

Minutes of Woolfardisworthy Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 15 February 2022 at 7.30pm by Zoom.

Present: Councillors L Spittles (Chairman), S Harding, R Heywood, S Hill, S Salvident.

District Councillors Boughton and Dart.

Mr M Cole, Head Teacher, Woolserly Primary School

Mrs G Finch, Executive Head Teacher, The Flying Start Federation

3 members of the public

Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

2122 – 020 **Mr M Cole, Headteacher at Woolserly Primary School** addressed the Council with plans for the formation of a Federation between Woolserly, Parkham and Buckland Brewer Primary Schools and asked the Council for support in connection with the Consultation which is running until 28 February 2022.

The current organisation structure is that the Flying Start Federation is a 2 school Federation between Parkham and Buckland Brewer Primaries within the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Trust with one Governing Board and one Executive Head Teacher.

In Buckland Brewer, there are 58 children in 3 classes.

In Parkham, there are 57 children in 3 classes.

Woolserly Primary School is a stand alone primary school within the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Trust, with one Governing Board and one Head Teacher. It has 159 children in 6 classes.

The proposed structure is a single Federation of Buckland Brewer, Parkham and Woolserly Primary Schools called the Village Schools Partnership, with one Governing Board and one Executive Head Teacher.

12 classes across the three schools (the same class structure) with 269 children.

Current challenges.

Children lack opportunities to mix widely with their own age group.

Child-centred activities are constrained by group sizes (e.g. residential visits shared across many age groups or with other schools).

Participation in competitive sports limited in smaller schools.

Offer of after school clubs narrow due to staff capacity.

There is separate purchasing arrangements, two Head Teachers, duplication of resources (website costs, technology licenses).

Staff in each organisation are duplicating beyond the classroom roles

Staff in each organisation planning and assessing in isolation.

Proposed benefits.

All three schools remain sustainable into the future (academic and financial)

Greater opportunities for children in both the core and wider curriculum (shared age-appropriate residentials, workshops, visits, visitors)

Sharing of professional expertise across the Partnership to enable better outcomes

More potential professional responsibility, so better job attractiveness and retention

Better job security for staff (less use of fixed term contracts)

Better preparation and opportunities for KS2/3 transition

Opportunities for all three schools to compare outcomes seamlessly

Looking ahead: non-negotiables

Preserve and strengthen each school within its own community
Preserve the individual nature of each school (PTAs, School Strengths, School Branding, School Uniforms)
Work smartly together to improve child outcomes.

Proposed Leadership.

Executive Head Teacher based in all three schools (Matt Cole)
Heads of Learning in each of the three schools
Partnership wide SENDCO and Assistant SENDCO
Single expanded Governing Board, with representation from each community
(2 x Parent Governors, 2 x Staff Governors, 2 x Foundation Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 7 Co-opted Governors.

It was advised that Ofsted has changed its inspection framework and there is now the expectation that every national curriculum is led by a teacher who has a lot of accountability of the subject.

All three schools are able to access work from Exeter Cathedral Choir which is not possible with three different schools.

Q: What is the down side:

A: A management partnership was formed in September to start the process informally and Mr Cole's biggest concern was taking on two other schools. Parents were concerned about the loss of school identity but it was stressed that this would be kept.

Q: What about Mrs Finch, where will she go?

A: She is leaving at the end of the term and this planned event is to allow a Federation to form. It is exciting and positive for the Federation to grow and is considered the perfect partnership.

A down side is that any change can have this but the schools have taken a long time to introduce the idea to all stakeholders, the children and the community. It feels like a smooth transition and all efforts have been made to anticipate any down sides.

Q: What about the practicality of children being bussed to other sites to join clubs and for sports, and what about children being picked up.

A: Parents will not pick up children from multiple schools and families would not be split across the sites. As regards sports, parents pick up the children anyway and there are wider opportunities. The cost of coaches are high and the stability of the organisation must be known before the purchase of a mini bus is considered.

Q: With staff working together, how will timetables be co-ordinated?

