

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday January 17th 2024
in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.**

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

In attendance: County Cllr R Chesterton, District Cllr C Adcock and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

61/01/24. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Mock and Cllr Mrs A Wych. Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Roberts (Footpath Wardens).

62/01/24. Disclosure of interest in item on the agenda. No disclosures.

63/01/24. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 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.

64/01/24. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda). None.

65/01/24. Public questions. None.

66/01/24. Footpaths

a) P3 Report. Stuart Howell, DCC Public Rights of Way Warden has told Mr and Mrs Roberts that they can start clearing the old lane beside footpath 2 with a view to moving the path there from the edge of the sloping field. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross is clarifying things with him. There are a few volunteers who will help with the work so no immediate costs.

b) Proposal 2 from the Definitive Map Review for Washfield: decision from DCC Public Rights of Way Committee meeting on 23rd November. The committee resolved that a Definitive Map Modification Order will be made in respect of proposal 2 for the addition of a public bridleway along the green lane adjacent to Shilhay Copse, between the two county roads.

c) Any other footpaths matters. None.

Cllr Wood and Cllr Adcock joined the meeting during this item.

67/01/24. Planning

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

23/01876/Full Erection of 2 dwellings and a workshop for private use following demolition of agricultural buildings, change of use of outbuilding to mixed farm/domestic workshop and associated works. Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 291941 116618 Winbow Farm, Washfield. Comment: no objection in principle. Consideration needs to be given to additional traffic.

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

23/01759/PNCOU Prior notification for the change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to 2 dwellings under Class Q Location. Slade Farm, Washfield. Decision: approval of prior approval.

c) Any other planning matters. None.

68/01/24. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. There is a blocked drain by the link road bridge. Cllr Balment has reported it and it will be jetted when the jetter is available. He also reported blocked drains further on up the hill towards Washfield. There has been some verge ploughing. There has been some patching and Milestone has been looking at the potholes to be repaired.

An area on Long Lane has been flooded and now frozen mud is catching the bottom of cars. On the road between Hatherland Bridge and New Hill a section of hedge has fallen and blocked a drain which has caused flooding.

b) Update on request for notice of SWW road closures and for workable diversions to be in place for as short a time as possible. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross has written to SWW asking for the Parish Council to be given notice of their plans for road closures even if it is an emergency closure road closure. She has also asked for road closures to be kept as short as possible.

c) Any other highways matters. A number of parishioners have had punctures caused by the potholes along the road at Lower Washfield. People are being encouraged to buy electric cars but they are heavier and this could be adding to the problem.

69/01/24. Reports

a) County Cllr. Cllr Chesterton reported that DCC are setting their budget for 2024-25. Cabinet has looked at the initial budget which has a big increase for child social care. The draft budget will go to the Scrutiny Committee next week.

The Council is working with a group of young people who have been through the care system to see how they can improve things for children in the care system.

Bampton Street, Tiverton has been closed under the instruction of Building Control due to damage to a building caused by recent high winds. Building Control have just signed off a scaffolding plan. Scaffolding has just started but it likely to take 2 weeks.

Wet weather followed by cold has caused a big increase in potholes. 26 gangs are out repairing roads, 2 more have been taken on and there are 2 more to follow. Highways are looking to increase its number of subcontractors if it can find ones that are suitable. When the weather is drier they have been able to use the dragon patchers. An additional £6.6million of funding for pothole repairs has been received this year. Because of the timing they can only do minor roads as it takes longer to get temporary road closure notices on A and B roads.

It was noted that a caravan has been parked on the side of the road at Loughborough for a long time and it was questioned whether this was permitted.

b) District Cllr. A written report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Adcock gave Cllr Gilmour's apologies and said she had been involved in a road traffic accident. Planning enforcement is not working very well across Mid Devon. The

Enforcement Officer is leaving and MDDC will have to use agency staff.
3 Rivers will finish the projects they are working on.

70/01/24. Finance:

- a) To approve payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:
Morrish Landscaping - £4,377.60 new fencing for the Village Green (Chq no 572)
Mrs J Larcombe - £90.88 Clerk's salary (Payment ref: 2324/07)
HM Revenue & Customs - £22.80 PAYE (Payment ref: 2324/08)
Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross - £30.00 expense claim for engraved plaque (Payment ref: 2324/09)
Washfield PCC - £500.00 Churchyard Grant (Payment ref: 2324/10)
Since the last meeting the following payments have been made:
Washfield Memorial Hall - £60.00 room hire (Payment ref: 2324/05)
Mrs A Roberts - £27.60 expenses claim for a salt bin (Payment ref: 2324/06)
Bank charges - £2.94
Cheques made out to Washfield Parish Council were signed to pay money from the NatWest Current Account to the Unity Trust Bank Current Account.
- b) To report that the Unity Trust Bank current account and instant access accounts have been opened.** Both accounts are now opened.
- c) To receive a report on budget v actual April – December 2023.** The report was noted.
- d) To agree the budget for 2024-25.** A draft budget was discussed by Councillors and earmarked and general reserves were noted. The budget was agreed.
- e) To agree the precept for 2024-25.** It was agreed to request a precept of £2,250.00.

71/01/24. To note the completion of the replacement of the fencing around the village green and make arrangements for a working party to tidy up the Village Green. The replacement of the fencing has been completed. Cllr Boundy was thanked for dealing with the contractors and clearing up afterwards.
Arrangements for a working party will be made when the weather improves.

72/01/24. To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting. Parishioners will be asked for suggestions and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

73/01/24. Chair's Announcements and Correspondence:

Vehicles parking on Packer Lane, Rackenford Meadows are causing difficulties to traffic exiting Washfield Lane. The Parish Council would like a change to the road layout on this junction to give priority from Washfield Lane and traffic from Packer Lane having to give way. A letter will be sent to Cllr Chesterton requesting this and he will take it up with highways. If this is not successful the Parish Council will request double yellow lines..

MDDC – State of the District Debate 2023-24. This will be held on either 20th or 27th March 2024 and will be about how MDDC could work more proactively with the town and parish councils. All town and parish councils will be encouraged to sent representatives to the meeting.

74/01/24. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 20th or 27th March

2024 depending on when the MDDC State of the District Debate. (Meeting later confirmed as 27th March).

Signed:

Date:

Chair