

NYMET ROWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 197th Parish Council Meeting Held in Village Hall on Wednesday, 12th February 2025 at 7:30 pm

Present:

Councillors: Anthony Odhams (AO), David Gruncell (DG), Jan Coeshall (JC), Viv O'Dell (VO), Elaine Little (EL) - Clerk

Guest: Cllr Margaret Squires (MS), Cllr Steve Keable (SK)

Apologies: Babs Channing (BC)

3 MOPs

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2024 were approved and signed.

2. Questions from Members of the Public

An MOP asked a question regarding comments made that a drone has been seen flying around the village particularly over farm buildings. AO advised that this had been brought to his attention and that he called the police as a crime protection precaution. It is understood that a family in Coldridge own and fly a drone locally.

An MOP raised a concern regarding state of the roads into and out of the village and also surrounding main roads with lack of cat eyes. AO advised it was a Matter Arising on the PC Agenda for the meeting.

An MOP asked if Parish Council (PC) had been notified of the recent road closures into the village and the agreed diversions. AO advised the PC had not been informed. MS advised she had not been made aware of situation. MS also advised that notification of road closures/diversions could be found on the one.network website

3. Matters Arising

3.1. Potholes

- It is to be noted that anyone can report a pothole via the Devon County Website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>
 - o Advice is that including a photo is not recommended so that the site is visited for review rather than through an image.
- AO advised that he has chased for a response on the budgetary commitment from the Highways Dept for full repairs in 2025, but so far, no response. AO has since raised this with Mel Stride MP.
- MS advised that no MDDC budgets had been assigned for major road maintenance and that Devon remains the least funded area. MS also noted that MDDC is the least funded county council anywhere else, she also advised that the rural services grant had also been removed by the new government.

4.0 Financial Report

- EL reported
- Current Account balance: as of 08 Feb 25: £391.79
- Deposit Account balance as of 08 Feb 25: £1,447.49
- Expenditure between Nov24 – Feb25 total of £356.16

5.0 Any Other Business (AOB)

5.1 Emergency Plan (EP)

- DG presented that the PC have now reviewed and updated the latest Emergency Plan for the village. This was agreed by the PC and presented to the clerk to submit to all relevant authorities. DG notified the meeting that as part of the EP, CPR & First Aid training will be being scheduled for the village and to look out for future dates

5.2 Special Thank You

- The PC wished to convey their thanks and gratitude to Vaughan Lovesey for his skilled work in bringing back to life, the sign on the refurbished village noticeboard.

5.3 Village Public Phone box

- AO advised that the PC had received notification from MDDC on the 12th February, of the decision by BT that they will no longer continue to support a public telephone service within Nymet Rowland. BT has concluded that with the good mobile coverage, local social needs criteria and very low call rates, coupled with the withdrawal of copper, replaced by the new fibre network, does not justify continuing a public telephone service. MDDC stipulated a total of 42 days from the date of notification of the letter, for any objections/considerations to be submitted.
- AO advised that a Public Notice was posted on 24th January '25 in the phone box, of the forthcoming removal of the public telephone equipment.
- AO advised that BT reported that just 6 calls had been made from the phone box during 2024.
- AO explained that the Parish Council can adopt the phone box from BT for a nominal sum of £1. So far, over 6,600 boxes have been adopted nationally.
- AO suggested that in common with a number of other nearby villages, the village defibrillator be relocated into the phone box. The defibrillator is operational but showing signs of wear and tear from exposure to the weather. It is the PC's understanding that BT would continue to fund and support the electricity supply to the phone box for a period of up to 7 years.
- The PC has the opportunity to partner with the Community Heartbeat Trust, who can assist and advise.
- Councillor DG proposed that the defibrillator to be moved to the phone box. Councillor JC seconded with Chair AO also in agreement. Councillor VO objected.
- Councillors explained that if VO wished to ask village residents for their views regarding retention of the public phone service, this needs to be completed very promptly and their comments submitted to the MDDC planning portal. EL to advise VO date.

5.4 Village Hall Cooker

- AO asked on behalf of BC, that the PC consider a donation to the Village Hall for the new village hall cooker.
- AO said that before making a donation, it was important to understand the funds/balances of the Village Hall.
- MS advised that the Village Hall Committee be requested to present their annual accounts at the next PC annual meeting, AO advised that he would address the matter with the Village Hall committee.

5.5 Rubbish on land opposite Pitt Court

- Councillor JC raised the matter of rubbish on the land opposite Pitt Court and queried if this was the result of fly tipping. AO advised that apparently it was not and that he had spoken with the land owner who had agreed to remove when the tree work was finished. DG agreed to follow this up.

5.6 **Police Liaison/Visit**

- AO advised he had invited our local police sergeant to attend the PC meeting. However, the officer has now been promoted and so we are awaiting new contact details

5.7 **Planning Enforcement Inspection**

AO advised that an enforcement query has been raised with the MDDC enforcement officer regarding the field named as Carters Retreat. Cllr SK was awaiting an update on the situation

5.8 **AOB**

- Councillor Margaret Squires updated the PC that this would be her last meeting as she was not standing for re-election this year but retiring to spend more time with family. The PC thanks MS on behalf of the whole village for all the support she has given to the community over many years. As a parting gesture, MS then donated the PC the £1.00 to adopt the Village phone box as her leaving legacy for the village. AO thanked her for her service and kindness.
- Councillor SK presented an update from MDDC
- He asked that any incidents regarding aggressive dogs/owners particularly in the Eggesford Woods area, should be reported. He provided the information to be presented in the minutes for public knowledge

Incidents should be reported to:

Devon and Cornwall Police

- 999 in case of emergency
- 101 non-emergency phone number
- [Devon and Cornwall Police website reporting tool](#)

Forestry England

- Email westengland@forestryengland.uk
 - 0300 067 4800 (9.00am to 3.00pm Monday – Friday)
- Forestry England website [contact us page](#)

- SK also made a request for the PC to consider participation in the funding of the Eggesford station car park
- It was also recommended that the PC consider future PC budget provision for any future election Fee's

6. **Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 14th May 2025 with the following dates for 2025 Parish Council Meetings

- 13 August 2025
- 12 November 2025

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.