

PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN PARISH COUNCIL** held in **Whitchurch Village Hall**
On **WEDNESDAY 15th November 2023** at **7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr R Phillips, Cllr I Walton, Cllr R Pearson-Bunt, Cllr N Alford, Cllr E Cole, Cllr A Davis and Cllr K Warnes.

In Attendance: Mr Andrew Lacey (Clerk), Mrs Caroline Metcalf (New Clerk), Amanda Pennington from Wildanet and 1 member of the public.

Public Question Time: The member of the public wanted the council to note that a local resident was planning on setting up a campsite in the near future and that there had been issues in the past.

89/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Sturmer and Cllr S Ware.

90/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr I Walton re Gees Farm and Cllr R Phillips re land at Tiddybrook re: Rapid Response Catchments Project.

91/23

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2023, PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2023 and STAFFING and FINANCE MEETINGS HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2023 and STAFFING MEETING HELD ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2023

It was **AGREED** by all that the minutes be formally adopted.

92/23

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS SEPARATE ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

a) **Rapid Response Catchments Project** – This item can for now be removed from the agenda until further updates are available.

b) **Wildanet** – Amanda Pennington from Wildanet attended to give an update on their works in the area. As copper wire lines are to be phased out to 2025, work is ongoing in installing fibre network throughout the country. This includes all rural areas. Wildanet are responsible for the A386 Yelverton/Horrabridge area with some work already been carried out. They are unsure of the current impact on the parish but will keep in touch as it is inevitable and will be good to keep parishioners informed. Dartmoor National Park is separate to the rest of Devon as far as this project are concerned but the DNPA are giving out positive messages and Wildanet are very hopeful they will be the provider. Negotiations are currently ongoing. It was noted that Wildanet were unsure of the impact on the parish due to confusion over boundaries so the New Clerk will forward an electronic copy of the Parish Boundary Map. It was also discussed whether a letter to the DNPA from the Council was a good idea but the Clerk pointed out an email that had previously been circulated originating from David Boocock at the DNPA asking for responses from parishioners on broadband and mobile services experiences, so responses to this would be a good route forward.

c) **Gees Farm** – The latest from Cllr Sanders, prior to the last council meeting, stated that visits were being held by the authorities concerned but no update on this had been received. The Council remain concerned and would like to write to the DNPA Planning Officers and Cllr Sanders to request any progress following the visits noted. Clerk to draft. Concerns also remain over the access to the site after a recent acquisition of a double decker bus as holiday accommodation and 2 recent vehicular accidents on the road leading to the property and broken glass from one needing clean up by a local resident. Further development at the site has also been noted. Note the property is Heckwood and the school Tiny Wilds.

d) **Beating of the Bounds** – It was noted that part 1 had been completed and the great work Cllr J Sturmer put in both in advance and on the day.

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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 and Councillors that identify training they would like should contact her. A planning course is currently being worked on.

f) **Boundary Stone** – Cllr I Walton confirmed that the new boundary stone for Shillapark has been engraved and he has the invoice for reimbursement.

Coronation Tree – Tree has been planted and fenced. The tree was donated by by Cllr J Sturmer and her husband. Clerk to send letter of thanks.

g) **Council Wishlist** – Thoughts turned to the 2024 80th Anniversary of D-Day and what events could be held, especially noting the significance of the Plasterdown Camp. There is a lot of information in the recently circulated DALC email and on events already organised and Councillors were encouraged to read this. A street party actually on Plasterdown was discussed and Cllr R Phillips will contact Harrobeer and see what other local events are planned.

