

NYMET ROWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 187th meeting of the Parish Council in Village Hall on 16 November 2022 at 7.30pm

Present:- Councillors Anthony Odhams AO (Chair), David Gruncell DG (Vice Chair), Viv O'Dell VOD, Winnie Rookes WR, Clerk Roger Cooper RC, Minute Clerk Jan Coeshall. MOP Mark Wooding, John Boothroyd, Dave Coeshall.

Apologies:- Babs Channing.

Minutes of meeting 10:August 2022 approved and signed.

Matters Arising

1. Potholes and road maintenance. AO had received a reply to his letter to Mel Stride MP seeking help for remedial action from DCC . This was read out. A Highways engineer is to visit the site and apparently the works are to be prioritised and defects repaired accordingly. AO wants to know when the visit is to take place, so that he and DG can meet with him. NOTE Devon County Council has publicly stated it is having to deal with exceptionally limited financial resources. A discussion took place regarding DCC's policy regarding the maintenance of a prioritized route in and out of the village. RC asked as a resident, if the Parish Council would finance some of the pothole repairs. Discussion took place regarding responsibilities of undertaking such repairs. It was noted that potholes that are reported anywhere, do get repaired eventually.

Street lighting:- AO recently walked around the village and had reported to DCC that there were 6 lights out. DCC states that lights that are too bright and unduly shine into properties can have shades fitted. RC to progress this. DCC states that all current sodium lights will be replaced by LED lamps by 2023. VOD was concerned that the new lights did not have identification numbers on them. It was explained that they do.

2. Change of priority at Eggsford Cross Junction. Apparently, this could be unduly costly to do. When the Highways engineer visits, AO is aiming to again, question this.

3. Memorial bench and tree. VOD explained she visited DCW Polymers in Exeter to view the benches and distributed brochures. The benches are very strong, and that free delivery is available. VOD suggested replacing the deteriorating bench on the corner as well as the memorial bench. However RC said he was waiting for a price for repair of this bench. AO requested and it was agreed to complete the matter of both benches by the end of the year.

We have been offered a free tree by Devon Wildlife under the Queen's Green Canopy scheme. It was agreed to take up the offer. The tree will be planted adjacent to the bench. A discussion by email to take place regarding what species of tree and also possibly a plaque on the bench. AO suggested this may perhaps acknowledge the trauma of the COVID pandemic to patients and dedicated medical staff. Postscript: Alternatively it could mark the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth – to be discussed

5. Emergency Plan. This had been circulated and comments received and amended. DG will send it to the Community Projects Advisor for advice on whether it is appropriate for the village of Nymet Rowland. Mark Wooding had information on Devon Communities Together who have the finances to help with the Emergency Plan. Website devoncominuites.org.uk

6. What 3 Words. Mark Wooding explained that Nymet Rowland is not a compact village and it has 2 postcodes that are insufficiently precise in the event of an emergency. What 3 Words is a simple to use, location identification service based on precise GPS, whereby the world is divided into 3 metre squares.

We have a list of all properties in Nymet Rowland and their unique 3 words identifications. These can be used to assist the emergency services to precisely locate a property. A What 3 Words app can also be downloaded on mobile phones. AO has used it with success a couple of times.

This location information for each property can be copied and distributed along with a What to do in the Event of an Emergency Guide prepared by MW & DG. AO suggested a sub group to assist with this along with the issue of an updated information leaflet for the defibrillator. DG, MW and Dave Coeshall volunteered.

Finance:- AO had spoken to Mr and Mrs Littlewood about the upkeep of the churchyard. They explained the costs were quite high. In 2021 it was £600 and in 2022 it was £445.. As the churchyard is a community burial facility, AO suggested that the council pay a minimum figure of £450 annually for the upkeep of the churchyard. This is very comparable to Coldridge PC. This sum was proposed by DG and seconded by AO and put to a vote. VOD was against this sum, but the vote was carried by a 3:1 majority.

RC reported the current account stood at £1461.97 and the deposit account £450.83.

New information on the precept had been received but it was confusing, RC to clarify this. At present the council receive £800 minimum per annum it was agreed to apply for £1000 to take inflation into account. RC to report back at next meeting.

No new business.

The next year's meeting are:

- Wednesday February 8th 2023 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday May 17th 2023 at 7.30 pm
- Wednesday August 16th 2023 at 7.30 pm
- Wednesday November 15th 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chair's Annual Report 11May 2022

1. Potholes and repairs. Unfortunately there has been little or no progress despite repeated reports and requests to the Highways by local councillors.
2. The PC has had two planning applications to comment on. Approval of a garage and other work at the Coach House was granted. The second one relating to plans for Nymet Mill Field is still ongoing.
3. The bench at the junction and the Memorial bench and tree is ongoing and moving forward.
4. Thank you goes to DG who again sourced and organised a Christmas tree for the village.
5. According to BT there is usage of the public telephone box so it would appear to prevent the potential repurposing as a protected home for the defibrillator. The situation will need ongoing assessment.
6. AO reported on the excess litter on the road from Eggsford Cross to Hawkridge Bridge. The individual has now been spoken to.
7. The Chair would like to thank our local councillors Margaret Squires and Peter Heal for their continued support at our meetings. Also thanks to my fellow councillors and thanks to Roger for his work as clerk. There is more to his role than is apparent.

The meeting closed at 20.16 hrs.