

# **Thelbridge Parish Council**

## **Minutes**

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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<http://thelbridge.btck.co.uk>

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**Present:** Cllrs Gibson (Chairman), Gillbard, Grant, Hayes, Webber, Cllr Binks (MDDC)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Boundy, Squires (DCC & MDDC)

I. Public forum

One member of the public was present.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were signed as a correct record.

III. Declarations of interest

None

IV. Report by Cllr. Margaret Squires (Devon County Council & Mid Devon District Council)

No report this time.

V. Report by Cllr. Judi Binks (MDDC)

Complaints received about flooding, potholes etc. regarding Devon County Council Highways not being responsive. Judi will relay this, but does feel there should be better management so they are not always responding to crises. Discussion followed regarding the collapsed drains and the level of investment required to rectify the problem.

It was with regret that the news was shared about Clarissa Slade, the youngest councillor ever elected, who died suddenly on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr Hayes reported that he had received numerous complaints about the danger caused by cars being parked at Doctor's corner. Cllr Binks undertook to speak to the PCSO for advice on how to respond to this situation.

## VI. Clerk's Report

### Grass Cutting

Following consideration of a report of the Director of Operations outlining the findings of the Grass Cutting Working Group, the Environment Policy Development Group had made the following recommendations:

- a) That notification to Town and Parish Councils regarding grass cutting should confirm the number of cuts undertaken with dates; this notification should take place on a monthly basis or as applicable if no cuts occurred during a month.
- b) That the Grounds Maintenance team price all works on the basis that it should recover the full cost incurred by them carrying out that work.
- c) That Town and Parish Councils be informed that a full cost recovery pricing model for grass cutting would be implemented over 3 years starting in the 2018/19 financial year. However any increase in cost will be tapered to allow for them to make provision regarding other providers and/or any required increase to their budgets.

These recommendations were adopted at the Cabinet meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March; there has not been any direct communication on this matter as yet and it is unfortunate that this comes after this year's precept has been set.

### Mid Devon Local Plan Review

The Local Plan Hearings which were due to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were adjourned for an independent report to review the Sustainability Appraisal of the proposed plan. The report was completed in January 2018 and considered the Sustainability Appraisal to be proportionate and appropriate to meet the legal requirements; changes were recommended by the independent consultants to improve the clarity of the document.

The Council considered the findings of the assessment and the next steps for the Local Plan Review at meetings of the Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and Full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018. A six week public consultation is now being undertaken on the proposed changes to the Sustainability Appraisal from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> April. Following this consultation period, the examination process into the Local Plan itself can be restarted. Revised hearing dates will be set by the Inspector following the public consultation.

Formal representations are invited on the schedule of amendments made to the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017). These must be made in writing by post or email on or before **11 April 2018** (midnight).

### General Data Protection Course

The course served to confirm much of what was already known, however some implications of the Act have still to be clarified.



### Planning Seminar

The Clerk attended the planning seminar on 28<sup>th</sup> March. The presentation will be sent out to participants and will be available to anyone interested.

### New Bridleway

As previously notified, at appeal the Planning Inspector has rejected the proposed new bridleway (see website PROW section for details).

### Parish Liaison Officer

Julia Stuckey has left MDDC so pending the appointment of a replacement, correspondence should go to [Committee@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:Committee@middevon.gov.uk)

## VII. Finance

- a) Current statement of accounts, most recent bank statements and budget monitoring for the year end were considered and approved.
- b) The internal audit report for 2017/18 was considered.
- c) The annual governance statement 2017/18 was approved and signed
- d) The accounting statements 2017/18 form was signed as a correct record.
- e) In view of the previous items, it was **resolved** that the Certificate of Exemption from external audit be signed.
- f) The exercise of public rights will be from 4<sup>th</sup> June until 13<sup>th</sup> July inclusive.
- g) The following payments were approved:
  - HMRC 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2017/18 £26.20
  - Parish Hall hire £75
  - Hele Lane maintenance grant £50
  - Internal audit fee £32
  - Newsletter printing invoice £29

VIII. It was **resolved** that the annual newsletter will be distributed by the councillors and Clerk, thus saving on the cost of postage and providing an opportunity to meet the residents.

IX. The Review of Local Government Ethical Standards consultation was noted.

X. It was **resolved** that the revised Data Protection Policy and Privacy Statement be adopted. Whilst it has already been resolved that the Clerk should also be the Data Protection Officer, it seems this may not be acceptable. We await further clarification from the Information Commissioner's Office.

## XI. Planning

### **Applications pending decision:**

18/00425/FULL | Removal of Conditions 7, 9 and 10 of Planning Permission 06/02131/FULL to allow the Class B1 Unit to be incorporated into the main residential accommodation | Westcott Barn Witheridge Tiverton Devon EX16

8NX. It was **resolved** to support this application since there is clear evidence that the B1 office space cannot be let.

**Applications Decided since last meeting**

17/02039/FULL | Erection of a timber framed barn with 2 stable boxes and fodder/bedding store | Land at NGR 280946 113552 (Bowthorpe House) Witheridge Devon. Decision : Grant permission

**Appeals pending decision:**

Erection of a temporary agricultural worker's caravan  
Land at NGR 283175 113696 (Menchine Farm) Nomansland Devon  
Ref. No: 17/00557/FULL

**Appeals decided since last meeting:**

Erection of a barn to house flexible generation and energy storage plant with associated infrastructure, access, cable route and landscaping  
Land and Building at NGR 280066 113155 (Woodford Farm) Witheridge Devon  
Ref. No: 17/00395/FULL. Decision: Refuse Permission

XII. Items for future agenda

- Health and safety policy
- Equal opportunities policy
- Standing orders review
- Financial regulations review

XIII. Date of annual meeting starting at 19:30 in the Thelbridge Parish Hall:

16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (annual meeting)

The meeting closed at 20:45

Signed W. K. Boundy ..... (Chairman) Date 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018