

PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Baxter Hall on
Tuesday 19th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs present: I Fisher (Chair), M Busby (Vice Chair), A Hunkin,
D Kelsey, J Harris, CCllr A Saywell, DCllr R Wiseman, F Lowe (Clerk), 7
members of the public

55. **Apologies of Absence.** Cllr J Jeffs is away. PCSO M Baker did not attend.
56. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Kelsey is related to the owners of Hallwood Farm re Planning application so will abstain from comment.
57. **Public Session.**
- a) Mrs R Kelsey spoke to the Parish Council about her plans and visions for Hallwood Farm.
 - b) A parishioner reported that the drains at Aish Lodge are frequently blocked causing the whole width of the road to be flooded. Highways request 24hour delay in reporting to allow natural drainage, and when they come 2-3 days later it is clear. Cllr Saywell replied that all drains are cleared in Autumn ready for the Winter months, and any defects are dealt with. It is difficult to resolve without photographic evidence. Parishioners were asked to take photos and report online.
 - c) The track from Easter Hall to the Tarka Trail has recently had a sign erected stating that it is private property. Following a discussion about this track, the Clerk was asked to write to Nick Palmer, the owner of Easter Hall asking for clarification on access/use, as it is thought that there was an understanding that this could be used as a footpath when the bridge was built.
58. **CCllr Saywell report.** With the permission of the chair, Cllr Saywell gave his report. DCC has passed its budget – Revenue Budget increasing from £479m to £494m; £1.5m increase in Children’s Services Budget; £4.5m increase for Adult Care & Health; small increase in Highways Revenue budget but they also enjoy an extra £18.75m Capital Funding Grant from central government so more money overall in the system. Council Tax increase of 3.99% - with 1% allocated specifically for adult social care. Unless reintroduced this will be the last year there is a precept specifically for adult social care. It is recognised that Council Tax in Devon is high and rural areas are penalised. There will be a funding review this year regarding roads. Urban roads get twice as much funding that rural roads and the current formula is unfair. The new formula will look at volume and length which will benefit Devon. Cllr Saywell urged Councillors and parishioners to use the website at devon.cc/report-it or to phone 0345 1551004 to report potholes. All roads are only inspected once a year so it is important for us all to report problems. It was agreed to put this information in the newsletter. Cllr Saywell answered item 6h) on the agenda, stating that the Sheepwash Road is on the list to be patched subject to final approval. The North Devon link road upgrade between South Molton and Barnstaple and Bideford and North have been granted planning permission and work is expected to start in 2020 for 12-18 months. Cllr Saywell left to attend another meeting.

Initials of chair

Continuation of PCM minutes on 19th March 2019

59. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 15th January 2019, having been previously circulated were approved and signed as a correct record.
60. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed from 11th January to 13th March 2019 inclusive, and had no comments.
61. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
- a. The Siebelco signs have not yet been erected, despite assurance that they would be. Steve Lark has not contacted the Clerk since 16/01/19 and has stopped responding to emails. **Clerk to contact Siebelco HQ** to resolve the issue.
 - b. Phone Box. Cllr Fisher suggested using it as a 'mini museum' to display historical information; engraving the glass with names of past servicemen, displaying a potted history, details of Petrockstowe Station etc. **Cllrs Fisher and Kelsey will contact the Heritage group.**
 - c. Signs at Petrockstowe Station. Highways have completed a design to make the crossing safer. It is hoped that work will start after May BH to be completed in time for the Summer holidays.
 - d. Grit bins. All have been recently checked and are full.
 - e. GDPR. Cllrs were given draft version of the consent form and Data Privacy Notice and asked to provide any comments by 31st March 2019. **All Cllrs**
 - f. No 4 The Square. Ongoing. **Cllr Wiseman offered to investigate.**
 - g. Defibrillator pads. Cllr Fisher purchased these just after the last meeting as they were out of date and the Clerk and Cllr Busby signed cheque no 382 for £104.40. Cllr Fisher inspects the defibrillator once a month and confirms that 'all is well' to South West Ambulance.
 - h. Potholes at Berry Cross and between Eastwood, Huxditch and Rosebank on Sheepwash Road. Covered in Cllr Saywell's report.
 - i. Annual Parish Meeting. It has not been possible to secure a speaker for this. **The Clerk to put a poster in the newsletter and invite village groups to attend.**

62. **Current Business.**

Letters of support to Hatherleigh Market and Baxter Hall have been sent. Cllr Busby thanked the Parish Council on behalf of Baxter Hall.

