

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday May 18th 2023 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs A Taylor-Ross (Chair), M Balment, J Boundy, J Mock and R Webber

In attendance: District Cllr Mrs R Gilmour and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

01/05/23. Election of Officers

a) Chair – elected chair to sign Acceptance of Office Form. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross was proposed by Cllr M Balment and seconded by Cllr J Boundy. There were no other nominations. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross was unanimously elected as Chair and she signed an Acceptance of Office Form.

b) Vice-chair. Cllr M Balment was proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross and seconded by Cllr J Boundy. There were no other nominations. Cllr Balment was unanimously elected as Vice-chair.

02/05/23. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs A Wych. Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs Roberts, Footpath Wardens.

03/05/23. Disclosure of interest in item on the Agenda. Cllr Boundy declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 13/05/23 as his business had submitted a quote for the work.

04/05/23. Co-option of councillors – co-opted councillors to sign Acceptance of Office Forms. Applications had been received from Robin Webber and John Mock. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt them onto the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross and seconded by Cllr Balment. They signed their Acceptance of Office Forms before joining the meeting as councillors.

It was agreed to bring the following item forward on the agenda.

05/05/23. Reports

a) County Cllr. No report.

b) District Cllr. District Cllr Mrs Gilmour introduced herself and explained her background. She has asked to go on the MDDC Planning Committee, Cllr Adcock, the other District Councillor for Clare and Shuttern Ward has asked to go on the Environment Policy Development Group. They want to carry on in the same way as Andrew Moore and Ray Stanley did when they were the district councillors for the ward. They would like to hold District Councillor surgeries for 30 minutes before the start of Parish Council meetings. County Cllr R Chesterton would also be invited to be part of this. Cllr Mrs Gilmour is planning an emergency motion to MDDC Council to ask them to use the money given to them by government to deal with the worst roads in Mid Devon. They can only lobby the council. She would have liked to have been on the Economic Policy Development Group, which she believes should include agriculture. They are determined to do their best for the ward.

06/05/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chair.

07/05/23. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda). No matters arising.

08/05/23. Public questions. No members of the public present.

09/05/23. Footpaths:

a) P3 update. A written report from Mr & Mrs Roberts was circulated prior to the meeting. There are no new problems they are aware of but a few contracts are still outstanding.

Footpath 2: Steps and handrail still needed to get from Long Lane up into the field. Now overgrown again and they couldn't climb it. Deep mud on lane between New Park entrance and the footbridge, could do with scraping. Greenery, grass and nettles need cutting soon by the gate and in the field between New Park and Mousebeare.

Footpath 3: 3 replacement gateposts and repair to the fingerpost at the far end of the yard still needed at Courtenay when we were last there. Gateposts at Winbow. Farmer to advise when the work has been completed by his contractor.

Footpath 4: The bridge at the bottom of Brook Lane could benefit from inspection. Some boards are a bit spongy, one step is broken and non-slip strips still needed.

Footpath 5: Fingerpost pointing to Courtenay still needed on Washfield Lane where the footpath crosses it.

Footpath 6: Changes to gates and fences etc completed but it must be formally diverted before any signs etc can be changed.

The Clerk has invoiced DCC for the P3 Grant of £220.00 for 2023-23.

b) Any other footpath matters. The DCC Rights of Way Committee will meet before the next Parish Council meeting to make a decision on Bridleway Proposal 2 from the Definitive Map Review for Washfield.

10/05/23. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.

23/00466/CLU Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of general industrial building as workshop and premises for the business of Partridge Kitchens for a period in excess of 10 years Location: Partridge Kitchens Workshop, Ennerleigh Farm, Washfield. Councillors believed this building had been used for at least 10 years.

22/02325/HOUSE Installation of overshot water wheel to provide power to property. Location: Worth House, Washfield, Tiverton. Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 294690 / 114605 Comment: no objections.

b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.

c) To note the Adoption of the Air Quality SPD (2023) and revocation of the Air Quality SPD (2008). Noted.

d) Any other planning matters. No other planning matters.

11/05/23. Highways

- a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed.** There are several potholes on the Lower Washfield road. Cllr Balment reported a number of potholes online but was emailed back to say they didn't meet the criteria for repair. Councillors questioned what was happening about the resurfacing of the road at Badcott. County Cllr Chesterton thought it would be resurfaced this year. Blocked drains at Swinesbridge and Courtney Cottage were going to be jetted but that has not been done yet.
- b) DCC Highways Self Help Scheme.** No one is interested in taking this on as the road issues are just too bad. DCC to be informed why Washfield Parish Council will not be joining the scheme.
- c) Any other highways matters.** No other highways matters.

12/05/23. Finance:

- a) To approve any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:
Mrs J Larcombe - £84.68 Clerk's salary (Chq no 561)
HM Revenue & Customs - £21.00 PAYE (Chq no 562)
- b) To approve the annual insurance cover for 2022-23.** It was agreed to renew the insurance with Zurich Municipal and pay the premium of £167.44 (Chq no 560)
- c) To receive the report from the Internal Auditor.** Carried forward.
- d) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23.** The Annual Governance Statement was approved.
- e) To approve the Accounting Statement for 2022-23.** The Accounting Statement was approved.
- f) To agree the signing of the Certificate of Exemption for 2022-23.** The Council declared itself as exempt and the Certificate of Exemption was signed.

13/05/23. Update on replacement of fencing around the village green. The Clerk will find out whether S106 funding can be used to cover the cost of replacing the fencing. If not the cost of this work will be paid out of the Parish Council's reserves. There is still one bench left to find a place for. It was agreed to use this bench as a memorial to Roger Arnold, former councillor and chair, who had died since the last meeting. It will be sited so that it overlooks Marsh Farm where Roger farmed.

14/05/23. Community Resilience Plan for Washfield. No comments were received following the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross will finalise, circulate and log with DCC.

15/05/23. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence. The Chairman had no announcements.
No further correspondence.

16/05/23. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 19th July 2023.

Signed:
Chair

Date: