

# PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN PARISH COUNCIL** held in **Sampford Spiney Church**  
On **TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023** at **7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr R Phillips, Cllr I Walton, Cllr J Sturmer, Cllr R Pearson-Bunt, Cllr S Ware and Cllr K Warnes.

**In Attendance:** Mr Andrew Lacey (Clerk).

**Public Question Time:** None raised.

**74/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr N Alford, Cllr E Cole and Cllr A Davis.

**75/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr I Walton re Gees Farm and Cllr R Phillips re land at Tiddybrook and Cllr R Pearson-Bunt re property at Grenofen re: Rapid Response Catchments Project.

**76/23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023, PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 and STAFFING MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023**

It was **AGREED** that one minor change to 58/23 on 11<sup>th</sup> July Minutes; that the Co-Ordinator is Sarah Fielder but more local Snow Wardens are required and Cllr I Walton will be contacting a local couple. Finance Sub Committee is to be made up of the same members of the Staffing Sub Committee and a Chair will be appointed at the first meeting. This will be added to 4G of the Staffing Committee Minutes.

**77/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS SEPARATE ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

a) **Rapid Response Catchments Project** – Helen Staddon from the Westcountry Rivers Trust provided a recap for new Councillors and an update. The project is part of a larger scheme involving 18 partner organisations in building resilience to flooding, working with Devon County Council and feeding up into the project nationally. There are 4 catchment areas on Dartmoor. A Launch Event was held for the Whitchurch area in January and representatives attended the March Parish Council Meeting and have since met with local farmers and landowners. The recent heavy rains were mentioned and feedback on occurrences such as this were requested from locals. Local experiences are valuable as well as thoughts as to what improvements can be made. A review was held with the West Country Community in August and the top 3 things the public would like to see are: (1) Soil Management (2) School Based Education and (3) Scrapes, where temporary water storage areas are created. Now the project focus is on the appraisal process to look at what can be done, the financing, how effective these actions would be and cross benefits to other projects. Monitoring equipment has been installed at Tiddybrook and at another site in the Parish. The Council were asked if they have identified anywhere being an issue and 2 points were noted being the pollution from Grenofen cesspit into Tiddybrook and the volume of water that at times travels from the top of Grenofen towards the A386.

b) **Wildanet** – A representative was due to attend but couldn't make the meeting. The update provided was that Horrabridge work has progressed and that work in the area is now complete. Cllr R Pearson-Bunt has been in contact with David Boocock, the Projects Officer at DNPA who is involved in a £17m project to support improvements in broadband and mobile phone services, including liaising with providers.

c) **Gees Farm** – The Clerk circulated an update from Cllr Sanders. The Council are concerned that Highways did not raise a concern and to await the next meeting as checks and visits by various parties are being carried out. It was noted that there was a residents meeting, separate to the Council, raising concerns.

d) **Beating of the Bounds** – Cllr J Sturmer noted that posters have been put up around the parish and the Clerk will add to the website. A Risk Assessment has also been completed and sent to the Chair for approval (completed 20<sup>th</sup> September). It was noted that landowners have been very positive.

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e) **Councillor Training** – Cllr A Davis and Cllr R Pearson-Bunt have completed New Councillors training. Cllr R Pearson-Bunt is on the South West Training Link Group who are looking at the top 5 most popular courses, that then would be provided for free until funding runs out.

f) **Plasterdown Rubbish Problem** –Cllr R Phillips discussed the problem with the householders and dustbins are now being used which has improved the situation.

g) **Boundary Stone** – Cllr I Walton confirmed that the new boundary stone for Shillapark is at the stonemasons.

**Coronation Tree** – Tavistock Town Council have been consulted by Cllr J Sturmer and are happy for the Coronation Tree to be planted at Middlemoor. It was agreed to announce the planting of the tree on the Beating of the Bounds walk by and carry out the planting 2 weeks later, 11am on the 21<sup>st</sup> October. Clerk to contact Cllr E Cole to coordinate the fencing work.

h) **Standing Orders and Code of Conduct** – Standing Orders and Code of Conduct have been reviewed and circulated. All agreed to adopt. Clerk to place on the website.

i) **Snow Warden and Salt Storage** – Cllr I Walton is progressing. Clerk to check for Safety Vests in storage.

j) **Council Wishlist** – It was agreed to keep this as an agenda item. A Social Event for the Council was mentioned due to only 6 meetings a year so it would be good to catch up. 13<sup>th</sup> December mentioned and Cllr J Sturmer will email all. It was also discussed how the Council could best give something back to the Parish, as most events held are fundraisers. A Community Outreach Event was discussed as a way to connect with Parishioners and gain Community views.

k) **Co Opting Three Vacant Councillor Roles** – The Council were asked to put the word around.

### 78/23 PLANNING MATTERS

a) To consider:

None		
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b) DNPA Planning Communication:

The Clerk confirmed that a test had been carried out by DNPA Planning and this was successful.

### 79/23 GENERAL FINANCE

Bank Balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 £2937.01

Receipts:

Precept 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 £2471

To approve the following payments:

Clerks Salary £132.10

Clerks Additional Hours £191.55

Clerks Expenses £11.44

All approved.

### 80/23 CLERKS HOURS

The Clerk stated that the number of hours he does on Parish matters continues to exceed the contracted hours of 10 per month. 14.5 additional hours were worked in July and August.

### 81/23 STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF REFERENCES/DOCUMENTATION

The Staffing Committee were approved. Cllr R Pearson-Bunt noted that it is a Sub Committee for updating and approving policies, some have been done and some are ongoing.

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### **82/23 DNPA BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE SERVICES PROJECT**

As previously mentioned, David Boocock has requested personal experiences to be sent to him at DNPA. Councillors to send to the Clerk who will forward to DNPA.

### **83/23 BUS SHELTER AND OTHER ASSETS**

Cllr I Walton has prepared a list of assets and their locations on a Parish map. Clerk to check for Public Liability on the Councils Insurance.

The Bus Shelter at Grenofen had historically been checked on a monthly rota by Councillors but had ceased during Covid. The roof is now in need of repair. The Chair has obtained quotes from 2 roofing companies. Replacing the broken slates only would be £265, or to re-slate either £1,455 or £1,763 depending on the slates. The other quote suggested removing slates, re-felting and battening and replacing slates at £1,250. Both companies have been used by Councillors previously. The second option was preferred and will contact the other company to get a comparable quote and proceed. This could be financed by the Precept but the Chair will contact Cllr P Sanders about Devon County Council funding.

The stocks in Whitchurch Churchyard and in good condition but need weeding, Cllr J Sturmer will sort.

### **84/23 SOUTH DEVON AND DARTMOOR COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP) UPDATE**

Clerk had circulated details of an online session on the work of the CSP. This was noted and the event is in October.

### **85/23 DOG FOULING PLASTERDOWN**

Cllr K Warnes raised the issue as it is felt the area is a health hazard and noted there is no bin. The Council could put a bin but would need a contract for emptying. The Commoners have previously raised the issue but as it is DNPA land it has not been progressed. It was agreed to raise the issue with DNPA and the Clerk will draft an email requesting signage and wardens to educate the public. Cllr R Phillips and Cllr J Sturmer will also raise at the next Whitchurch Down Meeting. Clerk to check date of next meeting.

### **86/23 AOB**

The Council do not know who removed the damaged Cast Iron Signpost at Brook Crossroads. Clerk will confirm with Cllr E Cole who raised the issue and revert to Highways requesting a replacement.

The sign at Broadway has not been replaced but the Clerk noted Highways have said it is on their schedule.

There is also an arm missing from the signpost at Storetown. Clerk to report to Highways.

Cllr I Walton noted that a grit bin at the western end of Moortown had fallen over but that he has arranged for it to be righted.

Cllr J Sturmer suggested obtaining a noticeboard for the Grenofen bus shelter and will obtain a quote as well as the one at Whitchurch which needs a replacement Perspex.

Cllr R Phillips, as Chair, suggested laying a wreath for Remembrance Sunday at Whitchurch. Cllr R Phillips and Cllr J Sturmer to arrange the wreath and Clerk to pass on the Chairs Jewel.

### **87/23 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at Whitchurch Village Hall.

### **88/23 CLOSE**

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm.