

**MEETING 55 HELD ON 27.03.2024 AT HUNTSHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

**Attendees:** Councillors H Bainbridge, C Bolt, H Corcoran (Chairman), L Delafield Cook, J Gabb, A Hoskins, E Northam, R Maltby (Vice Chair), P Osman, D Southward, M Williams P Bainbridge (Clerk)

**Also in attendance:** DCC Cllr Ray Radford

**Members of the Public:** 1

**Public question time:** A member of the public spoke about the state of the road known as Park Lane in Huntsham which runs from the war memorial up towards Bampton Down, pointing out the mud on the road near the church, explaining it had been carried there by water because the ditches are not maintained. The Chair responded with an expression of gratitude that the matter had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

1. **Apologies accepted:** T Bainbridge, A Brown, M Coates  
**Apologies also received:** MDDC Cllrs J Lock and G Westcott
2. **Declarations of interest** – E Northam Item 6a declared an interest.
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held 31/01/2024 were unanimously approved and were signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman H Cocoran.
4. **Roads and Traffic Issues** – Councillors' had raised a number of issues with roads in and around the three parishes which had been submitted to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer for a response. Devon County Councillor Ray Radford was in attendance to help address these concerns. Cllr Radford informed the meeting that Devon has over 8,000 miles of road and a limited budget. He explained that 80% of the traffic travels on 20% of the roads and money tends to get directed to these areas rather than the low-traffic rural roads. However, Councillors felt that the rural network was being neglected at the expense of the towns. There was a discussion about the water on the roads and who has responsibility, which in many cases is the landowner. Further discussions were held on the effectiveness of pothole repairs, particularly where one is filled in while a neighbouring one is left undealt with. This is due to the contractor being paid per reported pothole. Councillors thought a better system could be devised, which would also save money by avoiding return trips. Cllr Radford explained that £9.4 million allocated for potholes and repairs has already been spent this year. Councillors were of the view that repairs, particularly those done by the Dragon Repair machine were not of good quality, and better repairs were required. Cllr Radford advised that members could write to the Chief Executive of Devon County Council to express their views. He also advised that the Parish Council write to the Chief Executive and requested to be copied into any correspondence to help achieve a response.
5. **Matters Outstanding**
  - a. Chimney Down & S106 Application – MDDC Cllrs Lock & Westcott had now written to confirm their support for the application. Clerk collating quotes for installation of proposed plan and continues communication with those in the area. It is unlikely that the project will be delivered totally within the money available through S106 funding. Devon County Councillor Ray Raford has offered £250 towards Chimney Down from the Locality Fund available in the upcoming new financial year.
  - b. Parish Paths Partnership (PROW) – Clerk continues to collate walks for Mid Devon's walking festival.
  - c. Huntsham Bench – Clerk awaiting quotes to install bench. Decision will be made at a future meeting.
6. **Planning Applications for received/comment**
  - a. **2224/00126/FULL** Erection of cover over existing manure store Land at NGR 303345 119919 (Higher Staple Farm) Staple Cross Hockworthy TA21 0NH – **no comment**
  - b. **23/01801/HRN** Hedgerow Removal Notice to remove 9.5 metres of hedgerow Land at NGR 303017 120188 Staple Cross Hockworthy Devon – **application withdrawn**

**Planning Permissions Decided:** For full conditions please refer to Mid Devon District Council's planning portal

- c. 24/00251/CAT Notification of intention to crown reduce 1 Maple tree (T1) by 3m and crown thin; crown reduce 1 Sycamore tree (T2) by 2-5-3m on house side within a Conservation Area Vicarage House Hockworthy TA21 0NW – no objection

