

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Present: Cllrs Lamb (chair), Child, Phillips, Warne, Parry, Mathews, Cox and Hyland, K Ward (clerk), and 1 members of the public.

Meeting opened 7.30pm

**1718-97 Apologies:** None

**1718-98 Public Forum**

On behalf of a local resident, the Clerk reported on overgrown hedges on the road coming off the A361. This was noted by the Council as a Devon County Council hedge.

**Action:** Clerk to report to Cllr Jeremy Yabsley and on the DCC portal.

There was a further query regarding whether planning permission for the poultry farm should have included a pathway on the side of the Common. The Council were not aware this was a condition of planning.

**1718-99 Declaration of Interests** - none

**1718-100 Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

**Action:** Cllr Lamb to forward an example of a licence agreement to Cllr Hyland

**1718-101 Report from the District and County Councillor**

Cllr Yabsley not in attendance.

The Clerk reported on correspondence from the Boundary Commission review into North Devon District Council wards, noting the latest proposal was for a single ward covering Witheridge to Bishop's Nympton and across to the E and W Anstey, with 2 councillors representing the area. The Council has no comments to make on the proposal.

**1718-102 The Common**

- a. Environmental and tree surveys: It was **AGREED** to have a working group meeting to go through the reported produced by Devon Wildlife Trust in detail then follow up any queries with DWT.  
**Action:** Working group to meet on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- b. Landscape architects: The Council reviewed the expressions of interest returned and **RESOLVED** to invite all for interview. There was a discussion on the brief that the Council should provide as in order to evaluate the merits of each firm which would also allow scope for designers to come forward with their ideas. It was **AGREED**:
  - the brief should include a pathway from the Meadow View garages to the tennis court, replacement play area and wild play area, hard court, ideas for a shelter, football pitch and solutions to drainage problems
  - any proposals should be scalable as to reflect priorities and funding
  - public consultation would take place after initial proposals were drawn up.**Action:** Clerk to draw up a revised brief for landscape architects and draft criteria for awarding the contract in consultation with all councillors, and arrange interviews with the architects.
- c. Grass cutting: Cllr Mathews reported that George Phillips has agreed to provide a quote to cut the grass next summer on a fixed price for set number of cuts.

- d. Use of Common for organised events: defer to next meeting.

#### 1718-103 Highways and Footpaths

- a. Footpaths: Cllr Warne reported that the P3 forms had been completed and submitted to DCC including proposals to renovate and extend the footpath round the back of the Stag. Cllr Cox reported the footpath above Creacombe church and Batsworthy was severely overgrown. There were further reports of fallen trees on other footpaths.  
**Action:** Cllr Warne to investigate overgrown path and fallen trees and refer to DCC.
- b. Play area: Cllr Child reported that the Little Angels, parents and other users have requested that the sand pit be removed as children don't use it because of dog mess. It was **RESOLVED** to remove the sand pit as soon as possible.  
**Action:** Cllr Phillips to investigate the most appropriate way to remove or cover the sand pit and action.
- c. Common/Hard Court: The school has made several complaints about the moss on the hard court which they feel is unsafe for the children to use. Cllr Lamb reported that he had been unable to treat the court due to the rain and cold temperatures. The Clerk reported that 3 firms had been contacted for quotes to clean, and 2 have been received back. The Council **AGREED** that the advice of First Serve, who installed the surface, should be sought before appointing a cleaning firm and to check whether pressure washing could damage the surface. After reviewing the 2 quotes received the Council **RESOLVED** to:
- have the court professionally cleaned as soon as possible, and to have an annual clean in the Autumn
  - to delegate to the Clerk, in consultation with all councillors, the appointment of the cleaning firm, subject to obtaining advice from First Serve.
- Action:** Clerk to chase First Serve, advise members accordingly and appoint a cleaning firm, investigate costs for an annual clean.

#### 1718-104 War Memorial

- a. The Clerk reported that a grant application for cleaning the memorial has been submitted to the War Memorials Trust and a decision is expected soon.
- b. Curtilage works: subsequent to the previous decision, it was **AGREED** to defer works to remove the blighted trees and chain fencing, until after the trees have flowered this year. It was **RESOLVED** that replacement trees should be purchased later in the year, and after some discussion it was agreed these should be cherry trees.  
**Action:** Cllr Lamb to discuss replacement of the non-blighted tree. Cllr Hyland/Clerk to investigate which species and costs of replacement trees.