A: There is no need for aligned timetables. There are staff meetings after school. With subject leadership, by restricting more capacity to release teachers to come out of class to go into other schools to look at the curriculum area, there are only looking at one rather than four.

Q: In an Ofsted Inspection would a teacher be asked about the subject across all three schools.

A: Yes and no – each school retains a Department for Education number and each school is inspected separately. The Inspection Team would not be able to ask members of staff about the standard of the school not being inspected. There are advantages by bringing in other staff.

Q: With Ofsted, will the amalgamation of the three schools lead to a delay in an Ofsted Inspection?

A: The Schools are not academizing where the clock gets reset and gets a new Department for Education number. Ofsted will not know about the changes.

Q: Are there any negatives from parents, children and staff:

A: The staff are positive. There were concerns from the Woolsery community who are not adjusting to the idea of Mr Cole not being in Woolsery School all the time. He is not there all the time now due to various reasons / commitments, and he needs to be visible in all three schools. In terms of running the new Federation, he will lose the teaching commitment.

Q: What do you want from the Parish Council?

A: The consultation finishes on 14 March 2022. The Governors of both organisations need a view of the Parish Council's thinking, be that supportive or not. All comments are welcome and the Governors do not want to make a decision in total isolation, so a response from the Parish Council will help the Governors make an informed decision which can be emailed to Woolsery School.

Q: To what extent is this something you are regrettably having to do because of circumstances or what is part of a positive move?

A: It is very much a positive move for the schools. Both Governing Board had been looking at options before they found each other and within the context of the educational world required to work in, it is a very good much, and from an ethos point of view, the three schools are strong. Mr Cole did not have any concerns or regrets going into a Federation and has been committed to working in partnership for a long time.

The Schools were congratulated on this forward thinking.

2122 - 021 Public Comment Session

Representations had been received regarding an abandoned car in Back Street which has been reported to TDC for attention.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The suggestion of replacement gates to the churchyard were not considered feasible as they would never be shut and the church needs to be open and welcoming.

The suggestion of a metal signpost outside the church was made with items reflecting Woolsery, or an information board or footpath.

There was a discussion about a Parish wide meeting with representatives from organisations being held the first week in March to include the school in the plans, although it was noted the extra bank holidays fell during half term week.

Councillor S Hill is in contact with the Devon Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust.

It was known the bunting was being made and there was the general feeling that the event should be open to all in the Parish.

Councillor Salvident suggested that planting native pollinators which were faster growing than trees would create interest for children.

2122 – 022 Apologies. Councillors M Hill, R Scott, County Councillor Wilton-Love.

2122 - 023 Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interest for items on the Agenda. None.

2122 - 024 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 January 2022 to be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.
Due to the meeting being on Zoom, the Minutes will be signed and ratified at the next in person meeting.
Councillor Spittles proposed that the Minutes were approved, seconded by Councillor Hill and unanimously agreed.

2122 - 025 Clerk's Report. *The items listed below are for information updates only:*

2122 – 025.1 Replacement defibrillator pads have been ordered for the Bucks Mills defibrillator which expire on 28/4/22.

2122 – 025.2 P3 Footpath Survey. The Summary of Expenditure and Survey forms had been completed and returned to DCC Public Rights of Way Department.

2122 – 025.3 Damaged village gateway at Bucks Cross. DCC Highways will remove the broken gate and replace it.

2122 – 025.4 List of Priority Roads has been circulated to Councillors.

2122 – 025.5 Beach Huts at Bucks Mills. District Councillor Mrs Dart had informed that all enquiries for new storage should be directed to Mr T Phillips, Estates Manager at TDC.

2122 – 025.6 Grass Cutting Contract. DCC Highways had been asked if, because the initial bid had not been successful, whether a contribution under the Urban Grass Cutting fund could be considered.
DCC Highways had replied advising that there were no urban grass cutting areas in the Parish and that funding could not be provided.

2122 - 026 Reports from County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Councillors

2122 – 026.1 County Councillor.

1. DCC's budget: it was better than I expected given what we have experienced in recent memory and given the huge deficit. Central Government is looking to provide assistance (DFE Safety Valve) and we are currently in negotiations with them as to what that entails, I will update as things move forward. The perceived "cuts" in Highways aren't cuts, they are savings in areas that have been improved on in general (for example Dragon Patching), I will provide figures if required at the next meeting.

