

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Darrell Chidley, Chris Dack, Andrew Shervington, Beryl Watson; Ruth Curtis (clerk); MDDCllr Sandy Chenore; and two members of the public

1. Public discussion time
2. Apologies – Cllr Weatherden; DCCLr Frank Letch; MDDCllr Martin Binks
3. Declarations of interest - none
4. Meeting of the parish council meeting 17th January 2023. An official complaint had been made that the meeting of 17th January had not been publicly notified within the required timeframe. This was a wholly inadvertent error by the clerk. Having carefully considered the situation, councillors decided to hold the whole meeting again on 31st January.
5. Minutes of the last meeting 15th November 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.
6. Matters Arising
 - 6.1 Co-option – it was resolved to co-opt the following parishioners:
 - Madeline McDonald proposer Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Dack (unanimous 4 votes)
 - Mike Tootell proposer Cllr Dack, seconded Cllr Watson (unanimous 4 votes)
 - 6.2 Revised parish map with boundary changes. The new map is now online. The clerk to follow up and also request a hard copy for the village hall same size as existing map.
 - 6.3 Highways matters
 - 6.3.1 Adopt a drain – Cllr Chidley to ‘adopt’ the drain past Hunters Lodge towards the Church. The clerk to follow up with DCC re: drains map.
 - 6.3.2 Salt – Cllr Shervington has done a great job putting salt bags around the parish. Cllr Weatherden has provided more bags. We have plenty of salt stores. Cllrs Shirvington and Chidley to undertake snow warden training.
 - 6.3.3 Potholes – there is a very bad pothole just past Davylands and the whole stretch down past Swallow Tree farm needs resurfacing. All councillors to report. It was also noted that the road is now flooding just past Swallow Tree Farm but is currently passable.
 - 6.3.4 Mud on road – a letter from a parishioner about mud on the road from Bush Bungalow to Hittisleigh Cross had been received. The recent rains have now cleared most of the mud and Cllr Chidley will keep a watchful eye. Cllr Watson to respond that the parish council are monitoring.
 - 6.3.5 Storm damage – several trees had come down in the recent strong winds and councillors recorded their thanks to all who had helped to get the roads clear. Our road warden helped rescue a motorist at West Studham (Crediton Hamlets) chain sawing up a large oak tree branch which fell on to her car during the recent storm Henk. The motorist was very lucky and our road warden’s actions hugely appreciated as no emergency vehicles attended. The incident was covered in the press and councillors minuted their formal thanks for all the work the road warden does within the parish and neighbouring parishes to help keep our roads clear, useable and safe.
 - 6.4 Emergency plan update – Cllr Watson reviewing the final draft questionnaire before putting on community Facebook hub. It was agreed to collate contact details of those who could help with clearing fallen trees specifically and to include this in the emergency plan.

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7 District and County Councillor reports – DCllr Letch’s report had been circulated. MDDCllr Chenore reported on recent meeting with MDDC Planning and will circulate the very helpful planning training slides via the clerk. A crib sheet is also forthcoming. At present, MDDC have one Enforcement Officer for the whole Council. The Christmas lights parade she had introduced in Yeoford continues to be a successful community event. There is a Community Award given by Crediton Town Council which recognises people who volunteer and contribute to the Crediton community. Councillors might like to consider nominating a community champion for Hittisleigh to formally acknowledge all that local volunteers do.

8 Payments – approved

8.1 Clerk salary Jan-Dec 2023 £880

8.2 HMRC PAYE £176

9 Correspondence

9.1 For response

- MDDC rural services survey responses by 1st March (email link) – Cllr Watson to include on Hittisleigh hub.
- Crediton Town Centre Masterplan consultation (email) – noted.
- Mid Devon Mobility financial support request (email) – Cllr Weatherdon proposed making a donation of £50 and it was resolved to do so.
- State of the District debate (pdf) – date confirmed 20th March 5pm at MDDC

9.2 For information – there were no comments on the correspondence circulated

9.3 New correspondence

- Airband – the clerk to contact Airband re: plan for connection. Lots of work going on at present but no information about connection date or coverage.
- Thorne Farm (Cheriton Bishop) – the clerk to contact Cheriton Bishop clerk to enquire about the parked cars and scrap.
- Defibrillator: Mad McDonald volunteered to take on the monthly defib checks and to run an annual CPR training session. VETS system – currently stands at 7 numbers, we need 10 and ideally people located in the village near the defib. Cllr Watson to follow up.
- Tree in memoriam Brian Howell – sadly, there is difficulty in finding a suitable village location. It was agreed to pot it for now and put it in the carpark or community garden. Cllr Watson to arrange.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 20th March 2024