- d. 24/00254/CAT Notification of intention to coppice 3 Elm trees, 1 Elder tree, 1 Ash tree, 2 Hazel trees, a group of Ash trees, fell 1 Oak tree and thin the crown of 1 Weeping Willow tree within the Conservation Area Hurds Farm Hockworthy TA21 0NW – no objection
- e. 24/00030/FULL Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 98/01630/FULL (Erection of a single storey barn for use as a theatrical workshop) to allow use for storage, archiving and cleaning/preparation of clothing Waterslade Studios Hockworthy Devon TA21 0NS – Grant Permission
- f. 24/00230/LBCDOC Details pursuant to the Discharge of Conditions 8 (windows) , 11 (detailed drawings) and 12 (floor build up) of Listed Building Consent ref: 22/02033/LBC for the renovation of farmhouse with internal and external repairs and alterations including erection of single storey extension to kitchen and reroofing with pitched and flat roof, demolition of front porch, alterations/replacement of some windows/doors and erection of bat house dated 26th June 2023 South Hele Farm Clayhanger Tiverton EX16 7PA - LBCDOC Part Complied/Part Refused
- g. 23/01655/FULL Variation of condition (1) of planning permission 20/00329/FULL (Variation of condition (1) of planning permission 18/01344/FULL to extend temporary planning permission for a further period of 3 years) - to extend the time condition for a further period of 3 years Raeleigh Staple Cross Hockworthy TA21 0NH – Grant Permission

#### **Planning Applications Awaiting Decision**

- h. 24/00143/FULL Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 21/02158/FULL to allow substitute plans - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 21/00443/FULL to allow substitute plans - Change of use of land for the siting of 2 glamping tents and associated facilities Deer Park Camping Hockworthy Wellington Devon TA21 0NW

#### **7. Finance**

- a. Income Received
  - i. Bank Interest January & February 2024 – £12.27
- b. Expenditure Already Made
  - i. HugoFox Ltd Website & Hosting February & March @ £9.99 (+VAT) = £23.98
  - ii. Banking Monthly Service Charge February & March @ £5.00 = £10.00
- c. Expenditure for Approval – M Williams proposed, seconded H Bainbridge, and unanimously approved.
  - i. Clerk's wages for March and April £200 x 2 (includes PAYE)
  - ii. Huntsham Village Hall Hire Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March - £15
- d. Bank Reconciliation to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 showing a balance of £10,398.87 was presented and checked against the bank statements and signed by M Williams.
- e. Internal Auditor – It was proposed by R Maltby, seconded by P Osman and unanimously approved to appoint Tim Payne as the internal auditor for this year's AGAR for a fee of £100.00.
- f. Budget – An up-to-date budget position was presented. Unspent earmarked amounts allocated for benches and Chimney Down projects to be carried into the next financial year, M Williams proposed, L Delafield Cook seconded and it was unanimously approved.

8. **Parish Council Risk Assessment** – The Clerk had prepared and circulated a financial risk assessment. Councillors praised the document and M Williams proposed and P Osman seconded, and it was unanimously approved with no changes made.

9. **Police reports** – email alerts posted on Facebook. The current police team beat poster had been circulated and will be placed on the noticeboards.

10. **District and County Councillors' Reports** – DCC Cllr Ray Radford provided a report prior to the meeting which had been circulated. Cllr Radford had been asked a question on the location of the proposed landfill site near Halberton which is a decision for Devon County before he left due to the need to attend another meeting. MDDC Cllrs Lock and Westcott had provided reports prior to the meeting which had been circulated and placed on the website.

11. **Clerk's Report including Correspondence** – Mid Devon Mobility Transport had sent an acknowledgement and thank you for the donation received. Notices of election for the Police and Crime Commissioner had been posted on the website and noticeboards.

12. **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda** – Cllr Cocoran informed Councillors that Hockworthy Village Hall had been in receipt of a grant towards the purchase of a defibrillator which has now been installed. A request to organise defibrillator training was made. The Clerk to organise. A Hoskins informed the meeting that Social Services are booking holiday accommodation at short notice without providing

details of who is staying. This resulted in the need to involve other public services (police). Cllr Delafield Cook reported that there is to be a tabletop sale on the 4<sup>th</sup> May at the Old Vicarage starting at 9am. Cllr H Bainbridge had been chosen from the draw by the Devon Association of Local Councils to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in May. The Road Warden Scheme will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

13. **The Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm at Clayhanger WI Hall and will start with the Annual Parish Meeting, followed immediately by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Chair Cllr H Cocoran declared the meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

Chair:

Signed as a true and correct record

Date:

DRAFT