

# PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs present: I Fisher (Chair), M Busby (Vice), A Hunkin, J Jeffs,  
J Richards, J Harris, CCLr A Saywell, DCllrs Hurley and Wiseman, F Lowe (Clerk).

No public members

55. **Apologies of Absence.** Cllr D Kelsey – unwell. PCSO Baker - unavailable.

56. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllrs Fisher and Hunkin for the planning application.

57. **Public Session.** None.

58. **Planning.** Application Ref: 1/0246/2020/OUT. Following a detailed discussion, the following comments were sent.

1. The field is in a designated rural area outside the built-up boundary of the village. As Petrockstowe is not one of the villages identified in the Local Plan where new development should be directed, this is therefore contrary to local plan policy ST07. As this plan has only recently been adopted, we believe it should be complied with.
2. Whilst the Parish Council realise that TDC has not met its allocation of land suitable for development for the next 5 years, we feel that as we already have planning approved for 10 houses at Syncocks Farm, 5 barn conversions at Berry Farm, 5 barn conversions at Hallwood Farm and one at Way Farm, this village would seem to be supplied with dwellings for well into the future.
3. The infrastructure in the village is sadly lacking. We have no shop, no post office, no regular bus service, no doctor's surgery and no school. To access these, residents have to use their car to drive either to Hatherleigh or Torrington.
4. The access is dangerous. The alterations that are proposed will only make it worse as they reduce the width of the main route through the village by almost 50%. This would be particularly dangerous with large tractors and trailers coming through. We have a large (and expanding) agricultural contractor based at Petrockstowe Station, in addition to the normal farming traffic. We also have lorries transporting logs turning on to the carriageway, almost opposite this access, from New Lane. The Highways report pertaining to this application is the same as the original application and cannot apply to this revised access.
5. The field in question has an extremely steep gradient, as the contour lines on the plan show and the councillors cannot see how any dwelling could be constructed without overlooking the properties on Rectory Road. There is no detail about the properties proposed but even bungalows would be intrusive. The P.C. believe that more detail should be shown as to height, scale and external appearance.
6. There would be a detrimental effect to the existing wildlife both with light pollution and the disruption building would cause. As reported on the last application, a councillor has conducted 2 Bat surveys a year in 2018 and 2019 on behalf of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project which showed the hedgerow to be regularly used by several species of bats including pipistrelle, myotis, noctules and greater horseshoe. Slow worms and occasionally adders have also been seen there.

We trust you will give these objections your careful consideration.

It was also recommended that Councillors and Parishioners should write and object. Cllr Wiseman will "call" this application in as an unsustainable development.

Initials of chair .....

Continuation of PCM minutes on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

59. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020, having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record. To be signed at a later date.
60. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed from 16<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 inclusive and had no comments.
61. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
- a. **Bus Shelter Repairs.** Further work is required as the roof is rotten. Basic structure is good. Dorian has provided a quote of £450. **Cllr Jeffs will ask Andy** to quote in line with the Financial Regulations.
  - b. **Website.** TDC have advised that the website must have accessibility as previously discussed. The Clerk is building a new website with a free host, and hopes it will be able to go live before payment is due to the current host site. All cllrs agreed in principle and an off-line version will be sent to all for comments.
  - c. **Book of Remembrance.** Purchased and at Clerk's address.
  - d. **Tarka Trail.** All work now completed.
  - e. **Drains on Aish Hill.** Not jetted as expected. Cllr Saywell believes that Highways are only completing emergency works but will contact Highways Officer for confirmation. **Cllr Saywell to advise**
62. **Current Business.**
- a. **Scheme of Delegation.** It was agreed by all to put this in place for the duration of the pandemic. The Clerk will be able to receive planning comments by email and has emergency power to spend up to £300 (in consultation with Chair and Vice-Chair where possible).
  - b. **Grant for the Plough.** TDC have awarded £25k, and £54k has been raised by crowdfunding. It was decided that the PC would wait until accounts were received to decide if a donation was to be given.
  - c. **Additional Dog Poo signs in village.** It is unsure that these are required. The bins are obvious and permission would be needed from Highways to install on street furniture. Item closed.
  - d. **Families in Grief.** Cllrs thought this was a good cause to donate to but would like the **Clerk to request accounts** first. Carried forward
  - e. **Year End Documents.** The Clerk advised that an extension has been granted (until end August) for these to be approved and signed off. The Internal Auditor has been contacted and will audit when documents ready.
  - f. **Phone Box.** There has been the suggestion of turning it into a "Bug Hotel". It was agreed to look at this once social distancing has been lifted. The current use as a lending library will be stopped as this is against current recommendations. **Cllr Fisher to ask for the removal of books.**
63. **Councillors Reports.**
- a. **PSSC and Play Area** currently closed.
  - b. **Footpaths.** The bridge between America Lane and the Tarka Trail has been removed by the owners. There is a 5-6inch piece of metal sticking up which could be a hazard. **Cllr Richards to contact PROW and cc Cllr Saywell.**
  - c. **County Report\*.** Cllr Saywell will send a report and is sending regular updates for cllrs.
  - d. **District Report\*.** Cllr Wiseman has sent a report which has been distributed.
  - e. **Police Report\*.** PCSO Baker has provided a crime logs update.

Initials of chair .....

**64. Financial Items.**

- a. **Dorian** for work on Bus Shelter. The £145.00 already paid by bank transfer is lower than the original quote as the roof is rotten so not all work completed.
- b. **TDC for salary recharge** – £1,014, **Payroll Services** - £40.00 - to confirm that this has been paid by BACS. Cllr Fisher also raised that the Clerk is due a pay rise. **Clerk to provide latest guidance.**
- c. **Clerks expenses** - £25.69 (includes Book of Remembrance) – to be paid by BACS – approved
- d. **Village Hall rental** -6 meetings at £14 and 3 at £17 equals £121 – to be paid by BACS – approved
- e. **Coronavirus Grant** – We have received £466.53 to help volunteer and community groups to support vulnerable residents. The local group have been advised that this is available and that receipts and proper transparency is required. Cllr Hurley advised that TDC is high in the ranking of District Councils proactively providing financial support.

It was agreed to hold a virtual meeting on MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30pm

The meeting went into Part 2 at 8.17pm.

\*appendix is attached.

Chairman ..... Date .....

Initials of chair .....