

## WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

**17/07/24. To receive apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Boundy. Apologies were received from District Cllr R Gilmour and Mr & Mrs Roberts, P3 Footpath Wardens. Cllr Adcock had advised that he would be attending a MDDC Full Council Meeting at 6pm and would be late arriving.

**18/07/24. Disclosure of interest in item on the agenda.** There were no disclosures.

**19/07/24. To agree the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15th May 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**20/07/24. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda).** None.

**21/07/24. Public questions.** No members of the public present.

**22/07/24. Footpaths:**

**a) P3 Report.** Mr and Mrs Roberts have emailed Stuart Howell DCC Public Rights of Way Warden, to report two issues on Footpath 3 Ennerleigh to New Park. The gate latch on the gate between Courtenay and New Park (50.9325428 - 3.5292151) is very difficult to open. A spacer on the latch may well solve the problem. The finger post in the field directly above New Park has rotted off. It has been tied it up with baler cord as temporary fix.

They have also asked if there has been any progress on the wobbly finger posts at the Nibbs end off footpath 8 and the top of the field towards Stoodleigh on Bridleway 7 and the Footpath 2 issues.

**b) Any other footpaths matters.** Crops are growing across footpaths in fields belonging to Ennerleigh Farm. The Clerk suggested reporting this to DCC to deal with as it is not just this year that it has happened. Councillors agreed in the first instance to send a letter from the Parish Council.

Members of the public are able to report any footpath problems online on the DCC website: [https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map\\_src/prow/](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map_src/prow/)

**23/07/24. Planning**

**a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.** No applications received.

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

**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. Decision: Certificate of Lawfulness granted.

**24/00492/Full** Construction of a fish pass and the installation of a smolt chute and accompanying seasonal leat screening infrastructure. Location: Land at NGR 294858 115310, Bolham Weir, Lower Washfield. Decision: conditional approval granted.

**c) To note Enforcement Legislation and Class Q changes.** Information from MDCC that had been circulated by email was noted.

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

## **24/07/24. Highways**

**a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed.** Some potholes have been repaired by patching on Long Lane. There is an emergency road closure for today and tomorrow, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July, to repair the parapet of the bridge at Badcott. How this bridge can be protected needs to be looked at. Cllr Chesterton reported on the schedule of works for some road resurfacing in Washfield. The first phase will be to resurface either side of Badcott. The road will then be resurveyed for resurfacing from there to Ramstorland as the second phase. The third phase from Ramstorland onwards will then be put in for as the third phase. This will take 12 to 18 months.

**b) SWW road closures.** Cllr Balment raised the issue of sudden road closures by SWW, there has been another one recently. Cllr Chesterton said they have the right to close the road without notice for emergencies but it was explained the recent road closure had been for routine work. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross said she had contacted SWW by phone and the person she spoke to blamed DCC for the lack of notice. She then contacted Highways and was told it was SWW's responsibility to give adequate notice. Councillors suggested that DCC needed to plan road closures better. On the same day as SWW had closed one road into Washfield Openreach had a road closure to replace a pole on another road into Washfield and residents had to make long diversions. Cllr Adcock reported that MDCC's Scrutiny Committee will be looking at the way road closures are carried out. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross offered to provide information about the road closures in Washfield. A recent road closure would have blocked the road where someone with a heart condition lives and this would have prevented emergency services being able to reach them had they had an emergency. It also blocked the road to a farm. Cllr Chesterton explained that if there is only one road into a property the residents have to be given access.

**c) Any other highways matters.** No other highways matters.

## **25/07/24. Reports**

**a) County Cllr.** Cllr Chesterton had nothing to add further to the information he had given in item 24/07/24. Due to the General Election not much has happened since

the last Parish Council meeting.

**b) District Cllr.** A written report from Cllr Adcock was circulated by email. Cllr Gilmour was congratulated on being elected as the MP for the Tiverton and Minehead constituency in the recent General Election. Cllr Adcock reported that she would be

continuing as a District Cllr for now. A junior enforcement officer has been recruited. Waste collection is going well.

**26/07/24. Finance:**

**a) To approve any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:

Washfield Memorial Hall - £60.00 room hire (Payment ref: 2425/05)

Mrs J Larcombe - £90.88 Clerk's salary (Payment ref: 2425/06)

HM Revenue & Customs - £22.80 PAYE (Payment ref: 2425/07)

Since the last meeting a payment of £18.00 has been made for bank charges.

**b) To report any receipts and the bank balances.** There have been no receipts since the last meeting. Unity Trust Bank current account balance is £4047.71.

NatWest Current Account - £935.48. NatWest Savings account - £292.05

**c) Bank reconciliation.** The Clerk reported a letter had been sent to NatWest Bank in early April asking for the money in the deposit account to be transferred to the current account and the deposit account closed. Although the letter had been sent to an address on the NatWest website the letter had recently been returned with a not known at this address message. The Clerk will make enquiries to find the correct contact details so that all the remaining money in the NatWest accounts can be transferred to the Unity Trust Bank accounts. A bank reconciliation will be produced and shared.

**d) To receive the Internal Audit Report for 2023-24.** All internal control objectives had been met.

**27/07/24. To discuss holding a Parish Meeting in the autumn.** This did not take place in June as planned and it was decided it would be better to hold this meeting in the autumn. Possible date being 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Speakers will be Katie Oakley (Ecologist); Frannie Armstrong who will talk about the wild area she is creating in Washfield; James Ayre will talk about farming in Washfield and Steven Radford will talk about the bigger picture of farming.

**28/07/24. Chair's Announcements and Correspondence.** There were no announcements from the Chair and no further correspondence.

**29/07/24. Date of the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Signed:  
Chair

Date: