

Minutes of Woolsery Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 21 June 2022 in Woolsery Sports and Community Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors M Hill (Chairman), Harding, R Heywood, S Hill, L Spittles
District Councillor J Wilton-Love from Minute No. 22/23 29.2
District Councillor S Harding (above), District Councillor Mrs A Dart
1 Member of the public
Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

22/23 – 23 Public Comment Session

Parish Council meeting details had not been posted in the shop for some time. The parishioner was advised that this would be addressed, and at Bucks Mills too.

The Parish Council website was down. The parishioner was advised that the Parish Council was aware of this and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Rainbows End Animal Sanctuary. The parishioner advised that the RSPCA could not get involved unless animal cruelty was witnessed. It was understood that chickens on the site had perished and been buried, but it was not known if they had been suffering from avian flu.

District Councillor Harding advised that all comments are being referred to the RSPCA. TDC is working on the planning issues and they are aware of all issues including a person there through squatters rights, on the grounds that they have been there a certain number of years.

The details of squatter's rights were researched at the meeting and the details were read.

The meeting was advised that pigs are now on the site.

22/23 – 24 Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Vice Chairman

Councillor Spittles read and signed the Declaration witnessed by Councillor S Hill.

22/23 – 25 Apologies

Councillors Hancock, Raffe and Salvidant

22/23 – 26 Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interest.

Councillor Spittles declared a Personal Interest in Minute No. 22/23 30.3 – Planning Application 1/1002/2021/FULM - Brackenside, being a neighbour.

22/23 – 27 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 24 May 2022

Approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor S Hill

Seconded by Councillor Spittles and unanimously agreed.

22/23 - 28 Clerk's Report

22/23 – 28.1 Freedom of Information Act Request – Higher Town Farm.

The Clerk is in correspondence with the Enforcement Officers in this regard and a reply had been expected in time to report at the meeting but no further details had been given.

Action: Councillor M Hill will contact TDC.

22/23 – 28.2 Highways.

- a) **Railing and post at Venn Bridge.** Reported via the DCC interactive map. Not yet repaired.
Action: The Clerk to remind DCC Highways.
- b) **Large sign blown down by Storm Eunice.** Reported via the DCC interactive map. The sign was still in the hedge.
Action: The Clerk to remind DCC Highways.
- b) **Bucks Cross Gateway Sign on the A39.** The broken sign which suffered impact damage on 29/12/21 was still in place and not repaired.
Action: The Clerk to send a further reminder to DCC Highways.
- c) **Potholes reported at Ashmansworthy and Dipple Bridge** had not been repaired.
Action: The Clerk to remind DCC Highways.

22/23 – 28.3 Adoption of BT Telephone Box in Woolserly.

Confirmation was awaited from BT that the telephony has been removed.

22/23 – 28.4 Bucks Mills – Fencing. The cost per metre had been requested from DCC Highways but due to the need to proceed with the work, no price had been provided.

Three separate road closure orders had been received in respect of the work and forwarded to Councillors for information.

There was concern about access for parishioners and an enquiry has been made to DCC Highways as to whether residents and holidaymakers will be able to access their properties other than on foot.

Reassurance has been given that residents will have access to their properties while the work is ongoing, although extra journey time should be factored in to allow the highways gang to cover over trenches to allow safe passage.

22/23 – 28.5 Beach Huts at Bucks Mills. TDC has been made aware of this Parish Council's concern over safety in the area.

22/23 – 28.6 Enforcement – Higher Town Farm. Minute No. 22/23 28.1 refers.

22/23 – 28.7 Written Reports on training events attended. These would be sent to Councillors.

22/23 – 28.8 Co-option of Councillor D Hancock. TDC Elections Department has been informed of the co-option.

22/23 – 28.9 Correspondence from a parishioner discussed at the last meeting:

A reply has been sent advising that the letter regarding Delphi Estates has been noted.

A reply has been sent advising that the Parish Plan item will be included on the June Agenda.

A reply has been sent advising that approved Minutes only will be uploaded onto the website.

22/23 – 28.10 State of public footpath between Woolserly and Kennerland.

Following this being reported, there is correspondence between DCC Public Rights of Way Department, the DCC Public Rights of Way Warden and the Parish Clerk regarding improvements to the footpath with the provision of a boardwalk in sustainable materials where it is hoped that a grant from the

Capital Budget of the Parish Paths Partnership can be obtained for the work to be done.

22/23 – 28.11 ANOB Sustainable Development Fund Application for the renewal of information boards at Bucks Mills.

The Clerk has submitted the application form which is being held for the time being pending original artwork being obtained.

22/23 – 28.12 Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The Clerk has registered the Parish Council and the direct debit form was signed by Councillor Spittles.

Action: Clerk to forward to the ICO for the Certificate to be issued.

22/23 – 28.13 Clothes Bank. The Clerk had approached two firms.

One replied that they did not deal with this area.

The other, the Fire Fighters Charity, can supply a clothes bank and Councillors had been given the details.

Action: The Clerk to check with the Sports and Community Hall Trustees that they are in agreement for the Clothes Bank to be placed in the car park.

22/23 – 28.14 Website. The Clerk is in correspondence with host providers 123 Reg regarding the transfer of Clerk.

The website has been down due to the domain name payment, paid by the Clerk and reimbursed to her at the last meeting) not reaching 123 Reg due to the transfer not having taken place as previously thought.

It is anticipated that the website will be live by Friday 17 June once the arrangements by the previous Clerk have gone through the 123 Reg system.

22/23 - 29 Reports from County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Councillors

County Councillor Wilton-Love is involved with a Task Group relating to the SEN (Special Educational Needs) Department which is in Special Measures as graded by Ofsted at present.

As a result of enquiries made, it had been found that there is a lack of resources to be able to provide a service and this is considered to be a systemic problem.

More information has been requested to back up a Report which has been submitted in order to put a complete plan forward.

Councillor Hill spoke about the spate of recent accidents on the A39.

County Councillor Wilton-Love confirmed that as a result, he had spoken to the accident assessor. County Councillor Wilton-Love was of the opinion that as this is the major route into Cornwall from the North, the road should not have been detrunked.

Councillor Harding had attended a meeting relating to the Levelling Up Fund, where Councillors had given their support for a funding bid of approximately £15 million to create the Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre.

It is hoped that the centre, at Middle Dock, a site which neighbours the Harland and Wolff shipyard, will establish northern Devon as a global-leading research and development space for collaborative next generation maritime initiatives.

The bid to the Levelling Up Fund will be the largest ever submitted by the District Council and is designed to act as a catalyst for local economic growth, by providing an anchor for Floating Offshore Wind activity in northern Devon. With a proposed 4GW of electricity to be generated by the Celtic Sea Floating

Offshore Wind (FLOW) developments, which is equivalent to produce enough energy to power approximately 3 million homes, FLOW is expected to provide around 3,000 jobs and £682 million in supply chain demand for both the South West and Wales.

It is hoped to work with schools and education providers including the University of Plymouth and the Centre for Future Clean Mobility (University of Exeter). Plymouth University works alongside Petroc and the proposals will see that relationship strengthened, will enable Petroc to deliver a far wider range of maritime-related courses.

The project is supported by Sir Geoffrey Cox MP.

Councillor Mrs Dart also spoke about the Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre which would be an achievement for the area, linked to work and education.

A new Planning Manager had been appointed at TDC, Helen Smith. She had spoken to County Councillor James Morrish regarding representations received about the poor condition of the Bradworthy road.

22/23 – 29.1 Councillor Spittles. Report on North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Team Webinar. Report previously circulated.

The Parish Council was encouraged to sign up to the Nature Declaration. Littleham and Landcross Parish Council did a presentation on how they had made bird boxes for people to use, and a sub group would carry out further projects in the Spring.

Councillor Heywood felt there was little evidence to support what was being done within the Biosphere and did not feel that the Parish Council should sign up to the Nature Declaration. He also questioned why TDC had signed up to it.

Action: The Clerk to ask TDC why the Biosphere Nature Declaration was supported by the Authority and why they signed up. Due to the huge implication of the nature recovery plan proposed by the Biosphere, Woolsery Parish Council would like to know what the due diligence was in support of the plan.

22/23 – 29.2 Councillor Heywood. There are 7 boxes of black bin bags left and he felt that the provision of these to the community is discontinued to encourage recycling. This was supported by Councillor Harding.

Councillors felt that before a final decision was taken, more information should be obtained.

Action: Councillor S Hill to obtain trends and the item to be on the July Agenda.

22/23 – 29.3 District Councillor Harding. State of the road between Woolsery and Bradworthy.

County Councillor James Morrish was now dealing with this item.

22/23 - 30 Planning Applications. The following were considered:

22/23 – 30.31 1/0545/2022/AGMB – Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house and associated building operations under Class Q – agricultural building at Grid Reference 233576 119938 – Woolsery

It was resolved to recommend refusal on the grounds that –

- **it is outside the development boundary**
- **there are no services - drainage, electricity, water**
- **it is within the countryside where there are no other developments**

- **it does nothing to help the local housing need**
- **the plans do not reflect the current building**

1/0540/2022/AGMB – Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house and associated building operations under Class Q – agricultural building at Grid Reference 233576 119938 – Woolsery

It was resolved to recommend refusal on the grounds that –

- **it is outside the development boundary**
- **there are no services - drainage, electricity, water**
- **it is within the countryside where there are no other developments**
- **it does nothing to help the local housing need**
- **the plans do not reflect the current building**

1/1002/2021/FULM – Change of use from dwelling (C3) to ancillary building in relation to the caravan (Sui-Generis) and redevelopment of use of land for the siting of 16 holiday lodges (affecting a Public Right of Way) (Additional Information), Brackenside, Bucks Cross.

