

PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Baxter Hall
on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs M Busby (Chair), J Brasier, A Hunkin, J Richards

In attendance: Parish Clerk - F Lowe, Cllr A Saywell (left early), DCllr R Wiseman, DCllr D Hurley,
7 members of the public

Public Question Time Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100. There was a discussion relating to item 7c on the agenda. The Chair proposed suspending Standing Orders to discuss early which was unanimously agreed. It was clarified that the discussion was regarding the ownership of land on America Lane and that the posters erected on New Road/America Lane were not put up by the PC. The request is for the PC to assist in establishing legal ownership regarding a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO). **The PC instructed the Clerk to assist in this matter.**

Cllr Saywell – Potholes – as at 15/03/23, the data shows that since 01/01/2023 14, 304 safety defects have been repaired and because of a backlog, non-safety defects are not currently being repaired. Highways are getting quicker at patching and repairing. Cllr Richards queried the number of visits to a single pothole and Cllr Saywell will investigate upon receipt of the reference number. **Budget** – Adult Social Care, Children’s Services and Climate Change Action will all receive more money. £2 million extra is to be spent on potholes and drainage. Unanticipated inflation, energy crisis costs and the Ukrainian war are now included in the budget which will hopefully make the budget more sound. Council Tax has risen with the DCC precept up. The current budget has an overspend of £3.5 million which is down from the projected figure. Cuts have been made by recruitment freezes and obtaining better contracts. **New Chief Executive** – is now in place and has a new style. They are confident the budget will hold. Cllr Wiseman queried the budget for potholes and Cllr Saywell confirmed that an additional £9 million has been given to Devon.

Cllr Wiseman – Council Tax bills are up but in real terms there is a drop in funding. This is needed to prevent negative impacts on the budget. **Village Hall tax/rates** have increased, however a motion for full council to relook at this has been passed. All voters need to take **photo ID** to be able to vote in May - details on TDC website. It is little known that an **alert** will be sent on St George’s day to all mobile phones. **Devolution for Devon** – the LA has put a business plan together which will be presented to the Government. Councils will stay the same but we all need to work differently. A consultation for **wind power in the Bristol Channel** is underway. Under the **Levelling Up Fund**, Appledore will receive £16.5 million.

Cllr Hurley – gave a summary of his full report which was later emailed to all Councillors. (Cllr Saywell left)

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record to be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Parish Clerk as it is usual for the grounds upon which apologies are tendered also to be recorded. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are accepted. **Resolved:** Cllrs Thompson and Fisher are on vacation. Julie Harris has resigned her position as Councillor as of 16/03/2023.

2. Declarations of interest. Members to declare any interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the relevant authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulation 2012 (SI 2012/1464) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

Initials of Chair

Continuation of minutes 21st March 2023

3. **Approval of Minutes.** To receive and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th January and the EPCM/planning minutes of 21st February 2023. [LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41\(1\)](#).
Resolved: that they were a true record of the meetings decisions and signed as such.

4. **Planning**

Council is asked to discuss the below planning application/s and inform the Clerk of its comments to forward to Torridge District Council. Any planning applications received after the distribution of the agenda will also be considered.

Application: Ref: 1/0254/2023/FUL Date: 20th March 2023 Proposal: Application for approval of technical details for a single dwelling and associated works following grant of permission in principle 1/0699/2020/PIP (Re-submission of 1/1276/2021/FUL) Location: Land South Of 1 North Town, Petrockstowe, Devon. The Clerk was instructed to send the following comments: *Petrockstowe Parish Council wishes to reiterate the previous objections of:*

The proposed dwelling is outside the building line within Northtown. Building works would cause quite a lot of disruption owing to its position right on the junction to the main access road to the village. The proposed access would be very close to the junction with the existing Devon bank limiting vision. As we have previously pointed out, unless it is for low cost housing or agricultural use, it should not be permitted under the local plan.