Reinstating the Parish Newsletter was also discussed and whether a Facebook page would be useful considering the demographic. The new Clerk will get information to present to the January Council Meeting.

h) **Co Opting Three Vacant Councillor Roles** – This should be kept on the agenda and is something that could go on a Facebook page and should feature prominently on the Councils Website. Clerk to sort.

i) **Bus Shelter and Noticeboard** – Cllr J Sturmer has a quote of £250 for a new Noticeboard. Cllr R Phillips will order works to proceed. The Council will then clean up the shelter in the new year.

j) **Dog Fouling Plasterdown** – A response was received from DNPA. The Council agreed to monitor the situation individually and report back for possible further contact with the local DNPA Ranger.

93/23 **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) To consider:

DNPA 0465/23	Proposed: Replacement extension to dwelling and installation of air source heat pumps at Bleak House Caseytown, Whitchurch, Tavistock, PL19 9LB	Support due to Green Initiative.
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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.

94/23 **GENERAL FINANCE**

Bank Balance as at 1st November 2023 £4940.82

Receipts:

Precept 8th September 2023 £2471

To approve the following payments:

Clerks Salary £132.10

Clerks Additional Hours £145.31

Boundary Stone Inscription £72.00

All approved.

The Clerk noted that although all other cheques agreed at the May meeting had been issued, the

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one for additional hours had not and was presented for signing now. The Annual Budget and Precept had been circulated and needs to be agreed in January. Items for consideration include backpay for the Clerk following the recent Government Services Pay Agreement. The retiring Clerk will provide details of hours of backpay for approval by the Staffing Committee.

95/23 CLERKS NOVEMBER HOURS

The retiring Clerks salary ceased at the end of October and he will provide hours worked for November to the Chair, as agreed with the Finance Committee.

96/23 STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF REFERENCES/DOCUMENTATION

It was noted that the Staffing Committee and Finance Committee are the same 5 members: Cllr R Phillips, Cllr I Walton, Cllr R Pearson-Bunt, Cllr E Cole and Cllr J Sturmer.

Finance Committee Meeting was confirmed for 6pm on the 14th December at The Stables. This will include discussions over a laptop for the new Clerk.

97/23 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Cllr R Pearson-Bunt has vetted a new auditor who is DALC/SLCC Accredited to carry out the Annual Review of Accounts and an Internal Audit for £35. All agreed.

98/23 PRECEPT

For the Finance Committee Meeting on the 14th December to set budget and budget and precept approved in January.

99/23

CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

Cllr E Cole to contact TSB Banks re increasing to 4 signatories. Cllr J Sturmer and Cllr K Warnes agreed to join Cllr E Cole and Cllr I Walton as account signatories.

100 WHITCHURCH VILLAGE HALL APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

/23 Cllr I Walton, Richard Spackman and Robin Singleton have all agreed to continue in their roles.

101 2023 MEETING DATES INCLUDING SUB COMMITTEE PROVISIONALS

/23 The new Clerk cannot make Tuesday evening meetings due to commitment with another Parish Council so it was proposed and agreed to move both Tuesday meeting to the Thursday of the same week. Cllr R Phillips proposed setting provisional other dates when other meetings could be held so that the Council had these dates in their diaries but it was decided to tag any other meetings on before a full Council Meeting. Planning Meetings would need to continue on an ad-hoc basis at 5pm at Sampford Spiney Church when applications are received.

Cllr R Pearson-Bunt noted at in recent training, Grants are not to be made to Parish Churches. It was agreed that this should be put a future Finance agenda.

102 AOB

/23 The Council noted receipt of a letter from Torridge and West Devon MP, Geoffrey Cox, regarding a petition. Councillors agreed to sign and the Clerk will look at putting on the proposed Facebook page.

Noticeboards need updating in Cllr J Sturmer absence. Cllr I Walton will do Whitchurch.

A member of the public had contacted the Clerk re flooding on Caseytown Lane between Caseytown Cross and Caseytown Cottage. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Highways.

A defibrillator for Sampford Spiney was discussed and the Clerk will investigate prices etc and

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revert.

103 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
/23 Wednesday 17th January at Whitchurch Village Hall.

104 **CLOSE**
/23 The meeting was closed at 9.22pm.