2. DCC are now accepting Expressions of Interest for 20mph zones now that the Newton Abbot data has been collated: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/residents-reject-newton-abbot-wide-20mph-limit-but-back-lower-speeds-near-schools/>.

To allow for assessment and prioritisation for schemes to be delivered in 22/23 all submissions must be complete by 31st March. The application form can be found here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gzeHiWjLP0S7S5l_d_1b--5dwfBIK5FLq2JDYJiq56BUOUxTSUswVEIHWDVISEZIQZSTTBWN1U3OS4u

Given that the Newton Abbot project will not progress for a fully community 20mph scheme it is intended that new 20s implemented through this project will form part of the study to inform future County Policy.

District Councillor Dart.

A budget presentation had been given at the Community and Resources Committee and all but three Councillors, including herself, voted to increase Council Tax. She did not feel the increase could justify putting money aside for vehicles to purchase in 2030. No final decision had been made.

Avian flu has been identified at Alverdiscott.

Grant funding is available and community groups are invited to apply
It had been necessary to censure a Councillor

There are Covid grant funds available if hospitality, tourist and leisure businesses were trading as at 31 December 2021 and these businesses were encouraged to apply.

District Councillor Harding

He is a member of the Internal Scrutiny Committee where the budget was also debated. All members voted in favour to increase it and it will now go to full Council.

A presentation had been given to the External Scrutiny Committee by the NHS Trust and Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. It would appear that by joining together, this will be better, as it is with schools.

He had attended a licensing training course on taxis.

Parish Councillors

Councillor Harding had been shown pictures of a building being erected at Barn Lane, which had been refused planning consent. He has advised TDC and the site is to be inspected.

The surface of Mill Lane is deteriorating very badly.

He has given £1,000 of this community allowance to produce the Woolsery Show Programme.

Councillor Salvident spoke about the beach huts on Bucks Mills beach, having been in correspondence with Mr T Phillips at TDC who had advised that huts cannot be offered for re-let due to the dangerous landscape. People are not being asked to remove the fishing huts.

District Councillor Dart was disappointed at this information as when she had spoken to TDC there was no intimation that they would not be relet.

Action: Councillor Salvident to forward the correspondence from TDC to Councillor Dart with the Clerk copied in.

Councillor Heywood agreed with TDC's stance on the huts at Bucks Mills.

Councillor Spittles had been contacted about planning activities at the animal rescue centre where planning consent had been refused. She suggested that the details were forwarded to TDC Enforcement Department for attention, as the Planning Department had said it was not suitable to run a business in such an area.

Councillor Spittles had reported a number of issues to DCC Highways. LS.

2122 – 027 Planning Applications. There were no Planning Applications to consider.

Planning Correspondence: Decisions & Appeals. None to consider.

2122 - 027 Freedom of Information Act Request.

The Parish Council letter had been re-sent to TDC by the Clerk.

A reply had been received advising that the requested paperwork was on the TDC website.

Action: The Clerk to send a further letter advising that the information available does not show any details since 2011, and asking where this information can be found.

Action: The Clerk to enquire dates for a TDC Enforcement Officer to give a talk at a separate meeting.

2122 - 028 Progress of Highway Issues

a. Priority Roads for 2022/23.

The road from Duredon Cross had been mentioned at the earlier MXB meeting.

Bucks Cross to Woolsery

Woolsery to Clovelly

Alminstone to Woolsery

Woolsery to Duredon Cross

From the list, No. 6 (Farmers Arms via Lower Town to Alminstone/Stroxworthy junction and No. 14 Farmers Arms to Duredon Cross to be reported to Highways.

Action: Clerk

Woolsery

- **Missing sign.** Councillor Harding advised this was in hand.
- **State of the road between Claw Cottage and Maids Moor.** The question had been asked if the full amount of work the Parish Council expected them to do has been done and a reply received from the Neighbourhood Highways Officer advising that the works were completed to expectations. There is no money to resurface this road at present with it being a low category usage and others taking higher priority. The areas which were collapsing have been reconstructed. Whilst onsite there were safety defects present which were passed to the contractor and now completed.

