

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 in the village hall

Present: Ruth Curtis (clerk), Cllrs Mark Brown, Gill Fisher, Richard Gard (chairman), Brian Howell, Libby Turrell, Cathy Wetherden; MDDCllr Derek Coren; DCC Cllr Frank Letch

1. Election of Parish Council Chair and receiving of Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Cllr Gard stood down after 13 years as Chair. Cllr Turrell was elected, proposed by Cllr Gard, seconded by Cllr Wetherden, all in favour. Cllr Turrell signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office.
2. Election of Parish Council Vice Chair – Cllr Fisher was elected, all in favour. Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be forwarded for signing.
3. Apologies: Cllr Chris Dack
4. Declarations of interest – none
5. Election of planning sub-committee – Cllrs Dack, Brown and Wetherden were re-elected.
6. Minutes of the last meeting 16th March 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record
7. Matters Arising
 - 7.1 Village defibrillator – is now installed and rescue ready. Everything has progressed very smoothly including electricity connection and liaison with BT thanks to the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT). Training was also arranged by CHT and was well-attended. The first monthly checks have now been completed by Cllrs Brown and Fisher and results entered into the CHT online governance system WEBNOS – this records details of the status of the unit, expiry dates of batteries etc and notification is given to the ambulance services. Volunteer emergency phone service (VETS) is yet to be set up - minimum 6 maximum 10 people. The costs are £45 to set up, year 1 free, £100 p/a thereafter. VETS gives a number for people to phone for extra help and that number phones the registered volunteers (no personal numbers are displayed). Land lines phone numbers only can be registered, no mobiles. Further training costs £175 + VAT.) Cllrs discussed the current balance of funds from village hall transfer (approx. £1K) and it was resolved to set up the VETS. Cllr Fisher to coordinate and Cllr Turrell and the clerk to review an application to the Locality Fund for ongoing costs. An official ‘unveiling’ will take place at the Jubilee celebrations.
 - 7.2 Jubilee celebrations Sunday June 5th 2pm – Cllr Brown reported on plans which are progressing well with around 100 people confirmed. The Jubilee Committee recorded their thanks to the parish council for the donation towards commemorative mugs.
 - 7.3 Highways – Cllr Brown reported that DCC Highways had cleared all the drains last month. Cllrs were amazed to read in the Spring 2022 Highways Parish & Town Council Newsletter that lowest amount of road defects had been recorded since 2017. This doesn’t seem to match up with the state of local roads. It was again commented that repairs to potholes don’t seem to be completed to a good standard - the filling doesn’t seem to last very long before further repair is needed. The clerk still waiting response from Highways when our ‘hot spot’ areas will be repaired.
 - 7.4 Enforcement matters – no further updates. The clerk to follow up with Angharad Williams (MDDC Planning) cc Richard Marsh, Director of Place.
 - 7.5 Potential water contamination – no further news. Cllr Gard to forward a copy of his correspondence to the clerk to follow up with the Environment Agency.

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

8. Planning
 - 8.1 DCC/4231/2021 Retrospective change of use from small scale specialist waste incinerator to receipt and temporary storage of animal by-products, Tellams – approved with conditions. A decision was made following DCC meeting 30th March. There is a list of conditions (eg allowed up to 40 tonnes, designated routes, time restrictions, covered lorries, no Sunday movements) and DCCLr Letch plans to include these on his own DCC web pages.
 - 8.2 2530/19/FUL Whiddon Down farm shop and café (Drewsteignton parish) - REFUSED
 - 8.3 22/00404/PNAG Prior Notification for the erection of agricultural storage building on land at NGR 272658 94551 Hittisleigh – PERMITTED. Cllr Fisher agreed to check MDDC Planning portal regularly and alert councillors to new permitted development applications.
 - 8.4 22/00848/HOUSE Erection of sun-room and garden store/workshop following removal of existing conservatory, shed and outbuilding, Church Cottage – responses by 27th May. Cllrs felt the proposal is an appropriate improvement and resolved to support the application.
9. Governance & Accounting for year ending 31 March 2022
 - a. Internal audit report – this was reviewed and noted. There were no concerns raised.
 - b. Annual governance statements – these were reviewed and approved and duly signed.
 - c. Annual accounting statements – these were reviewed and approved and duly signed.
 - d. Certificate of exemption from external audit – it was resolved to apply for the certificate of exemption and the certificate was duly signed.
10. Payments – all agreed
 - a. Hittisleigh Village Hall Jubilee commemorative mugs £250
 - b. DALC 2022 subscription £57.84
 - c. St Andrew’s churchyard donation 2022 £100
 - d. Community First Insurance £152.62
11. Correspondence
 - 11.1 For information – there were no comments on the items circulated
 - 11.2 New correspondence
 - Cllr Gard had received a response on his letter about permitted development application from Mel Stride to say he is making enquiries with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
 - Councillors have been asked to confirm the regulations around the widening of gateways and hedge removal and the creation of new tracks associated with planning applications, particularly with the recent permitted developments in the parish. Cllrs commented that historically they had been informed hedge removal and gateway widening was permitted if adjoining an unclassified road. The clerk to follow up with MDDC Planning to clarify.
12. Reports from MDDC and DCC councillors
 - MDCCllr Coren - the MDDC Chair & Vice Chair had been re-elected and 10,500 households have benefitted from the £150 rebate from the Government Council Tax A-D rebate scheme. MDCCllr Coren thanked Cllr Gard for all his support and friendship over the last 13 years as parish council Chair.

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

- DCCLr Letch – the DCC AGM is next week and DCCLr Letch will be proposing a motion on an MOT scheme for roads to highlight to DCC how much roads are an issue. Planning a pot-hole tour with Highways (ST) and taking a ‘pot-hole petition’ on behalf of Bow parish to DCC. Despite pot-holes being such a widespread issue locally, DCC have only paid out around £16K last year in compensation for damaged vehicles etc. MDDC have 106 empty council houses and a waiting list! Please contact DCCLr Letch direct if any support is needed with Ukrainian refugees.

After the close of the meeting, Cllr Gard resigned from the parish council.

Next parish council meeting 7.30 pm Wednesday 20th July 2022