Councillor Spittles declared a personal interest in this Application.

It was resolved to reply:

Woolsery Parish Council wishes to recommend refusal of the application on the following grounds:

- 1. The old documents, relating to the original application dated 2016 had been provided**
- 2. The Parish Council wish to see an Environmental Report**
- 3. There is insufficient and unsatisfactory information regarding the house**

1/0504/2022/FUL – Demolition of existing animal shed and replacement with new animal shed and bokashi waste management – land at Grid Reference 232958 120638, Woolsery.

It was resolved to reply: No comment.

22/23 – 30.2 Planning Correspondence: Decisions, Enforcement & Appeals.

It was noted that the following Planning Application had been withdrawn:

Application 1/0394/2022/FUL – Retrospective application for the creation of driveway to serve Walland Barn and holiday cottage (engineering works) and erection of domestic dog kennels / aviary (resubmission of 1/1245/2021/FUL) – Walland Barn, Bucks Cross.

Action: The Clerk to check a decision notice for Wenden Cottage which is it understood to have been refused.

An update on the situation at Rainbows End Animal Sanctuary had been given earlier in the meeting.

22/23 – 30.1 Progress of Highway Issues

- a. Priority Roads for 2022/23.**
The Clerk has forwarded the three priority roads to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

Bucks Cross

- **Bucks Mills - Waterfall Sign.**

Action: Councillor M Hill to provide some examples for TDC with a view to also including the details on the notice board.

22/23 - 31 Affordable Housing. Councillor M Hill advised this was in progress.

22/23 - 32 Parish Plan. Councillor M Hill felt that communities will be more self sufficient as time goes on and that there will be large land changes as farming diversifies.

MH has spoken to Dawn Burgess about progressing it.
MH will draft something about approaching the public to discuss at the next meeting with a view to holding a Public Meeting.

22/23 - 33. Update from MXB Sub-Committee held ahead of this Parish Council Meeting (Cllr Heywood).

The meeting discussed the replacement shed which is still based on the existing development.

Opening hours continued to be discussed and roadworks to be carried out between 13 – 15 July had been agreed.

There are large retention crates for soakaways in the Manor, the installation of the ground source heat pump was almost complete and work had begun putting in foundations at the back of the shop.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

Gabion baskets had been positioned on the road to Clovelly and it was felt that the visibility has been reduced when approaching the junction opposite the Primary School.

In addition, the baskets do not have any warning lights. It was advised this was not required as there are street lights in the area.

Councillor S Hill advised that visibility issues had been commented on to her and it was acknowledged that the view is not as good as it had been.

Action: This item will be raised at the next MXB Meeting.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

22/23 - 34 Projects

a. Planting of Wildflowers. When sending his apologies, Councillor Raffe advised he had left his contact details with MXB and was waiting for the gardener to get in touch regarding the sponsorship of a planter.

22/23 - 34 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Councillor S Hill advised there had been positive feedback in relation to the celebrations with good attendance. The leftover milkshake went to the Feedbank.

The Jubilee mugs have been delivered to the Primary School and will be given out this week. Extra mugs were ordered for the under 16 year olds who live in the Parish, or does not qualify for a mug.

22/23 - 35 Finances

22/23 – 35.1 Payments to be authorised:

Proposed by Councillor Spittles, seconded by Councillor S Hill and unanimously agreed.

a. **Sue Squire:**

June 2022 salary

£439.68

Expenses (broadband, mileage, photocopying) £ 27.25 **£466.93**

b. **Income and Bank Account Balances**

NatWest Current Account as at 21/6/22: £8,300.15

NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 21/6/22: £18,033.52

22/23 – 35.2 2021/22 Internal Audit. It was noted this is in hand.

The Clerk raised a concern that although the accountancy documents had been requested, the accountability documents had not.

Action: The Clerk to ask the DALC for further guidance to ensure that the Parish Council's internal audit procedure is appropriate.

22/23 - 36 Correspondence received. Emails from various agencies have been forwarded to Councillors.

22/23 - 37 Go North Devon. Request for donation and leaflet detailing the work they do.

Action: The Clerk to resend the details to Councillors.

22/23 - 38 Airband Community Internet. Details received of prior notification for proposed installation under telecommunications code system operators of five 10.5 mtr wooden poles. The poles will be installed with 9 mtrs above ground.

The details have been circulated to Councillors together with a plan indicating the pole along the route.

It was advised that Airband is putting poles up without permission.

Action: The Clerk to ask the Chairman of another of her Council's for contact details, as he experienced the same problem.

22/23 - 39 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 at 7.30pm at **Bucks Mills Village Hall.**

The meeting ended at 9.41p.m

Summary of Decisions:

- **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 24 May 2022**
- **Planning**
- **Payments**

Chairman

Date