**Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 20:00 on Thursday March 16th 2023**

**Present:** **Councillors** Andrew Green, Marion Born, Chris Burrows, Jim Sampson, John Quick John Smith **DCC Councillor** Margaret Squires

**Clerk** Keyth Richardson

**Apologies** Jeff Burrows **MDDC Councillor** Peter Heal

**Open Forum.** Six parishioners were present.

There were several comments raised by residents on the Planning Application for Leigh Cottage, including the revised plans recently submitted. Four residents spoke against the application, citing a number of factors and reasons for this not to be approved. Specific points were the siting of the decking and its associated mobile home, which being plumbed in is not mobile at all, being so close to a boundary, and causing the removal of part of a Devon bank to create the site for the development. In all previous planning applications for this property MDDC had considered the privacy and the effect of the development on neighbours, and it is hoped that MDDC would continue to take this same view. Locating gas cylinders close to a boundary and the neighbouring oil tank is considered to be a fire risk for both properties, and is to be avoided. There is a firm belief that this mobile home and decking are on land designated as agricultural land, and not part of the curtilage of the house. The Chairman advised all present to ensure any comments and objections are lodged with MDDC as the planning authority. Coldridge Parish Council has no power at all on planning issues, it can only provide comments to MDDC.

A second issue raised by residents was the excessive number of lorries travelling at unsafe speeds outside residential properties on the lanes leading to the old quarry in Newtons Lane opposite the entrance to Barons Wood which is being used a dumping site for soil. Whilst it is possible they are exceeding 50mph this cannot be proved, but they are tailgating cars and worrying drivers. Places affected include Lower Newton, Leigh Cross and Blackditch Lane. These lorries arrive in groups of up to 14 at a time, and the daily total is usually over 50, most lorries making several repeat journeys a day. The residents have no confidence in Devon and Cornwall police to take any notice of their concerns, despite there being a recent accident involving such a lorry.

DCC Councillor, Margaret Squires will bring this up next week during her tour of the area with the DCC Highways Officer for this area. It was noted that DCC Highways do not normally take any action over green “20 is plenty” signs located on private land adjoining the public highway unless it creates sight hazard. It was agreed there was nothing else Coldridge PC could do.

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| 2022/23 -105 | **Welcome by Chairman** | Andrew Green welcomed everyone to the meeting, which started at 20:08 |
| 2022/23-106 | **Recording of meetings** | The meeting was not being recorded |
| 2022/23-107 | **Apologies** | Jeff Burrows **MDCC Councillor** Peter Heal |
| 2022/23-108 | **Declarations of interest** | None reported. |
| 2022/23-109 | **Minutes** | The minutes of the meeting on January the 20th 2023 were approved and signed |
| 2022/23-110 | **Matters arising** | The clerk reported that SW ambulance trust do not provide bleed kits for defibrillators and only see these of being of value in areas of high footfall such as shopping centres, not in rural areas with small populations |
| 2022/23-111 | **Church Clock** | As many people know the Cumbria Clock employee who looks after the clock was involved in serous road collision, not of his fault, and is currently off work. The clerk was aware that work needed to be carried out on the clock and has spoken to Cumbria Clock company to arrange a quote and to get the work in hand. The cost of the annual maintenance has gone up to £195 but it is expected this can be carried out at the same time as the repairs. |
| 2022/23-112 | **Election Update** | The clerk has published both the notices for the Parish Council Election and the Mid Devon District Council Election as required by law on all 3 noticeboards and on the Parish Council website. The MDDC ward has been revised since the last election which might make a difference to future work across parishes. |
| 2022/23-113 | **Visit to local employer** | This is still work in progress |
|  | **Finance** | The following payments were agreed.   * 1. Clerk’s wages £221.92   2. Clerk’s expenses £12.45   3. Coins for the coronation £385.20   4. Hall rent £80.00.   5. Mower service £140.12 |
| 2022/23-114 | **Coronation** | In conjunction with Coldridge Village Hall Committee  **Friday May 5th**  Set up bunting and flags in the afternoon, weather permitting.  **Saturday May 6th**  The Coronation will be shown in the village hall, free entry for all with the bar open with its usual range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and ice-cream; time to be confirmed but it will be in the morning.  **Sunday May 7th**  It is likely a joint service will be held in St Matthews in conjunction with Allerbridge Chapel.  Big lunch in The Square, road closure has been granted. 12:00 Set-up with tables from hall, plastic chairs from church and those stored at Chilverton, 13:00 meal starts with intro from Andrew Green. People to bring their own food to share as they wish.  Volunteers to be asked for from the whole parish to set up. Coins to be distributed at 13:30.  If wet either in hall or under marquees, depending on the situation on the day.  There will be a Coronation Concert in the evening which the Village Hall Committee may wish to show. |
| 2022/23-115 | **Planning** | Leigh Cottage. The Parish Council had already submitted comments on this. It confirms its opinion that the decking is too close to the neighbouring property, Toady Park, and will be submitting this to MDDC planners.  Park Mill, conversion of part of a barn to accommodation. No comments to be made. |
| 2022/23-116 | **Highways** | The Clerk has been informed that complaint about the drain in Church Lane has been completed. Margaret Squires asked to be sent the ID number to follow this up.  Everyone is advised to keep on reporting potholes and other defects using the DCC Highways website, as it is the most efficient way of dealing with them.  Margaret Squires will be taking the DCC Highways Officer to key problems in the parish next week. DCC has put an extra £2m into highways but is recognised it is inadequate. Devon MP’s are being made aware of this so they can lobby for more grants from Central Government.  Grit bin  An email had been received from a parishioner in West Leigh, which highlighted some issues of accessing roads during snowy weather. The Parish Council confirmed no change to the decision made at the last meeting.  The Clerk will inform the parishioner of this decision.  Response from DCC CEO. An acknowledgement had been received but no actual response to the issues raised. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with Meg Booth. |
| 2022/23-117 | **Councillor’s reports** | Jim Sampson announced he would not be standing for re-election this year as he felt it was time to retire. The Chairman thanked him for his almost 46 years’ service since he became a Parish Councillor on 10th October 1977 and for all the work he has done for the Parish in that time. He was given a spontaneous round of applause by all present  MB asked that the Neighbourhood Team visit on April 27th be made aware of the problems of parking at Frogbury Cross and the need to have more off-road parking for road safety reasons.  Margaret Squires reported that DCC Childrens Services had been rated inadequate and it would take some time to turn it around. One measure is to increase the number of DCC employees and reduce the use of agency staff, which will provide greater continuity for the children. Each member of staff has a workload of 16.5 children per worker. |
| 2022/23-118 | **Dates of next meetings** | To confirm the dates for 2023 as, May 18th Annual Parish Meeting and AGM, July 20th, Sept 14th, November 16th. |

The meeting closed at 21.00

Signed: