan which outlines the risks in our communities and how they plan to manage those risks to make people safer. There was a discussion on how to respond and Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross will look at this. DCC are moving into budget setting time.

b) District Cllr. Cllr Moore reported that the 2022-23 budget and medium term financial plan is being discussed by the Policy Development Groups. The key thing will be the Government settlement in December. There will be free car parking in the Council's long stay car parks in the run up to Christmas. The Housing Strategy 2021-2025 has been signed off. The response from local councils was very poor. Cllr Moore said consultations do matter and comments made during them do get looked at. Consultation will start again on the Local Plan in early 2022. The Boundary Commission looked at MDDC's ward boundaries and as a result the Clare and Shuttern Ward will be losing Templeton parish and gaining Cove.

Cllr Chesterton added that MDDC will be carrying out a Parish Review in 2022.

They have a legal duty to do this, and it is an opportunity for parish boundaries and the number of councillors on a town or parish council to be changed. The Terms of Reference are being agreed for the committee that be overseeing this and the process is expected to start in January 2022. Any changes will be in place for the next town and Parish Council elections in May 2023.

48/11/21. Finance: to approve any payments. It was resolved to make the following payment:
Mrs J Larcombe - £81.92 Clerk's salary (Cheque no 000539)

The Clerk reminded councillors that they would need to set the budget for 2022-23 and agree the precept at the January meeting. The Churchyard Grant will also be on that agenda. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross said she would also like the Council to review the Clerk's salary.

49/11/21. Footpaths

a) To consider the proposed diversion of Footpath No 6, Washfield (in the vicinity of Slade Farm). Details to be circulated to councillors.

b) Report from Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross on the compilation of a list of problems on the footpaths in Washfield and any update from the DCC Public Rights of Way Warden on his cyclic review of the parish footpaths. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross reported that she had met with some parishioners to log their concerns about the condition of some of the footpaths in the parish. The details have been logged on the online system for reporting footpath problems and the list will be sent to Stuart Howell, DCC Rights of Way Warden. He will be asked for a meeting to discuss the problems.

c) To agree the Parish Council's response to the Definitive Map Review. It was agreed that the Council would support the claim for the addition of a bridleway through Barehills Wood together with the green lane from Shilhay Copse to north of Springfield, subject to landowner agreement and evidence of historical use.

d) To discuss joining the DCC Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3). Tony and Ann Roberts have volunteered to be the Parish Paths Liaison Officers. It was agreed to express an interest to join the scheme.

50/11/21. Community Resilience Plan for Washfield. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross reported that she had attended a seminar on community resilience. Following the seminar she had put together a template for a plan for Washfield, which had been circulated to councillors for discussion. The plan will include key contacts, who can do what and will cascade information. It was noted that during Covid this had happened organically. She was asked who would look at putting this information together and said a group of people from the parish could look at it and consider what might work. She will draft something to go out to the parish after Christmas. It was suggested that she put some information in the parish magazine. Councillors were asked to give their comments.

51/11/21. Tree planting. Trees are available free of charge. Jason Ball, Climate and Sustainability Specialist at MDDC (jball@middevon.gov.uk) can advise. The Tiverton Tree Team will also come and plant free trees on suitable land.

52/11/21. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence. It was noted that three of the recycled seats still needed to be found sites.

Neighbourhood Policing: The MDDC Scrutiny committee is proposing to examine the effectiveness, or otherwise, of Neighbourhood Policing in Mid Devon and are calling for evidence. Councillors are not even aware who their Neighbourhood Officer is. Cllr Moore said Bampton are planning to hold a 'Meet your representative' meeting on Saturday 19th February and have asked the County Councillor, District Councillor, MP and the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend.

MDDC Community Led Affordable Housing. This will be discussed further at the March meeting.

Mid Devon Mobility – information about the services they offer and a request for financial support.

MDDC Planning Administration updates.

53/11/21. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on 19th January 2022.