

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4th July 2017

Present: Cllrs Lamb, Child, Phillips, Cox, Mathews and Morrison, K Ward (clerk), Cllr Yabsley (items 1718-41 to 1718-42) and 1 member of the public. Cllr Hyland was co-opted onto the Council and joined from item 1718-36.

Meeting opened 7.30pm

1718-31 Apologies - none

1718-32 Declaration of Interests - none

1718-33 Open Forum

There was a complaint regarding overgrown hedges between 2 Gates Cross to Bulworthy which were causing a traffic hazard. Cllr Lamb agreed to raise this with Cllr Yabsley.

1718-34 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2017

The minutes were approved and no issues arising not already covered on the agenda.

1718-35 Vacancy on Rackenford & Creacombe Parish Council:

The Council considered the application from Tamsin Hyland and **RESOLVED** unanimously to co-opt her onto the Council. She signed the acceptance of office form and joined the meeting.

1718-36 Finance 2017/18

- a. The Clerk updated the Council on the current financial position as set out in the report in the agenda, noting the outstanding hard court rent from last year has now been paid.
- b. The Council **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:
 - K Ward / HMRC, clerks wages £220.64
 - K Ward, expenses £35.19
 - Glendales for dock treatment ££90.00 (75.00+ VAT)
 - Get Mapping plc £33.60 (£28.00 + VAT)
- c. There was a brief discussion on the defibrillator as to when replacements pad and batteries were needed.

Action: Clerk to contact Ruth Fennell

1718-37 Recommendations from Internal Audit

Council considered the recommendations as set out in the agenda and noted those already implemented. The Clerk identified remaining recommendations still to investigate and will report back in the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to finalise work on the Internal Audit recommendations.

1718-38 Council policies

Council considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the following policies as set out in the agenda.

- Anti-fraud and corruption policy
- Grant policy
- Training policy

1718-39 Review of contract procedures

The Clerk identified proposed amendments to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to take into account changes in respect of the Public Works Regulations 2015, plus further amendments as recommended by Council in May. Council considered the amendments and **RESOLVED** to approved the amended sections of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as set out in the agenda.

1718-40 Planning

The following NDDC decisions since last meeting were **NOTED**:

- 10236 Unauthorised works to Listed Building – replacement windows at Stag Inn – Not expedient to enforce
- 62829 Demolition of existing dwelling and adjacent barn and erection of new dwelling with ancillary accommodation at East Nutcott – granted
- 62995 Plot 1, Prospect Farm reserved matters – granted
- 10420 Unauthorised change of use from agricultural to motor vehicle repairs – No breach, there is no evidence of commercial use in the workshop

Council noted there was a new application for 63250, Little Tidderson, extensions and alterations to dwellings and comments will be made by the deadline of 21st July.

1718-41 Report from District and County Councillor

Cllr Yabsley commented that there has been issues with the new waste and recycling collections as the NDDC had severely underestimated the volumes of food waste and some rural properties being missed off the new rounds. The green bin service however appears to be going well. There is no decision yet on the 3 weekly black bin collection.

The Local Plan is going to Council shortly. There are some final areas of consultation but it was noted there is sufficient land supply identified for the next 5 years. Adoption of the Local Plan is likely in December.

DCC are consulting on the A361 major works, however the Council expressed concern that it had not received any correspondence on the matter. DCC had yet to bid for funding, but the 1st phase from South Molton to Barnstaple is estimated at £100m. The South Molton to Tiverton stretch is not included in this project and will be addressed in a future project.

Action: Clerk to circulate A361 consultation information noting deadline for responses is 28 July

1718-42 Batsworthy Wind Farm update

Cllr Child stated that following criticisms of the first report on the noise from the turbines, a second report has now been produced by the operators which again concluded that only 1 property was affected. However the objectors have again criticised the methodology used in this second report and stated more than 1 property is affected. NDDC officers are awaiting comments from their own expert and Cllr Yabsley said that they would then set up a meeting with the residents.

1718-43 The Common

- a. The Council considered the draft scoping documents for expressions of interest included in the agenda, but agreed to defer the item until a decision had been made on the grant funding application to Devon Communities Foundation.
- b. Cllr Lamb thanked Cllr Phillips for cutting the grass on the Common recently, and noted it needed doing again for sports day this week. Cllr Phillips agreed to organise this. There was a lengthy discussion on the finding a long term solution for grass cutting on the Common looking at the merits, costs, wear on machinery and practicalities of both using volunteers or using contractors. It was agreed that Cllr Phillips would look into this further with George Phillips, but that this would be kept under review by the council.
Action: Cllr Phillips to look into a long term solution to grass cutting Common.
- d. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Phillips would be the Tree Warden for the Council.
- e. Following a question from Cllr Cox, the Council noted that it has no statutory responsibilities for stock wandering into the road and gardens as this is the stock owners responsibility.

- f. It was noted that the tap on the Common had been missing for the PTFA fete; it will in future be kept in the Shop where the water has to be turned on. Cllr Child mentioned that the electric box doesn't close and needs repairs. It was **RESOLVED** to agree to these repairs, likely to cost under £100.
Action: Cllr Child to contact electrician.

1718-44 Footpaths – no matters to report

1718-45 Play area

Cllr Lamb stated that a replacement play area would be integral to the Common regeneration project and this would resolve many of the ongoing repair problems.

1718-46 War Memorial

The Clerk updated on progress with the application form and outlined information that is still required, noting that only 75% of the costs can be applied for.

Actions: to progress the application form, specific further information required:

- Map of location (Cllr Lamb)
- Details of regiments (Cllr Child)
- Updated photos including close up of damage (Cllr Child)
- Alternative quotes for memorial works (Clerk)
- Quotes for tree removal and repairs (Clerk)
- Contact DCC re. kerbing (Cllr Phillips)

1718-47 Trinity Well

Further to the May meeting, Cllr Lamb has received a further quote of £200 for repairs to the broken Perspex on the noticeboard and seating repairs. Council felt this quote from the local contractor was very reasonable and that no other quotes would be needed, and it was **RESOLVED** to award the work to Stuart Hagley.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr Hagley to begin works.

1718-48 IT equipment – defer to September meeting

1718-49 Correspondence

Cllr Lamb noted there were overnight road closures on the A361 Tiverton to M5 starting this week for 6 weeks for resurfacing.

Also, in Rackenford there are planned road closures towards the sewage works on 7 August for 2 days and that Council members should disseminate the information to residents.

1718-50 Shop and School update

Cllr Child reported the company providing the ATM is not making a profit from the machine so that the contract may need renegotiating to keep the facility in the village. It was noted that money is made on the number of transactions not the amount withdrawn.

The school will have a new Head of School, Mrs Drake, from September. It was noted that the school roll is down and that some children are travelling by early morning bus to Chumleigh instead.

1718-51 Matters raised for noting only

The Council was pleased to note that the whole site of The Stag Inn has been sold to an owner who intends to manage it as a pub. After repairs it is hoped to be open in October.

Cllr Morrison announced that he is resigning from the Council as he is moving out of the parish. Cllr Lamb, on behalf of the Council, thanked Cllr Morrison for his contributions and service to the parish.

The Council agreed to write to the Manager of South Molton Mole Valley Farmers to thank him for the donation of goal posts.

Action: Clerk to send thank you letter.

1718-52 Next meeting

Tuesday 5th September 2017, 7.30pm at Rackenford School

Meeting closed 9.15pm

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
