

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd July 2018, Rackenford School

Present: Cllrs Lamb, Child, Parry, Warne, Phillips, Matthews and Cox, K Ward (Clerk), NDDC and DCC Cllr Yabsley (left after item 1819-39), 5 members of the public.

1819-35 Apologies: Cllr Hyland

1819-36 Declaration of Interests: None.

1819-37 Public Forum

It was suggested that the Council investigates the Foundation for Common Land who have various tools, links and information to help manage common land which may be of use.

There was a further complaint about dog fouling in the village and what can be done about it. Cllr Warne said he had contacted the dog warden to discuss the problem. Additional signage has been put out. It was **AGREED** that the Council obtain the hi-visibility paint to show where dog mess has not been picked up, and also obtain a letter from the NDDC dog warden to send to all houses. Wording to include offenders will be reported to the dog warden, and asking other residents to be vigilant and report owners who are not picking up dog mess.

Action: Cllr Warne to contact NDDC dog warden

A query was raised about the future of the old phone box. Cllr Lamb reported it will be removed by BT at some point.

1819-38 Minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2018

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

1819-39 Report from the District and County Councillor

A number of ongoing highways issues were discussed, and Cllr Yabsley agreed to follow up:

- When the surface dressing works in the village will take place (signage is out of date)
- Correcting the no parking lines outside of the school where they have been put outside the wrong entrance
- Repairs to the cattle grid on the road to Knowstone
- Repairs / clearing of drains and filling pot holes as reported by Cllr Phillips in January
- Overgrown hedge at Two Gates

There was a discussion about the safety of the road junction at the war memorial site with reports of incidents and highlighting the danger caused by confusing signage, road markings and poor visibility. The Council explained that previous discussions with Highways have not been productive and not provided any improvements despite frequent requests. A number of possible solutions were suggested. As the Council has been unable to get a positive response from Highways, Cllr Yabsley agreed to take the matter up with Highways to investigate what can be done at the junction as he is aware that white lining and new signage are being carried out in some villages.

Cllr Yabsley reported that a new NDDC Head of Place, responsible for planning and regeneration, has been appointed. It is anticipated the Local Plan will be adopted at the end of August.

1819-40 The Common

- a. Landscape architects: Cllr Lamb reported that there is nothing currently to report as the architect is waiting for the results of the topographical survey which is being carried out this week. If necessary, an additional meeting will be called if there are plans to discuss before the September meeting.

- b. Use of the Common for organised events:
- It was noted the PTFA will hold an event on the 7th July, and a school sports day is planned for the 13th July. It was understood both organisations have their own public liability insurance. Cllr Hyland will finalise a licence agreement on confirmation of the Council's insurance.
Action: Clerk to forward insurance information to Cllr Hyland
 - It was **RESOLVED** not to permit "private parties" on the Common in the summer as fireworks etc. would be too disruptive to local residents and livestock.
- c. Hard court signage: The Council reviewed the quote and draft for the proposed sign on the hard court. It was **RESOLVED** to amend the wording to "No bicycles, other wheels, buggies, dogs or food are permitted on the hard court to prevent damage to the court surface." and that the background should be dyslexia friendly e.g. yellow background and not glossy. It was further **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk, in consultation with all members, to approve the revised signage and place the order provided the cost is less than £100.
Action: Clerk to contact Ken White Signs for amended signage, and updated quote.
- d. Play area: It was reported the seats to the swings were cracked and split. No other issues to report.
Action: Cllr Warne to look at the swing seats and see if any remedial work can be done.
- e. Common equipment: There was a discussion on the placement and condition of benches on the Common and it was suggested that one could be moved to the top end.
Action: Cllrs Warne and Lamb to investigate.
- f. Treatment of invasives: The Clerk reported, and the Council **NOTED**, that after the current treatment for Himalayan Balsam and doc, there is only £850 remaining from the grant funding received to address invasive plants. There was some discussion whether the Council could continue treatment itself, but it was **AGREED** to continue using the qualified contractor.

1819-41 Highways and Footpaths

- a. DCC consultation on proposed removal of Emergency SOS phones from the A361: It was **RESOLVED** not to make a contribution towards the phones, noting they will be removed by DCC.
Action: Clerk to contact DCC
- b. Highways: Discussed earlier at the meeting.
- c. Footpaths: Cllr Warne reported he is looking to get works done to the path at the back of The Stag and a suggestion was made of an additional sign to identify the path from the road. Cllr Phillips reported a group of walkers complained about a locked gate on the public path at Tidderson.
Action: Cllr Warne to investigate new fingerpost at The Stag and the locked gate.

