

# HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Mark Brown, Chris Dack, Gill Fisher, Libby Turrell (chair), Cathy Wetherden; Beryl Watson; Ruth Curtis (clerk); MDDCllr Derek Coren; DCCLlr Cllr Frank Letch

1. Apologies – none
2. Declarations of interest – Cllrs Brown, Turrell and Watson declared an interest in the development on Parsonage Lane as neighbouring properties (item 8)
3. Minutes of the last meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.
4. Matters Arising
  - 4.1 Crediton Policing Patrol parish council ride-along – re-arranged for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March
  - 4.2 Police Community Crime Prevention meeting – a really useful, informative and well-supported meeting. Thanks were given to Cllr Turrell for arranging. Cllr Dack is collating orders for DNA markers (one kit will mark 50 items).
  - 4.3 Exeter Community Green Energy – an advice and discussion session looking at the various options for green energy home improvements. Likely dates to now be 27<sup>th</sup> May or a date in June (tbc) on a Saturday morning.
  - 4.4 Emergency Plan – Cllr Brown is refining the questionnaire for parishioners to complete (e-version & paper copy) which will collate information on resources available within the parish to help in emergencies.
  - 4.5 Elections – the timetable, process and nomination papers for the elections had been circulated. Nomination and consent to nomination papers need to be delivered by hand to MDDC Tiverton by 4<sup>th</sup> April. Two councillors confirmed their decision to retire and thanks were given for their years of service and support to the community. It was noted that photo id will now be required to vote unless voting is via postal vote. For postal votes MDDC Electoral Service can help or online [How to vote : Voting by post - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).
  - 4.6 Landmark tree and tree planting in memory of Brian Howell – it was agreed by all for the parish council to purchase a rowan and bird cherry to go with the hornbeam in commemoration of the Queen, the King's coronation and in memory of Brian Howell. Cllr Turrell to liaise with the church warden re: location and Cllr Dack to liaise with village hall committee re: combining the tree planting with a coronation gathering.
5. Highways
  - 5.1 Road Warden pothole repairs – thanks were recorded to the road warden for all his work repairing the numerous potholes throughout the parish.
  - 5.2 West Studham flooding – the clerk to send an 'adopt a drain' request letter.
  - 5.3 Any new matters or updates – the clerk had reported the broken concrete drain surrounds and drain blockages following Highways' clearing of the grips.
6. District/County Councillor reports – MDDCllr Coren reported on the [changes at MDDC](#) following a whole cabinet change to an all independent cabinet under new leader, Barry Warren. [Leisure Centres](#), including the swimming pools at Crediton and Tiverton, are now substantially powered by renewable energy. MDDC have been applauded for their [Ukrainian/refugee policy](#). Following [boundary changes](#), Yeo Ward no longer includes Copplestone and now includes Newton St Cyres. [Retiring](#) - MDDCllr Coren confirmed he will be standing down at the election and thanked all the councillors for their support and friendship over the years. Councillors recorded a formal thanks and their deep appreciation to MDDCllr Coren for all his work on behalf

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of the parish and the community, particularly the consistent care with which matters have been addressed and taken up on the community's behalf.

DCCllr Letch's monthly report which is published in village and parish magazines is now being circulated to councillors. Potholes have been much on the agenda and DCC have allocated £2m extra in their budget. Depending on the road classification, it can be anything from 24 hours (A roads) to 28 days between holes being inspected and marked-up to being repaired. Road ahead closed signs have to go on the main stretch of road that covers the road or side road to which the closure applies. This can be frustrating if the main through route for example is still accessible. DCC Childrens' Services provision is in a dire state with 52% of social workers now agency. Thanks - DCCllr Letch thanked the two retiring parish councillors and MDDCllr Coren for all their work supporting and caring for the community.

7. Planning
- 7.1 22/00505/MFUL Engineering works to create a level hardstanding for an agricultural building at Swallow Tree farm – refused.
- 7.2 Letter to MDDC re: communication on planning matters – the clerk to draft and circulate to councillors for comment with a view to inviting MDDC Planning to a future meeting.
- 7.3 Mel Stride meeting - permitted development rights – Cllr Turrell is checking surgery dates and will update councillors by email.
- 7.4 APPEAL (APP/Q1153/W/22/3309313) Development of new farm shop and ancillary café – Whiddon Down - responses by 20<sup>th</sup> March – it was agreed to object to this further appeal as there are no material changes in the application, it is still on a greenfield site and previous comments made still apply. Councillors felt the appeal will be best served by a hearing rather than written representation due to the strong public interest.
- 7.5 23/00252/MFUL Erection of agricultural building (1794 sq. m) to house milking parlour on site of existing silage clamp - Appledore Farm, Bow – responses by 17<sup>th</sup> March – this is a new agricultural building on an existing concreted area replacing an old parlour which will be used as covered area. In view of this, and the minimal impact visually, councillors agreed to respond with no objection.
8. Enforcement matters
  - Howards Copse – the clerk to follow up with MDDC on the developments and activities at the various plots.
  - Parsonage Lane – a MDDC Enforcement officer had visited the site and reported that works are still being carried out to implement the approved planning consents. Councillors discussed concerns about horse keep (non-agricultural), night digging, what appears to be a widening of the track and the possible installation of a septic tank. The clerk to follow up with MDDC.
  - Swallow Tree – there is no further information or photos from the agent. It was noted that a huge gateway been created near to where the caravan sited.
- 9 Payments
  - Annual defibrillator costs - £162 including VAT
  - Clerk six-month salary £440 and PAYE £88
- 10 Correspondence
- 10.1 For response

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- Hedgehogs Highway project – councillors expressed support for the project but declined a financial contribution.
- 10.2 For information – Cllr Dack to follow up with the village hall committee about free broadband for village halls. There were no other comments on information circulated.
- 10.3 New correspondence - none

**Next parish council meeting 7.30 pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023**