

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th June 2024 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Mike Tootell, Beryl Watson; Cathy Wetherden; Ruth Curtis (clerk); DCCLr Frank Letch; MDDCLr Martin Binks

1. Public discussion time
2. Apologies – Cllrs Chidley; Dack; MacDonald; Shervington and MDDCLr Sandy Chenore
3. Declarations of interest - none
4. Meeting of the parish council meeting 15th May 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.
5. Matters Arising
 - 5.1 Signpost Dennis Down – Cllr Watson to follow up with the parishioner who had previously volunteered to help.
 - 5.2 Emergency Plan update – a final draft of the survey to be sent to councillors to approve before it is distributed to the community.
 - 5.3 Highways matters – the pothole repair material has still not been delivered. The clerk to follow up with Highways as will DCCLr Letch.
6. District and County Councillor reports – MDDCLr Binks reported that 3 Rivers has been wound down and the houses which were built behind the Old Town Hall have been purchased by MDDC for affordable housing for local people. 100 council built houses this year rather than the usual 6. Leisure Centres are running more efficiently following the investment in renewables so less support needed from MDDC by £400K. Collection rates for council tax is 97.5% and debt recovery at an all-time high. State of District debate – some good things are coming out of it slowly. The 3-2-1 waste system is working well for most people and recycling rates have increased by 5% on last year putting Mid Devon firmly in top 10 nationally. In addition to his report already circulated, DCCLr Letch reported on the following: 1) MDDC now have a cabinet member for parish and community engagement. 2) DCC are looking at tendering for road maintenance as contract due for renewal in 2027 - £400m. 50,000 potholes repaired with 1,500 to be done by end of June. 43 groups of workers out just repairing potholes. DCCLr Letch has proposed a 'pothole spotlight review' – a day to get everyone together and review the actual problems. 3) Looking at policy on motorhomes – some people are living in motorhomes that shouldn't be. 4) SEND overspend likely to peak next May £200m but then should reduce. More permanent staff employed directly by DCC.
7. Governance and Accounting for the year ending 31 March 2024
 - 7.1 Internal audit report – councillors reviewed the internal audit report and resolved to approve it.
 - 7.2 Annual governance statements – councillors reviewed and resolved to approve the annual governance statements which were duly signed
 - 7.3 Annual accounting statements – councillors reviewed and resolved to approve the annual accounting statements which were duly signed.
 - 7.4 Certificate of exemption from external audit – having approved the annual governance and accounting statements, it was resolved to apply for the certificate of exemption and this was duly signed.

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

8. Planning matters

- 8.1 24/00392/FULL Change of use of part of the land to residential use and erection of ancillary accommodation with decking, Mapstone – approved. Two Enforcement officers are now appointed – should be 4 in total.
- 8.2 24/000823/HOUSE Retention of single storey extension and porch (revision to planning permission 22/00845/FULL), Ferndale – response due 27th June. Built it smaller than original planning permission approved! Cllrs support the application.
- 8.3 Enforcement & Class Q updates - information slides from MDDC – clerk to re-circulate.

9. Payments – the following payments were approved

- 9.1 Community Heartbeat Trust VETS fee – defibrillator £120
- 9.2 Clerk salary Jan-June 2023 £880
- 9.3 HMRC PAYE Jan-June 2023 £176

10. Correspondence

10.1 For information – from the information circulated, there was the following comments:

- Wild About Devon - Community Wildlife Grant Scheme 2024 – councillors discussed a potential application for bat boxes or bug hotel in the community garden. Could local school build for us? Cllr Dack to ask Spreyton. A suggestion was proposed for a swift box in Church belfry. MDDCllr Binks has built boxes – they are put in in 10s and we'd need about 40 – estimated cost £120 with donated labour. 20 would cost about £30 in wood + £10 for sound device. MDDCllr Binks can supply a drawing. The clerk to approach the church warden to see if it is something the church would like. DCCllr Letch proposed £50 from Locality Fund if so.

10.2 New correspondence

- CPRE newsletter Spring 2024.
- A new planning application has been received 24/00904/FULL The Bungalow, replacement dwelling – councillors discussed the application and proposed it be supported with the condition of no further unnecessary tree removal. The clerk to circulate response to all before submitting to Planning.
- Date of next meeting – it was suggested the July meeting be now held in August (7th). The clerk to circulate date to all.