

# PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Baxter Hall on  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs present: I Fisher (Chair), Cllr A Saywell, DCllr R Wiseman, J Jeffs,  
M Busby, D Kelsey, B Cameron, A Hunkin, F Lowe (Clerk), 2 members of the  
public and 5 representatives from Sibelco

54. **Apologies of Absence.** Apologies were received from Cllr J Harris and PCSO  
M Baker.

55. **Declarations of Interest.** None

56. **Report from Cllr A Saywell.** With agreement from the Chairman, Cllr  
Saywell gave his report early to attend another PCM. The blocked culvert  
is still not clear. The inspector will attend after the snow is gone.  
Torrington Rural has not suffered badly in the snow – many thanks to all  
who helped keep the roads passable. Highways would like feedback so all  
comments welcome. The gritter came to Petrockstowe, which helped.  
DCC has agreed budget 4.99% increase to include 2% for Adult Social Care  
(£13m). Children’s Services also increase. Highways to get £6.5m for  
drainage, patching & potholes, ditching and gully clearing of which  
Torrington Rural will get some. Cllr Saywell has £10k locality grant plus  
extra £10k for capital projects to share between 18 parishes. Please  
contact if interested. Cllr Saywell left.

57. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup>  
January 2018, having been previously circulated were approved and signed  
as a correct record.

58. **Public Session.** None

59. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence  
as listed (correspondence 2018-03-20) and no queries were raised.

60. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**

a. HGV/Sibelco lorries. Steve Lark introduced his colleagues and their  
roles, explaining that they were here to help. Drivers are already told  
not to come through the village but there are many layers of  
organisation to go through. Some consistently follow their Sat Navs.  
Following a discussion about the local signage, it was agreed that Sibelco  
will look in to providing signs at Friars Hele, Bury Cross (to A369) and any  
other suitable junctions. They asked parishioners to advise them of the  
registration numbers of any vehicles causing an issue in the village and

Initials of chair .....

- agreed to keep the Clerk updated. The 5 representatives were thanked by the Chair and then left the meeting, along with one parishioner.
- b. Affordable housing query. Cllr Wiseman was able to advise that the “trigger” points are delaying the development at Syncocks. There will be in the region of £400,000 as the affordable housing payment, which must initially be allocated to the village.
  - c. Defibrillator Sign. An A-frame sign has been purchased and installed. Thanks to Luke Harris for putting this up.
  - d. APM. Peter Wright has agreed to give scientific demonstration. The Clerk has received some responses from local groups and will contact the others again. Refreshments to be provided by councillors.
  - e. No 4 The Square. There is concern that some thatch is missing, and water is getting into the property, affecting neighbouring properties. The owner’s representative has been advised and has said that repairs are in hand. The Clerk is to contact the Conservation Officer and voice the PC’s concerns.
  - f. Road Markings at Petrockstowe Station. With Cllr Saywell’s intervention, the local Highways Officer agreed they needed remarking and this has now been complete.

#### **61. Current Business.**

- a. Date for 2018-2019 were given to Councillors.
- b. Standards Committee & Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee offered to come and answer any questions at a future meeting. It was not felt that this is needed at this time.
- c. Data Protection Officer. It is a requirement to have a DPO, preferably not the Clerk. It was agreed that either the Clerk or Chair will attend DALC training on this at a cost of £40 + VAT. In the meantime, the Clerk will search for a company to undertake this role at a reasonable cost.
- d. Consultation on ND & Torridge Local Plan. Cllr Wiseman advised that this is 99% agreed and it is not necessary for Petrockstowe PC to comment.
- e. Asset Maintenance Review. The phone box needs repair and has grass growing inside. Cllr Kelsey to ask Michael Harris to provide a quote to tidy up and rehang door.
- f. Neighbourhood Planning Course at Winkleigh. It was not felt that this was necessary at this time.

#### **62. Planning.**

- a. **Application:** 1/0158/2018/AGMB dated 14th February 2018 for a proposal of prior notification for the change of use from agricultural buildings, to 3 dwellings under Class Q at Berry Farm, Petrockstowe,

Okehampton. It was felt that the current foundations were not structurally capable of supporting this application.

- b. **Application:** 1/0197/2018/LBC dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 for a proposal of conversion of a single storey out building and the refurbishment of the side extension at Higher Cottage, Cott Lane, Petrockstowe, Okehampton. It was commented that this conversion will make the property much more liveable.
- c. **Application:** 1/0196/2018/FUL dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 for a proposal of conversion of a single storey out building and the refurbishment of the side extension at Higher Cottage, Cott Lane, Petrockstowe, Okehampton. It was commented that this conversion will make the property much more liveable.

### **63. Councillors Reports.**

- a. **Recreation Ground.** The PSSC held a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January. Lawson is resigning with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> April when the AGM will take place. The sheep are out, but the ground is very sodden and churned up and will require a lot of work before any fixtures. Equipment stolen last year has been replaced. Security is proving difficult because of lack of Wi-Fi and mobile reception. The Spring Grand Opening is on 28<sup>th</sup> April with Summer Fete on 21<sup>st</sup> July with a Dog Show. There is a plea to help with the big clear up, date TBA. There was a discussion regarding the amount of time that sheep are in the ground, preventing it being used by residents. Cllr Kelsey is to raise this at the PSSC AGM.
- b. **Play Area.** The Annual Inspection will happen shortly, and a donation has been made to the Church Restoration Fund.
- c. **Baxter Hall.** The roof is still a major problem with the main issue being the pitch. A decision is still to be made. The remote heating unit failed meaning that the heating was on constantly for 76 hours. While the new heating system is appreciated by users, the cost is much greater than anticipated and the rental charges are being increased in the winter months. There is a lack of volunteers which is beginning to cause problems as there must be a committee member on site when the bar is open.
- d. **District Report.** The Council Tax bills have been issued with an increase of 3.26% (£5 Band D). Prudent management of past years has meant the finance is in a good position. The closed landfill site at Westward Ho! is causing issues. The bi-weekly refuse and £35 green bin charge is due to start soon. TDC is moving to ban single use plastics in all Torridge buildings. Electric car charging points are being introduced at zero cost to the Council.

Continuation of PCM minutes on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018

- e. **Police Report.** Logs – 1 highway disruption and 1 concern for welfare.  
Crimes – none.

**64. Financial Items.**

- a. Clerks Expenses. £74.30 to include £34.98 for defib sign. Cheque no 363 signed by Cllrs Fisher and Hunkin.

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 followed by a Planning Meeting if required and the Annual Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

With no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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