

CHITTLEHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2020 at 7:30 pm At the Methodist Hall, Chittlehampton

Present: *Parish Cllrs:* Mr M Ives, (Chairman), Mr H Hooper, Mrs M Edwards,
Mr P Bradbury, Mr C Timberlake, Mr I Waldron, Mr T Kirby

Parish Clerk: Mr A Scott

Apologies: *Parish Cllrs:* Mrs S Rowe, Mrs A Davies and Mrs P Shallcross & Mrs R Rawle

County Cllr: Mr R Edgell

Members of the public: No members of the public were present.

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Rowe, Cllr Davies, Cllr Shallcross and Cllr Rawle. There were no new declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The draft minutes for the parish council meeting on 12th February 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true record and were signed off as such by the chairman.

3. Presentation by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

The planned presentation by Michael Harrison, the Communications and Engagement Officer of the OPCC, had been cancelled due to the restrictions on unnecessary travel put in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

4. Clerk's Update

Playing field trees: The trees provided under the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback scheme under another application for the village would not be suitable for the boundary of the playing field site. However, 3 types of trees - field maples, hornbeams and cherry plums - have been identified as ideal for the site and 20-25 of them can be purchased at a cost of £20-30. These would grow quickly but not grow too tall and, according to the website, no stakes would be needed. Councillors agreed that this should go ahead.

Parking at Umberleigh railway station: The clerk reported that as of a couple of days earlier no work had been started on the proposed changes to parking at the railway station. Cllr Edgell has spoken to DCC regarding concerns about the knock-on effects of the changes in parking arrangements but they have said that they have not been able to identify displacement that would result.

Tree by the village stocks: The clerk informed councillors that he has received the contribution towards the cost of the work, which will be completed soon.

B3227: The clerk has written to the highways department regarding the need for a crash barrier between the B3227 where it drops away steeply between the B3227 and the railway station and also about the camber on the other side of the railway bridge. The Council have put a temporary sign in place.

Umberleigh School warning lights: On 14th February 2020 DCC confirmed that the parts needed to repair the light had been ordered and that the repair was still on schedule for the end of March.

Speed data: The clerk has been informed by DCC that sample speed data has been collected regarding Cllr Shallcross's concerns about the speed of traffic on the B3227 going towards Umberleigh and the speed of vehicles in Umberleigh on the A377. This data will be discussed at the next meeting of the local Speed Compliance Action Review Forum but a date for this meeting has yet to be arranged.

North Devon Council's Annual Link Road Litter Pick

The clerk informed councillors that NDC's annual litter pick event over a 34 mile stretch of the North Devon Link Road is planned to take place over approximately six weeks from 24 February 2020. Previous years' clean-up efforts have resulted in over a thousand bags of rubbish being collected by the council in six weeks.

Coronavirus - Self-isolation notice

Councillors discussed a self-isolation notice that Cllr Davies had sent the clerk. This is on the Chittlehampton community Facebook page. The Chair pointed out that if anyone in the parish needs anything or wishes to make an offer of help that page is being used as a means of contact. There are 307 members at the moment. Cllr Edwards commented that she has the impression that everyone is already looking out for their neighbours and making offers of help.

Scheme of Delegation

The clerk explained that if future parish council meetings are not able to take place as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic that the power to make decisions does not pass to the Chair but that the parish council can approve a Scheme of Delegation delegating powers to the clerk. As the clerk only found this out today he will prepare such a document. As things stand regarding parish councils virtual meetings are not allowed although this may well change in the near future as a result of current circumstances.

Emergency Plan End Meeting

The clerk requested councillors present to assist him with updating the parish council's Emergency Plan at the end of tonight's meeting.

Invitation to Selaine Saxby MP

The clerk has invited North Devon's new MP Selaine Saxby to open the village fete on 8th August 2020 (should this still take place) and is awaiting a reply.

5. Play Area

The March edition of the Chronicle included a piece from the Chair updating those living in the village on how things stand. In order to move things forward, the clerk wrote to RoSPA for their advice and this led to one of their inspectors meeting at the site with the Chair and Cllr Timberlake on 12th March 2020. The inspector will provide the parish council with a report of recommendations which will address disabled access and safety. Cllr Timberlake explained that to get access it will need to have a slope no greater than 1 in 20. Something the councillors did learn at the meeting is that disabled access doesn't necessarily mean wheelchair access. If someone with sticks can access the play area this also counts as disabled access. We would need to take 3-4 feet off of the top of the slope to get down to the 1 in 20 gradient required. You don't need parking down the bottom but you would need a marked bay at the village hall. The would also need to sort out the potholes in the village hall car park.

6. Rowan Cottage

The clerk has written to Anita Fether at NMD Building Control to express the parish council's concern regarding the lack of progress in the matter of the broken beam and the fallen wall. He received a reply from Mike Tucker, Building Control Manager in which he made the following points:

- as the cottage is a listed building action cannot be taken under s77 of the Building Act 1984
- any action by the Local Authority has to be via an urgent repairs notice through the Council's conservation officers. Collette Hall (Conservation Officer) was notified of the situation on 14/08/19 and Mr Tucker has asked her to issue a further response. [The clerk has heard nothing further to date.]
- the shoring of the garden wall was an emergency measure by the Council made under s78 of the Building Act 1984. The Council is satisfied that this temporary measure is sufficient to safeguard the public.
- Building Control have consulted with the Planning Department and the Conservation Officers have responded to confirm that the wall is not protected by the listed status of Rowan Cottage.

Building Control are applying to the Magistrates Court for an order under s77 of the Building Act 1984 to compel the owner to remove the danger. The order will provide a reasonable time for the owner to rectify the situation but if they do not comply they will then be in default and subject to further legal action.

7. Climate concern

The clerk wrote to NDC and to Braunton PC requesting some information on what would be involved in the parish council declaring a climate emergency but has not received a reply.

8. Approve Schedule of Payments

Payments made 13/02/20-18/03/20:

NDC	Dog waste bin collections	£ 211.20
Mr L J Southcombe	Path clearing	£ 15.00
Mr A Scott	Wages & expenses	£ 314.16
HMRC	Income Tax	£ 72.00

Upcoming payments:

Go Devon	Donation	£ 50.00
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Payments received:

Voluntary contribution to cost of tree pruning by the stocks	£ 150.00
Interest	£ 0.68

Statement of Accounts as at 18th March 2020

Balance of Current a/c £6,179.23 (inc. £1,193 ring-fenced for purchase of Umberleigh defibrillator)

Balance of Reserve a/c £4,444.62

Total Balance £10,623.85

9. Annual Governance and Accountability Return:

Councillors discussed whether to apply for exemption or undertake a limited assurance review. It was unanimously passed that the parish council should apply for exemption.

10. District and County Councillors' Reports

There was no District Councillor report given to the parish council as Cllr Jenkins was not in attendance.

County Cllr Edgell had phoned in his report to the clerk earlier that day. He had explained that, for the first time in 9 years, funding in the budget has increased. Cllr Edgell had provided approximate figures for Government funding increases: adult social care is up 10% (£25m) while funding for children in care has increased by 8.5%. Funding for highways is up 5%. The increased money for road repairs would include pothole repairs. As Devon has more miles of road than any other county, it will receive a good amount of this funding, although staffing levels will need to be increased before this will translate into repairs being made.

11. Items for information only

There were no such items.

12. Date of the next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:30 pm on 6th May 2020 in the Methodist Hall, Chittlehampton and will include the AGM and the Annual Meeting. However, it may prove that these will not take place.

This evening's meeting ended at 7:59 pm.

These minutes are draft until they are agreed at the next meeting.