63. **Planning**

- a. **Decision.** Ref: 1/1202/2018/FUL dated 18th January 2019 for a proposal for ground mounted solar panels at Hele Barton, Sheepwash, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**
- b. **Application.** Ref: 1/0137/2019/AGMB dated 19th February 2019 for a proposal for prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1no. dwelling under Class Q and associated operational development at Hallwood Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. This has been refused permission. The Clerk to enquire why this has happened before the PC was able to give their comments despite an extension being given.
- c. **Application.** Ref: 1/0138/2019/AGMB dated 19th February 2019 for a proposal for prior Approval of Change of Use from Agricultural to a Dwelling house and Associated Operational Development at Hallwood Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. Following discussion with the applicants, the following comments were sent to Planning: Petrockstowe Parish Council believe this to be a considered, well thought out application by long term residents of the village and have no objections.
- d. **Application.** Ref: 1/0048/2019/FUL dated 5th March 2019 for the proposal for subdivision of farmhouse into two residential dwellings at Berry Farm, Petrockstowe,

Initials of Chair

Continuation of PCM minutes on 19th March 2019

Okehampton, Devon. Following a discussion, the following comments were agreed upon to sent to Planning: Petrockstowe Parish Council object to this application. We believe this to already be 2 dwellings so this application will increase that to 3 dwellings. No provision is being included for parking for the 3 dwelling and there are concerns that there is no mains drainage at this property.

- e. **Application.** Ref: 1/0049/2019/LBC dated 6th March 2019 for the proposal of subdivision of farmhouse into two residential dwellings at Berry Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. This is an application relating to Listed Building status for the above application.

64. **Councillors Reports.**

- a. **PSSC.** The number of dog walkers has increased as there are no sheep. Exterior painting has been done and repairs are scheduled. The square will be fertilised in he Spring. The AGM is on 11th April in the Chapel meeting room. The Cricket season is well booked but there is concern regarding the number of players available.
- b. **Play Area.** Minor repairs have been done in preparation for the ROSPA inspection in March.
- c. **Baxter Hall.** The main issue is still the roof. There have been over 50 letters of support and over 70 signatures which will support the lottery grant application. The hall will be able to remain open during the works. Upcoming events include the Easter Bingo, treasure and egg hunts.
- d. **District Report.** Council Tax is up by 3.9% and the government grant has almost disappeared. Cllrs are reminded to return their completed nomination forms. There is a change in the Ward. There will now be 10 parishes and 2 councillors. The new homes bonus grant scheme has given £1.2m in the last 2 years. It is confirmed that the PO in Torrington is to move to the Spar.
- e. **Police Report.** None
- f. **Footpaths report.** Appendix attached. Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to see if plaques can be provided to be installed locally.
- g. **TAAG Report.** Cllr Fisher attended this meeting, and while most items have been covered already; Waste/recycling news is that Torridge do not have their own “energy from waste facility” as not enough waste is produced, and it is recommending that drain clearance and hedge cutting is more co-ordinated between Farmers & DCC.

65. **Financial Items.**

Forms for applying for online banking have been provided by the Clerk. Cllrs Fisher, Busby and Hunkin, along with the Clerk, completed and signed these. The Clerk will send these off and advise cllrs of progress.

The Annual Parish Meeting and if required a Planning Meeting will be held on 16th April 2019 and the Annual Meeting is on 21st May 2019.

With no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chairman Date

Initials of Chair