1819-42 War Memorial

- a. Location of the War Memorial: Cllr Lamb introduced the item stating that the location of the war memorial has been under discussion for many years. Following the recent accident where the memorial was knocked over, it was decided to consider whether it should be reviewed again. Cllr Cox stated she had received objections to the memorial being moved on the grounds that it has always been there, is a marker for the entrance to the village and a local land mark. It was noted other complaints had been received about plans for removal/replacement of the trees. There were other comments supporting a move to a location which was quieter and away from the road junction as it was primarily a memorial. After further discussion it was **RESOLVED**:
- That the war memorial will remain where it currently is and the trees will not be removed/replaced, pending any future recommendations from Highways on improvements to the junction.

- That should these lead to further consideration on moving the memorial a full consultation with the parish would be undertaken before a decision is made.

Cllr Lamb stated the memorial would be therefore be re-instated in its current location.

- b. Cleaning of the war memorial: The Clerk reported all the paperwork has been returned and accepted by the WMT, but they are still waiting to see photos of the damage caused by the recent accident before approving the cleaning works.
Action: Cllr Lamb to get photos as soon as possible.
- c. WW1 commemorations: Cllr Child reported Witheridge have an event planned in their churchyard. Rackenford school is very interested in taking part in any events within the village.

1819-43 Trinity Well

Cllr Lamb is looking into arranging remedial works to the roof when The Stag has thatch repairs done. No other matters to report.

1819-44 Planning

- a. The following decisions from NDDC were **NOTED**:
- 64824: Extension to dwelling at West Batsworthy Cottage Rackenford – granted
 - 64839: Prior approval for change of use agricultural building to one dwelling house at West Batsworthy Farm – approved
- b. The following item is still awaiting NDDC decision:
- 64854: Reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for erection of one replacement dwelling at Highfield Farm Rackenford – no objections
- c. Applications to consider:
- MDDC 18/00875 Gibbet Moor Farm – It was **RESOLVED** to make no comments.
- d. Comments on planning applications: Cllr Parry recommended the Council be mindful that objections to planning applications must be on planning grounds since otherwise comments will be ignored by NDDC. He stated that should decisions go to appeal, the question asked is “what is the harm” of the application and suggested this is a good starting point when making objections. It was noted there are no longer planning guidelines to refer to when making comments. Cllr Cox stated that contentious applications should have a site visit and special meetings should be called if required. The points raised were **NOTED** and **AGREED** for future planning applications.
- e. Enforcement issues: It has been reported that the new house on Prospect Farm plot 1 is a different colour and has different guttering to what was approved by NDDC in the planning conditions.
Action: Cllr Lamb to check this and contact planning enforcement if necessary.

1819-45 Finance 2018/19

- a. Financial report: The Clerk gave an update on the current year finances as set out in the budget monitoring statement.
- b. NALC Pay Award 2018/19 – It was **RESOLVED** to approve an inflationary increase of 2% to the Clerk’s salary in line with the NALC 2018 recommended pay scales.

- c. Internal Audit report: The Clerk reported there were two recommendations of note from the internal audit. Concern that the Clerk did not have direct access to load items on the website as it is provided by an outside provider. This was noted, and the Council agreed to accept this risk. It was also recommended a further backup of the Clerk's laptop should be made and kept off site. The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase a further memory stick.
- d. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:
- K Ward / HMRC clerks wages £328.39
 - K Ward expenses £14.92

1818-46 General Data Protection Regulations:

The Clerk gave a brief background to the new GDPR rules and following consideration on the reviewed policies, Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Privacy Policy, Data Breaches Policy, Subject Access Request Policy and Document Retention Policy as set out in the agenda.

1819-47 Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm: Nothing further to report

1819-48 Shop/School

Cllr Child reported the shop is expecting to break even for 2017/18 and the school progressing well.

1819-49 Correspondence

DCC mobile library consultation, notification of new Community Together Fund (replacement of TAP Fund), email complaint regarding proposal to relocate war memorial and trees, email query on development within the village and protecting rural views.

1819-50 Matters of Urgency for noting only

Concerns were raised regarding fumes and smoke from a chimney/incinerator which is understood to be a biomass central heating boiler.

Action: Cllr Lamb to speak to NDDC regarding possible infringements.

A comment was made about the approved use of the Tollhouse property which appears to be a builder's yard with concrete, slabs topsoil etc. It was understood it was not agricultural, but that the yard has been used in this way for many years so it is likely any planning enforcement action would be time barred.

It was noted there will be a road closure on the 3rd and 4th July between Old Bell and Crossway for utility works.

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th September 2018 at 7.30pm

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