It seems inconceivable that a house and parking for two cars with turning can be fitted on this plot. What happens if a family has three cars? Although the plot size is deemed acceptable by modern standards, it is more suitable for an urban or suburban estate setting than this village where the normal plot sizes are considerable larger, even for the more modern properties.

This is a very busy crossroads, Vis splays of 2.4m & 43m in either direction required.

To obtain this splay approx. 50% of the Devon hedge would need to be removed. This was planted as a condition for the extension of the existing cottage. The plan shows no removal of the hedge on the junction corner so we fail to see how this work would "improve the junction" especially with a large house screening traffic.

Also to obtain the splay the plan shows the removal of another portion of hedge/bank on the bordering with the property next door. They may not wish to allow this.

The developer will give no guarantee that this will be low cost housing.

Council is asked to receive planning application decisions made by Torridge District Council. Council is asked to note the below decisions:

- a. **Decision.** Application: Ref: 1/0022/2023/FUL Date: 13th January 2023 Proposal: Retrospective application for the formation of a vehicle access and associated works Location: Ferringhi, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**
- b. **Decision.** Application Ref: 1/1303/2022/FUL Date: 14th March 2023 Proposal: Extension to agricultural building Location: Hele Barton, Sheepwash, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**
- c. **Decision.** Application Ref: 1/1302/2022/FUL Date: 14th March 2023 Proposal: Erection of covered silage clamp Location: Hele Barton, Sheepwash, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**
5. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed in the agenda from 12th January to 13th March 2023 inclusive, and had no comments
6. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
- a. **Virtual Attendance** – this has not been used again. This item will be **removed from future agendas** until relevant.

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- b. **Extension of 30mph speed limit** – The NHO has offered a compromise of moving the 30mph limit just beyond the entrance to Brandise Hill Farm. Following a discussion, it was agreed that this would be **requested by the Clerk**.
- c. **Grit bins** – all now filled - **resolved**
- d. **Baxter Hall recycling** – now being collected – **resolved**.

7. **Current Business.**

- a. **Flagpole** – While this has been looked at in the past, many rules have now be waived. **c/f to May** for further discussion.
- b. **Coronation Celebrations** – Cllr Busby was able to advise of the plans in place for the celebrations and that gifts could be given to children of the parish during these. **The Clerk was instructed to purchase 50 gold medals.**
- c. **Ownership of America Lane** – covered during Public Session
- d. **Asset Maintenance** – Cllrs Busby & Richards agreed to check on the condition of all assets and report back at the May meeting. **c/f**
- e. **Annual Parish Meeting** – a member of the Rural Crime team will give a talk and the bar will then be opened. The Dog Warden is not available to attend out of office hours. The start time will be 7.00pm.
- f. **20's Plenty** – it was **unanimously agreed to write to the CC** to request such a change, and to bring this item up at a council meeting.
- g. **Civility & Respect Pledge** – the Clerk advised that many Clerks are poorly treated and that this is to support them and future Clerks of this PC. Following a discussion, it was resolved to consider adopting relevant policies and review at the next meeting – **c/f**

8. **Clerk/Parish Councillors Reports.**

- a. **TAAG** – Cllr Busby attended this virtual meeting where 9 out of 65 councils were present. The main concerns were with planning.
- b. **Play Park** – a report was provided and summarised for the Council.
- c. **Clerk** – the Clerk was able to advise that the cost of an election for the PC (if required) would cost approx. £700.

9. **Finance** – as at 09/01/2023

Receipts: To note receipt of income

24/01/23 – VAT reclaim - £187.30

Total receipts - £187.30

Expenditure: Previously approved expenditure

01/03/23 Defib pads -£61.74

01/03/23 - VAT reclaim to Play Park - £20.00

02/03/23 - Clerks Expenses - totalling £42.71

Total expenditure - £124.45

Previous Account Balance £10,298.08

New Balance £10,360.93 (of which £8,250.00 is restricted)

Expenditure: Payments to approve

none

Date of next meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7.00pm (a Planning will be held prior if necessary), with the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm in Baxter Hall.

Initials of chair

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With no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.52pm

Chairman Date

Initials of chair