

PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on
Tuesday 21st July 2020 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs present: I Fisher (Chair), M Busby (Vice), A Hunkin, J Jeffs,
J Richards, J Harris, Cllr A Saywell, DCllrs Hurley and Wiseman,
F Lowe (Clerk), 1 member of the public

79. **Apologies of Absence.** PCSO Baker did not attend.

80. **Declarations of Interest.** None declared.

81. **Public Session.** A parishioner joined the Councillors to express interest in the vacant position. It was explained that a notice of vacancy would be advertised next week to give all parishioners an opportunity to apply for the role. Additionally, Cllr Busby stated that the company providing the internet to Baxter Hall will no longer provide this free as they no longer use the hall as a relay point. The cost will be £50 per month although a better deal is being sought. Cllr Saywell advised that he is hoping to continue to connect remotely with meetings to enable him to be “present” at more; and that he is willing to help financially. This will have to be looked at in greater depth.

82. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting 15th June 2020, having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record. To be signed at a later date.

83. **Planning.**

Application: Ref: 1/0161/2020/FUL dated 18th June 2020 for the proposal of Proposed general purpose agricultural building at Land at Patchill, Petrockstowe, Devon. Comment of “No objections” were made.

Application: Ref: 1/0299/2020/FUL dated 23rd June 2020 for the proposal Re-development of barn to dwelling re-submission of 1/0603/2019/FUL at Barn at Grid Reference 249156 110811, Petrockstowe, Devon. Following brief discussion, comment of “No objections” to be made.

Decision: Ref: 1/0246/2020/OUT dated 6th July 2020 for the proposal of Outline application for 3no. dwelling with all matters reserved except access - re-submission of 1/0348/2019/OUT at Land South Of Rectory Rise, Petrockstowe, Devon. **GRANTED**

Decision: Ref: 1/0342/2020/ful dated 7th July 2020 for the proposal of replacement of existing cattle barn with new dwelling at Butstone Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**

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84. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed from 9th June to 15th July 2020 inclusive and had no comments.

85. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**

Initials of chair

- a. **Bus Shelter Repairs.** Dorian has agreed to do the repairs and will start when available
- b. **Drains on Aish Hill.** Cllr Saywell has provided information but Cllr Richards advised that some drains are still blocked. **Cllr Richards will provide information** to Cllr Saywell and Clerk.
- c. **Telephone Box as a bug hotel.** It is too late in the year to look at this and the box is still being used as a book swap. Situation to be monitored.
- d. **Correspondent for North Devon Journal.** No volunteer has been found yet. Cllrs agreed to advertise locally.

86. Current Business.

- a. **Plaque and/or bench in the Play Area in honour of Cllr Kelsey.** The plaque has been purchased and **Cllr Fisher will arrange installation.** The bench is waiting for approval from the Church (for location). **Cllr Jeffs will order the bench** and it was agreed that the Council will pay any deficit in monies raised up to £51.
- b. **Councillor vacancy.** Covered in Public Session above.
- c. **Consultation of draft Code of Conduct.** Councillors has declined to comment and it was agreed to adopt the latest version once available.
- d. **Replacement Clerk laptop.** The laptop is several years old and the Clerk has complained that it is becoming slow and unreliable. Several quotes have been sought and it was agreed that the **Clerk can purchase** a replacement up to £500. She will also seek to get a trade-in deal for old laptop.
- e. **Councillor Advocate Scheme.** Several Cllrs had looked at the correspondence and were unsure of the benefits to the PC. Current attendance has been poor due to Covid-19 but felt that Police will listen to advocates more than public. Cllrs Saywell and Hurley are members and will advise/feedback as the scheme gets going.
- f. **The Local Electricity Bill's Reintroduction.** Thought to be a lobbying campaign so disregarded.

87. Councillors Reports.

- a. **County Report.** Cllr Saywell gave latest Covid-19 statistics as 1,222 cases. DCC is working well with Public Health to know latest details and can confirm no outbreak in Hatherleigh. Happy to announce that no new spikes since tourism re-opened; currently 1-5 new cases a day. There is a plan in place to cope if there is a local outbreak. Extra £27m for Highways – who will advise local schemes. Torrington Town Hall available for hire and Job Club running. Received query as to why New Road is not Public ROW? Unknown; was originally a toll road and currently has multiple owners and rights of way.
- b. **District Reports.** Cllr Wiseman advised the Business Grant fund is still available but the “pot” of money is running low. Most play parks open, Toll Road at Westward Ho! open; now contactless. New slipway at Westward Ho! built. Pools will open by 25/07 under Covid-19 rules. There is the possibility of free parking in towns to encourage shoppers. Cllr Hurley advised there is a new Head of Paid Services in place. 2 hours free parking in Torrington, Bideford and Holsworthy, however this has to be paid for from another source. Cllr Richards asked Cllr Wiseman is any update was available about the amount of recycling rubbish after lorries have emptied on Fridays. Cllr Wiseman will advise this is still causing a problem.
- c. **Police Report.** Crimes for June – 1 Violence with Injury (0 in same period 2019). Incidents in June – 4 Anti Social Behaviour, 1 Public Safety, 1 Crime reported (0 in same period 2019).
- d. **Play Park.** Now open. All jet washed and hand sanitiser provided.

Continuation of PCM minutes on 21st July 2020

- e. **Footpaths.** Patchill path walked. Both ends need clearing. A new gatepost has been put on Hartley footpath so signs have been removed. **Cllr Richards to contact PROW for both.**
- f. **Baxter Hall.** Hall still closed and while some groups happy to wait till Christmas to meet, some want to reopen now. Guidance is onerous and work is taking place in August. Possible opening in September.

88. Financial Items

- a. **Insurance.** New provider BHIB paid on 15th July - £284.54 for year 1 of 3 year agreement.
- b. **ICO.** Direct Debit of £35 annual payment being set up. Saving of £5/year versus paying by cheque or online.
- c. **Financial report.** Currently balance stands at £1,524.47 in current account (£437.75 for Covid-19 expenses only) and £4,581.09 in reserve account (figures do not include Play Park). Approval was given to continue monthly Zoom payments of £14.39 till further notice (to come from Covid-19 allowance).

The meeting went into Part 2 at 8.50pm for 9 minutes.

It was agreed to hold a virtual meeting on Tuesday 15th September 2020 at 7.30pm

Cllr Fisher thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Chairman Date

Initials of chair