

RACKENFORD AND CREACOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2017

Present: Cllrs G Lamb, P Grugeon, J Cox, R Mathews, F Phillips, S Warne, B Morrison, S Child (from 7.35pm)

Also present: K Ward (clerk), County and District Councillor J Yabsley (until 7.50pm), Devon and Cornwall PCSOs (until 7.40)

1. Apologies – none

2. Open Forum - No members of public present.

3. Report from Devon and Cornwall Police – the PCSOs in attendance said since the last meeting there were only two incidents on the A361 and one domestic issue reported. Cllr Morrison asked whether there were any trends of metal thefts but the PCSO said no, and that no other notable incidents have been reported. Future contact should be made to the generic southmolton@dc.police.uk email address.

4. Report from District and County Councillor

Cllr Yabsley updated the council on pothole repairs and surface dressing plans affecting the parish noting some of the conditions on local roads meant they were a high priority for works. The new highways contract with Skanska will begin in April.

It was noted the council's application to the Community Enhancement Fund was unsuccessful, however Cllr Yabsley will pursue the matter with Highways officers as he feels these are the types of works that should be funded. The Fund will be continuing into 2017/18.

Regarding budgets, Devon County Council will increase its council tax by 4.99% and was not intending to put its own funds into schools while waiting for further grant information from the government. It was noted North Devon schools are losing out on the new funding formula.

North Devon District Council will be raising council tax by £5 for a band D property.

The Local Plan is progressing with the inspector happy with the overall number of houses proposed, but there were concerns on the timetable for delivery which is dependent on private land supply. It is intended the Plan will be adopted by the end of the year.

Cllr Child thanked Cllr Yabsley for his ongoing contribution to resolving the Batsworthy Cross noise issues.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2017

5.1 **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record, and signed as correct.

5.2 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda:

The Clerk read the response from Witheridge PC regarding cutting back of hedges and that they do not undertake road gritting as this is a highways responsibility. The council then discussed the practicalities of only gritting within the parish boundaries and the costs and liabilities of gritting on roads that abut other parishes.

Action: Cllr Phillips to discuss gritting on boundary roads with Cllr Yabsley and the DCC Highways officer. Clerk to follow up discussions with Highways in writing.

6. Declaration of Interests - none

7. Finance

7.1 The Clerk reported the bank balance at 31st January was £21,987. Further income was expected from the school from the hire of the hard court. Subject to approving all payments at this meeting, the expected outturn for the year is £20,800 (excluding VAT to be recovered).

7.2 The following payments were **APPROVED**:

- K Ward, clerks wages £181.24
- K Ward, expenses £15.30
- HMRC £45.40
- Idata Services for website upgrade funded by Transparency Code grant £90.00
- Glendale for ongoing programme of invasive treatment £720.00 (£600.00 + VAT)
- FA Phillips for gritting £360.00 (£300.00 + VAT)
- Glen Hookins Ltd for works to Trinity Well £203.90 (£169.92 + VAT)

7.3 Payment **APPROVED** subject to invoice being received:

- Devon County Council (Rackenfords School) for room hire £135.30

7.4 Request for funding:

The following one-off grant payments were **APPROVED** from the 2017/18 budget:

- Citizens Advice Bureau £150.00
- South Molton Community News £10.00

Action: Clerk to advise recipients these are one-off grants.

8. Transparency Code

The Clerk reported that work to upgrade the website and become transparency code compliant was progressing well and all should be in place by 31 March. It was **AGREED** that the Council should purchase a laptop, scanner and relevant software subject to being awarded a further grant from DALC.

Action: Clerk to submit a further grant application for purchase of a laptop, scanner and software.

9. Planning

9.1 The following items were **NOTED**:

- 62394: Plot 2, Prospect Farm re erection of one dwelling – “serious concerns regarding the front elevation” response submitted
- 62497: Middle Mogworthy change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house – “no comments” response submitted
- 62483: Crossways erection of dwelling & demolition of existing garage – “no objections, subject to conditions being in place for improving and maintaining sight line for traffic” response submitted
- 62035 East Nutcott farm: new entrance and trackway – permission granted
- 62498: Middle Mogworthy erection of livestock/equestrian building – “no objections”

Action: Clerk to submit response to NDDC

9.2 Responses to planning applications

Following a proposal from Cllr Grugeon it was **AGREED** that, where time allows, the Clerk will circulate a draft planning application response to councillors for comment prior submission to the district council.

Action: Clerk to implement new procedure on planning responses.

10. Common Regeneration

Cllr Lamb reported that we are still waiting for the outcome of the phase 1 grant application to the Devon Community Fund. It was **AGREED** that grant applications should also be submitted now for phases 2 and 3.

Action: Cllr Lamb and Clerk to prepare and submit grant applications.

11. Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm

11.1 Cllr Child updated the council on progress on the noise collection data, noting it was several months overdue and still not finalised. The management company Regen have attributed this to one turbine not working and unsuitable weather for some different wind speeds. A report is now expected for end March and NDDC have promised to take robust compliance action if noise levels have been exceeded. If however this states noise levels are reasonable or borderline the Objectors Group is not likely to find this acceptable as five residences are currently suffering noise from the turbines and complaints have been registered. Following intervention from Cllr Yabsley a further meeting between the district council and the group will take place once the report is published or sooner if there is further delay.

11.2 Cllr Child reported that as well as the parish council grant application for the Common, the PTFA has also applied to the Devon Communities Fund for astroturf on the playground.

12. Highways & Footpaths

12.1 Devon County Council Community Enhancement Fund – it was **AGREED** that this should remain as a standing item on the agenda until further information was received from Cllr Yabsley on the 2017/18 Fund.

Action: Clerk for to include in future agendas

12.2 Footpaths/Children's Play Area: Cllr Warne reported a couple of footpath posts need replacing. With the play areas, a goal post has been replaced otherwise nothing to report. The RoSPA inspection of play equipment is due later this month. Cllr Morrison reported muddy and slippery conditions by the box where the tennis nets are stored. It was felt the problem could be dealt with for less than £100.

Action: Cllrs Warne and Morrison inspect the area around the tennis net box and report back to the next meeting with a solution.

13. Correspondence - none

14. Shop/Post Office/School

Cllr Child reported there is likely to be a loss this year, but they are looking into a small coffee / community room and are leaflet dropping to all houses.

The primary school is now part of the Federation of Tiverton Schools and it was felt that this was already having a beneficial impact.

15. Trinity Well

Cllr Lamb reported the replacement lighting has been installed, but repairs to the pump were still due.

16. Matters of Urgency for noting only

Cllr Lamb was pleased to report that overgrown hedges previously reported to the council have now been trimmed.

There was query on when the new superfast broadband would be connected and which homes would benefit. The council was not aware of when the new BT cabinet would become live, but it was understood only those in the village centre would benefit from faster speeds if they subscribed to the superfast service. Properties outside of the village will remain on copper connections as speeds would drop if they connected to fibre optics.

Meeting closed 8.55pm.

Date of next meeting: Annual Meeting of the Council Tuesday 2nd May 2017, 7.00pm at Rackenford School, followed by the annual Parish Meeting

Signed as a true record:

Date:

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