The Neighbourhood Highway Officer also advised that priorities for the area were previously discussed and this was a lower priority. The priority I have concentrated resources on is Road from Farmers Arms to Alminstone Cross due to it being a category 7, main route to the village and forming part of the primary salting network.

Resurfacing works between Alminstone and Lane end are due to begin in March.

- **Finger Post (Merry Harriers).** Councillor Spittles confirmed that the figures had been replaced.

Bucks Cross

- **Bucks Cross - Speed Limit Sign.** Councillor Spittles confirmed she had reported this as missing.
- **Bucks Mills - Waterfall Sign.** Ideally the sign should be nearer the waterfall but due to a landslip, it had not been possible to see if the sign could be fixed closer.
- **Bucks Mills – Fencing.** As a result of the Clerk writing to DCC Highways, TDC car parks department and The Woodland Trust, the latter has £600 allocated towards fencing. They have assessed the trees and identified those requiring attention.

Councillor Harding advised that TDC did not consider the area was its responsibility.

There was concern about forthcoming gales with trees opposite a nearby house.

- **Bucks Mills - Erosion of the bank by the stream** has been reported to DCC Highways who have actioned this immediately with sign lighting and guarding.

The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had advised that it was previously discussed that DCC are going to be undertaking bank stabilisation works in the new financial year. I have spoken to the works planner and DCC will be looking to replace sections of the fencing which are considered a hazard (drop off to stream close to carriageway edge. The remainder of the fencing which is considered aesthetic will not be part of these works however if the parish seek/fund the additional sections this can be included under the same order. If this is something which the parish would be interested in please let me know and I will get a quote for the additional works.

- **Bucks Mills – cattle on South West Coast Path.** Councillor Spittles had not posted advice on social media.

2122 - 029 Road Closure – road from Kennerland Cross to Cranford Cross.

Councillor Spittles confirmed the details has been posted on social media.

2122 - 030 Affordable Housing – Way Forward (Cllr M Hill)

There had been a positive site meeting. The workshop was in operation at the time and no problems were identified.

2122 - 031 Parish Plan 2021 – updates (Cllr M Hill). Deferred to the March meeting.

2122 - 032 Update from MXB Sub-Committee held ahead of this Parish Council Meeting (Cllr Heywood)

Councillor Heywood had resigned at the end of the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest.

Councillor Spittles advised:

- The bakery application was being discussed with TDC Planning Department as an adjustment in opening hours was required
- The drill had left the Manor at the weekend. A lot of building structures were being undertaken at present – finishing the retaining wall, shop interior finishing to complete, store room to be started, the bakery is delayed. The shop is to be closed for refurbishment later in the year
- Work at the farm potting and vehicle shed is due to be completed by the end of the month
- An edible forest and water garden is being planted
- Gateways and mud on the road had been discussed between the farm and garden gateways. A contractor is to be do the same work as has been done in Back Lane, but it will still be put forward to Highways to do the road, with MXB will repair
- Councillor Heywood wished to resign pending a discussion at the Parish Council meeting, as a family member is working temporarily at the Farmers Arms and he felt there could be a conflict. He wanted to ensure that his role was independent and with another Councillor's daughter working there, it would be two Councillors with a connection on the Committee. Farmers and MXB have a large impact on the village.

It was noted that there are no voting rights on the MXB Committee and Councillors were in favour of Councillor Heywood continuing due to his local knowledge. It was acknowledged that all Councillors are influenced slightly as the site is on the doorstep.

It was known that Councillor Heywood was willing to continue if Councillors felt this was appropriate.

Proposed by Councillor S Hill that Councillor Heywood continue to be a member of the MXB Committee. Seconded by Councillor Salivdent and unanimously agreed.

2122 - 033 20s Plenty Campaign. This was briefly mentioned at the meeting on 18/1/22 and deferred to this meeting.

Councillors had been provided separately with paperwork on this item and in addition, Estate Agents Seddons are sponsoring '20's plenty' signs free of charge for residents to place in their gardens as a way of reminding motorists to slow down.

Councillors had been forwarded an email from County Councillor Henderson, Member for the Landkey and Chulmleigh Division giving details of DCC's agreement to the potential to introduce 20mph speed limits. There is a deadline date of 31/3/22 to provide an expression of interest.

Proposed by Councillor S Hill not to support the campaign on the grounds that it cannot be enforced. Seconded by Councillor Harding and unanimously agreed.

2122 - 034 Projects

- a. Planting of Wildflowers. Councillor Harding advised that Councillor Raffe was doing a sketch of the planters to put on the side of the road. The DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer then to be appraised of the plan for permission to proceed.

Woolsery

- a. Adoption of the BT telephone box at Woolsery.

The Clerk had informed BT of the Parish Council's intention to adopt it for £1 and has requested the relevant paperwork to progress this.

Separately, the Clerk had contacted the Conservation Officer at TDC regarding this listed building structure, and has been advised that it cannot be painted green or any glass removed to indicate a defibrillator is inside.

Action: The Clerk to remind BT for a reply and ask the TDC Conservation Officer if it would be possible to put a green sticker in the structure.

- b. Copper Hill Bus Shelter – measurement of area. Deferred to the March meeting.

2122 - 035 Parking

- a. Copper Close Car Park. Councillor Harding advised that Mr Boundy was no longer in business.

Action: The Clerk to write to Mr Boundy.

2122 - 036 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It had been advised under Minute No. 2122 – 021 that replacement gates to the churchyard was not considered to be a good idea.

Councillor S Hill advised that a community picnic, fancy dress through the ages, flower festival, pollinator shrubs, native plants and a possible tea at Bucks Cross Village hall would be further discussed at a separate meeting.

2122 - 037 Policies. The following were reviewed:

- Equal Opportunities employees to persons. *The wording to be amended to his / her / their where appropriate.*
- Gritting Procedures. *The Bucks Mills contacts to be amended to Councillors Spittles and Salivdent.*

- Filming Procedure. *In order.*
- Privacy Procedure. *The version circulated by the Clerk was preferred to the one currently in force.*
- Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme. *In order.*
- Grant Giving. *In order.*
- Risk Management. *A General Risk Management version circulated by the Clerk was preferred to the one currently in force.*
- Safeguarding. *In order.*

Proposed by Councillor Spittles to adopt the above en bloc subject to the amendments. Seconded by Councillor S Hill and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to update

2122 – 038 Finances

Payments to be authorised:

Sue Squire:	
January 2022	£439.68
Reimbursement for quarterly PAYE	£109.92
Expenses (broadband, shared Zoom subscription - 2 months)	£ 5.75
	£555.35

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

Income and Bank Account Balances.

Current Account - £657.19

Savings Account - £20,530.37

Proposed by Councillor Spittles that £1,000.00 is transferred from the Savings to the Current Account. Seconded by Councillor Harding and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk

Grass Cutting Contract from 2022 to 2025

The wording to be the same as previously.

Action: Councillor Spittles to put details on Facebook for prospective contractors to contact the Clerk

2122 - 039 Correspondence received. Emails from various agencies have been forwarded to Councillors.

Proposed by Councillor Harding to support the new Village Partnership Federation between Woolserly, Parkham and Buckland Brewer Schools. Seconded by Councillor Salvident and unanimously agreed.

Action: Councillor Salvident to draft a response and circulate to Councillors for agreement, and the Clerk to send to Woolserly School.

Action: The Clerk to make a diary note to invite Mr Cole to a meeting in the Summer Term of 2023.

2122 – 040 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 7.30pm at Woolserly Village Hall subject to Covid-19 infection rates.

The meeting ended at 9.52pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 January 2022
- Councillor Heywood to remain a member of the MXB Committee
- That the Parish Council does not support the 20s Plenty Campaign
- Review of Policies
- Payments and transfer of £1,000 from the Savings to the Current Account
- Support for the proposed new Village Schools Partnership

_____Chairman

_____Date