#### 1718-105 Trinity Well

It was noted replacement glass had been fitted. Cllr Child said that the Council needs to consider rethatching in due course as it was previously done in 2009. The estimated cost is £4000. It was suggested that as the Stag pub is looking to rethatch again there could be merits in jointly procuring the work.

#### 1718-106 Defibrillator

The Clerk reported from Dr Brown (Ruth Fennell) that an awareness training session was available (already paid for) and that the council and other residents are encouraged to attend. The Council suggested that the session be booked on a Saturday and then advertised accordingly, recommending flyers, a note on the counter in the shop and with the school. It was also noted there was a new Community Responder Officer.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Dr Brown re. training session

#### 1718-107 Volunteers for the Parish Council

The Clerk set out the need for a more formalised process regarding any volunteers to ensure they are covered by the Council's public liability insurance. It was commented that any process should not be onerous which would discourage volunteers coming forward.

**Action:** Cllr Hyland to review the public liability insurance requirements for volunteers, then Clerk to draft a volunteer form for circulating.

#### 1718-108 Planning

a. The Council **RESOLVED** to endorse the planning objection sent in under delegated authority regarding 64280: Change of use of land from agriculture to equine and erection of one building (to provide 3 stables, tack room and store), Rookwood, Rackenford - objection submitted on grounds of traffic and size of development in relation to the land

b. The following planning decisions were **NOTED**:

- 17/00445/FULL Installation of 16 ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels with wire stock proof fencing, Ford Farm, Oakford – granted
- 8193 Unauthorised erection of tent and mobile caravan being used as residential unit Rackenford Vineyard, Nettleford – occupation ceased and mobile home removed
- 8282 Unauthorised siting and residential occupation of log cabin Tidderson Lodge – log cabin removed
- 63886: Alterations to dwelling together with insertion of windows, doors and chimney flue at the Stag Inn, Rackenford - granted
- 63887: Listed building application for alterations to dwelling together with insertion of windows, doors and chimney flue at the Stag Inn, Rackenford - granted
- Middle Mogworthy: Planning Inspectorate dismissed the appeal against the NDDC decision to refuse permission for conversion of an agricultural building to dwelling and erection of livestock/equestrian building.

#### 1718-109 Budget 2018/19:

a. The Council reviewed the proposed council tax, precept and budget, and it was **RESOLVED** to:

- set a precept of £5941.00 for 2018/19, keeping the Council Tax level at £43.69
- approve the budget for 2018/19 as set out in the agenda subject to amending the budget to set aside an annual provision of £200 for hard court cleaning

b. Reserves Policy: defer until May meeting and 2017/18 outturn

**1718-110 Finance 2017/18**

a. Financial report: The Clerk reported there was £31,033 in reserves after tonight's meeting, mainly in earmarked reserves or grants. The general contingency is currently £8,916.

b. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

- K Ward / HMRC clerks wages £290.35
- K Ward expenses £24.47
- K Ward reimburse for cllr long service gift £60.00
- Mike Lane for Trinity Well repairs £19.49
- Devon Wildlife Trust for Common surveys £1812.00 (£1510.00 + VAT)

**1718-111 Batsworthy Wind Farm**

Cllr Child reported little progress has been made since the last meeting. NDDC are still trying to set up a further meeting with the developers to discuss noise measurements.

**1718-112 Shop / School update**

No matters to report on the shop. Cllr Child reported there is a new Head of School at the school.

**1718-113 Correspondence**

Aside for that already reported, the Clerk has received surgery dates for Peter Heaton-Jones MP

**1718-114 Other matters (not for decision)**

Cllr Cox reported that parts of the road between the nudist camp and Creacombe is in danger of being washed away. Cllr Phillips agreed to investigate and report to DCC

Cllr Warne requested that the chippings in the car park be moved to allow for extra parking.

Cllr Child offered thanks to Cllrs Warne and Phillips on behalf of the Council and community for their actions in clearing flooded roads.

There was a concern raised over rotten railings on the Common, but it was agreed to defer this for consideration alongside other Common works.

**1718-115 Next meeting:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7.30pm at Rackenford School

Meeting closed 9.15pm

**Signed as a correct record:**

**Date:**

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