

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th May 2024 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's Mrs A Taylor-Ross, J Boundy, J Mock, R Webber, W Wood and Mrs A Wych.

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

01/05/24. Election of:

a) Chair. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross was elected as Chair. Proposed by Cllr R Webber and seconded by Cllr J Boundy. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form

b) Vice-chair. Cllr M Balment was elected as Vice-chair. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross and seconded by Cllr W Wood.

02/05/24. To receive apologies. Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Roberts, Footpath Wardens.

03/05/24. Disclosure of interest in item on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

04/05/24. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

05/05/24. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda). None.

06/05/24. Public questions. No members of the public present.

07/05/24. Footpaths:

a) P3 Report. Mr and Mrs Roberts were unable to attend the meeting. A gatepost at the bottom of Footpath 8 is broken and a notice has been put up asking people to use the other gate.

b) Any other footpaths matters. No other footpath matters.

08/05/24. Planning

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

24/00314/CLU Certificate of Lawfulness for the continued use of access track for training and recreational cycling and motorcycling for a period in excess of 10 years. Location: Land at NGR 290572 117023 (North of Little Haydon) Stoodleigh. The application was noted.

b) To note the comment made on 24/00492/Full Construction of a fish pass and the installation of a smolt chute and accompanying seasonal leaf screening infrastructure. Location: Land at NGR 294858 115310 Bolham Weir, Lower Washfield. Comment: no objections.

County Matter Planning Application. DCC/4370/2023 Proposed Extension to Waste Sorting Building at Existing Waste Transfer Station at Swinesbridge Cottage, Road From Warren Cross to Steepholme, Washfield. Decision: conditional approval granted. Councillors agreed the conditions of the planning approval seem stringent.

c) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC. No decisions from MDDC.

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

09/05/24. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. The parapet of the bridge opposite Badcott was repaired but has been hit again. Cllr Boundy told councillors he had reported twenty potholes. Eventually all but two have been repaired. Cllr Chesterton reminded councillors that the potholes need to be reported online and he needs the reference number to chase up repairs. The road is flooding halfway along Long Lane and the flood water is hiding a large pothole in the road.

Cllr Gilmour joined the meeting.

b) Any other highways matters. No other highways matters.

10/05/24. Reports

a) County Cllr. Cllr Chesterton reported that Cllr John Hart, Leader of DCC, is stepping down. Cllr James McInnes is being proposed as the new leader and Cllr Andrea Davis as vice-leader.

Devon County Council and Torbay Council have formally submitted their joint proposal for a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP. It follows agreement by both councils for the formation of a Devon and Torbay CCA that, if agreed by the Secretary of State, would oversee a raft of new decision-making powers and funding devolved to Devon and Torbay from Whitehall.

An extra £12 million has been proposed and agreed by DCC's Cabinet to help repair Devon's roads after bad weather caused a huge amount of damage. It's in response to recent budget discussions for additional investment in highways, including drainage. The council received a better than expected settlement from the Government last month to help tackle its overspend on education for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The council is now in a position to make extra money available for road repairs and drainage and will be looking to invest another £12 million into the highway maintenance budget. This will be spent across the county with the majority on extensive patching repairs targeting issues identified by highways officers, county councillors, town and parish councils and communities. It will also pay for increased drainage improvements and some will be added to the ongoing road marking replacement programme.

b) District Cllr. A written report from Cllr's Adcock and Gilmour was circulated by email prior to the meeting. This included a report that recycling had increased by 5%.

May marks a year since Cllr Adcock and Cllr Gilmour were elected and they will have a 360 degree performance review from their party. As part of this performance review Parish Councils have been sent a questionnaire to fill in as a Part 2 agenda item. Councillors were asked to keep it pertinent rather than political and personal. They hope this will help them perform better as councillors. This is the first time such an exercise has been undertaken by any MDDC councillors. They are also participating in an annual appraisal by the Leader of MDDC, Cllr Luke Taylor.

11/05/24. Finance:

- a) To approve any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:
Devon Association of Local Councils - £127.00 annual subscription (Payment ref: 2425/01)
Mrs J Larcombe - £91.08 Clerk's salary (Payment ref: 2425/02)
H M Revenue & Customs - £22.60 PAYE (Payment ref: 2425/03)
- b) To report any receipts and the bank balances.** The precept of £2,250.00 has been received from MDDC.
- c) To approve the annual insurance cover for 2023-24.** It was agreed to renew the insurance cover with Zurich at a cost of £167.44 (Payment ref: 2425/03)
- d) To receive the report from the Internal Auditor for 2023-24.** Deferred to the next meeting.
- e) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24.** The Annual Governance Statement was approved and duly signed.
- e) To approve the Accounting Statement for 2023-24.** The Accounting Statement was approved and duly signed.
- f) To agree the signing of the Certificate of Exemption for 2023-24.** Agreed to sign the Certificate of Exemption.

12/05/24. To report on S106 funding available. There is no S106 funding allocated for Washfield.

13/05/24. To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be arranged for 26th June, the preferred date, or 20th June. The speakers based around the natural environment of the village and working in harmony. Cllr Gilmour suggested inviting neighbouring parish councils. It was suggested the bar could be opened.

14/05/24. Chair's Announcements and Correspondence. The Chair had no announcements and there was no further correspondence.

15/05/24. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 17th July 2024.

16/05/24. District Councillor Performance Review. Due to the confidential nature of the discussion it was agreed to move into Part 2 to discuss and complete the District Councillor Performance Review forms.

Signed:
Chair

Date: