

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th July 2022 in the village hall

Present: Ruth (clerk), Cllrs Mark Brown, Cllr Chris Dack, Gill Fisher, Brian Howell, Libby Turrell (chair), Cathy Wetherden; MDDCllr Derek Coren; Beryl Watson; Jess Carter.

1. Apologies: DCC Cllr Frank Letch
2. Declarations of interest – none
3. Wildlife Warden Scheme – Mid Devon scheme coordinator, Jess Carter presented the scheme, the initial pilot runs until the end of September. The idea is for 2-6 wildlife wardens per parish with training provided (approx. 6 sessions) based on the needs/wishes of parish. Key is induction training which runs on Monday evening 7.30-9pm. Monthly feedback which helps monitor the impact of the scheme is required and is helpful too for funding purposes. A 'Hittisleigh healthy soils' project was proposed, looking at the health of soil across the parish. Beryl Watson to be main lead and link with Jess subject to reviewing wildlife warden job description – and to attend zoom meeting on Monday.
4. Minutes of the last meeting 18 May 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record
5. Matters Arising
 - 5.1 Co-option of new parish councillor – the vacancy having been duly advertised and no election called, Beryl Watson was co-opted to the parish council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
 - 5.2 Highways – Dennis Down to Swallow Tree after many years, this section of road has finally been surfaced but seems to have been done quite 'lightly' – parishioners are wondering how long it will last. Swallow Tree to Spreyton Wood Water and the second half of the bottom road from Quince Cross to Spreyton Wood Water and the road to Hittisleigh Mill have NOT yet been done. Clerk to follow up with Highways.
 - 5.3 Village defibrillator – VETS supplies a dedicated number which rings round 10 numbers (14 volunteers). The recent training session went well and a test has now been run. Volunteers are going to visit every house in the parish with a leaflet and fridge magnet explaining the system and process.
 - 5.4 Potential water contamination – the clerk to follow up with Natural England. Cllr Brown will investigate in meantime to see if we can find out where the data has come from.
 - 5.5 District/County Councillor reports

MDDC Cllr Coren gave update on various items including retirement of Sally Gabriel, head of member services; the full council first reading of parish review which was accepted, now go to second consultation with dates to be informed; the Environment PDG carbon footprint discussion. He reported that of the 84 play areas MDDC is responsible for there have been 3 accidents in last 12 months - safety is largest concern and one of most costly areas.

DCCLr Fletch had sent in a report 1) Putting forward a motion to DCC full council for MOT certificates for roads following a serious collision or fatality. Members should receive a report outlining causes (driver error, speed, mechanical failure, poor road markings or defect) and any remedial measures needed. The member to be able to disclose the report and 2) requesting a report on compensation payments from

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highways which from 2019 to this May topped £181k with a request that DCC seeks realistic funding from central government to fix our roads.

6. Planning and Enforcement

- 6.1 22/00848/HOUSE Erection of sun-room and garden store/workshop following removal of existing conservatory, shed and outbuilding, Church Cottage – permitted
- 6.2 Class Q permitted developments – it was agreed that Cllr Turrell, together with clerk, will draft new letter to Mel Stride in response to Stuart Andrew’s reply.
- 6.3 Enforcement queries
 - 6.3.1 Parsonage Lane – councillors discussed the response from MDDC and agreed the following: the clerk to contact MDDC to confirm the building is completed and to request the caravan be removed. A separate letter to be sent to provide further information about hedges and utilities works and to clarify whether we will be notified about any future class Q application. We have raised the query with MDDC Enforcement to confirm the total holding size and they have referred us back to Planning who were not able to provide confirmation in time for our meeting. The size of the fields at Parsonage Lane is 4.45 hectares.
 - 6.3.2 Howards Copse – Rose Wood has been permitted, no response from MDDC on other matters raised.
 - 6.3.3 Swallow Tree – agriculture building 05/00432/PNAG and caravan siting – still waiting MDDC response. The clerk to follow up with Enforcement on outstanding queries.

7. Correspondence

- a. For response
 - Crediton Policing Team (pdf) – BW to reply to the invitation to join officers on patrol.
- b. For information
 - Rural Service Network bulletin July (email) – interesting link to Rural Planning in the 2020’s Report
 - DALC bulletin July and Annual Report (emails) – NALC encouraging defibrillators to be registered with The Circuit but our defibrillator will be registered on WebNos system set up by the Community Heartbeat Trust. There is no need to register on The Circuit as well otherwise we could be registered as a duplicate.
 - DCC Climate Emergency July newsletter (email) – councillors were shocked that switching to renewable energy at two MDDC leisure centres (one being Lords Meadow) plus providing LED floodlit pitches could cost grant of £2.8 million
- c. New correspondence - none

8. Payments – approved pending change of signatory

- a. Gill Fisher – reimbursement for plaque for phone box £55.74 and VETS training £210
- b. E Sibley £25 - internal audit for year ending 31 March 2022

Next parish council meeting 7.30 pm Wednesday 21st September 2022