

# NYMET ROWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of 188th meeting of the Parish Council in Village Hall on 8 February 2023 at 7.30pm**

Present:- Councillors Anthony Odhams AO (Chair), David Gruncell DG (Vice Chair), Babs Channing BC, Viv O'Dell VOD, Peter Heal (District Councillor) PH, Clerk Roger Cooper RC, Minute Clerk Jan Coeshall. MOP Mark Wooding MW, Roland Smith RS, Dave Coeshall DC.

Apologies:- Winnie Rookes.

Minutes of meeting 16 November 2022 approved and signed.

**Participation of MOP** - AO stated the key points of a Parish Council meeting relating to MOP. MOP are welcome to attend but have no statutory right to speak and must respect council business. PC meetings are not public meetings, but rather meetings held in public. MOP are invited to raise questions at the designated time in the meeting. Questions should be submitted to the Parish Clerk at least 3 days before the meeting. This draft document to be circulated for further discussion by the Parish Council. The room was been rearranged in order to facilitate the feeling of the meeting.

**Questions from MOP** - DC asked when was the next election of Parish Councillors and was told 4 May 2023, if an election proves necessary. DC also asked when the questions from MOP in future would be taken. AO replied it would be as stated in the guidelines and meeting agendas, at the beginning of the meeting. DC asked who to contact if potholes damage cars. PH replied, the Highways Department at the Council Offices.

RS mentioned the amount of mud on the roads in the village and asked if someone could have a word with the local farmers. AO had spoken to the Environment Agency regarding farm effluent on the road. This is now at unacceptable levels for the sake of Community health and must be resolved. PH said the Environment Agency was the organisation to contact regarding effluent. It was also pointed out that the drains at the farm entrance were overflowing and running down the road. This waste should go across under the road to the slurry drain, this needs clearing. AO suggested a polite letter be sent to the farmers.

It was pointed out that anyone can file a complaint to the Environment Agency and members of the public are encouraged to do so.

### **Matters Arising**

Potholes/ road maintenance- AO had contacted Margaret Squires (District Councillor) who was meeting Steve Tucker, Devon Highways. She agreed to raise the potholes in the village to him. The potholes are getting worse on Barton Hill. PH pointed out people should continue to report them on the Highways Portal - [Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk). The day Margaret Squires and Steve Tucker visited the site it had snowed so it was difficult to see where the potholes were. PH stated that Steven Tucker can only report

potholes suing the portal. .He suggested writing to the Chief Highways Officer with a copy to Margaret Squires and Meg Booth. AO will also re-contact Mel Stride MP.

**Street lighting-** AO reported there are still two lights out near the church. Contractors have been out to fix them but then claimed that they were unable to because of greenery growing near them. AO had replied rejecting this. The new LED light outside AO's property is on the list for shielding to prevent light pollution. If any others need shielding, please submit their numbers to RC.

**Memorial Bench** - VOD said the bench was ready to go and all she needs to know is the style that the Council require. There was a discussion about the site of the bench, the tractors were causing ruts. It will be necessary to put a concrete slab down prior to siting the bench. Councillors to let VOD know the style. This could mean the bench to be in by spring. A tree can be positioned by the bench when sited.

**Repairs to bench** at junction- RC now has a date to take the bench to the repairers, to be before end of March 2023.

**Emergency plan** - DG has spoken to Laura Dixon who has been very helpful, when i's and t's are done it will be lodged on a database. Then an A4 guide sheet will be circulated to every household in the village. (50 houses). AO suggested combining it with the defibrillator sheet.

AO has spoken to the gentleman who carried out the last CPR and defibrillator training, with the objective of conducting a refresher course. The feasibility of requesting a first responder to conduct this course for those who require it, is being researched.

**What3Words location project** - Overall this is felt to be an excellent idea AO asked if everyone would want their names and addresses on the list. It was suggested that just house names and the W3W references be listed. To be decided.

**Finance Report-** only one payment made of £24.00 for hiring the village hall.

Current Account - £1437.97

Deposit Account - £411.65

**Annual Donations-** The request for a donation to Mid Devon Mobility, it was decided not to give a donation.

**Parish Council/Electoral Review Committee** this has already been through council and Nymet Rowland is to stay as it is.

### **New Business**

VOD asked if a letter could be sent to a resident at Higher Ley to ask him to cut his hedge back from the road as she had had complaints of it catching on people's clothes.

Ava Corden is undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh and is working on the community aspect. She has done one litter pick and may do another. She is planting bulbs and cleaning the signs in the village. She plans to attend the next meeting.

VOD asked if Lapford Parish Council could be asked to contact the farmer at the bottom of the lane to clear the mud on the road. When previously asked by Lapford Council, this has proved

difficult. As mud on the road is a police matter, AO suggested our Community Police Officer be asked to attend a meeting to discuss this.

BC asked if the Council had the funds for an election in May if seats contested. RC to come back with an answer.

Electric Allotment - 6 acres would be needed but nowhere suitable was identified. A leaflet to be put in notices cabinet.

The Coronation was discussed. One suggestion was a cream tea, perhaps in the Village Hall. AO explained that the possibility of holding a communal coronation picnic in a garden is being explored.

Next Meetings - Wednesday 17 May  
Wednesday 9 August  
Wednesday 15 November  
Wednesday 7 February 2024

Meeting closed 8.50pm