

Minutes of Woolsery Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 July 2023 in Bucks Cross Village Hall at 7.30pm.

<p>Chaired by: Councillor M Hill</p>	<p>Clerked by: Mrs Sue Squire</p>	
<p>Present: Councillors</p> <p>B Beech D Hancock S Harding (District) R Heywood M Hill S Hill S Salvidant L Spittles</p> <p>County Councillor J Wilton Love</p> <p>4 Members of the public</p>	<p>Agenda: - Mr M Cole, Head Teacher of the Village Schools Partnership, had been invited to the meeting or to send a Report Public Comment Session Apologies Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interest Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023 to be approved and signed as a correct Record Clerk's Report Reports from County, District & Parish Councillors Update from MXB Sub-Committee Planning Affordable Housing Neighbourhood Plan Finances Correspondence Date of October 2023 Meeting Date and time of next Meeting</p>	
	<p>Mr M Cole, Head Teacher of the Village Schools Partnership had been invited to the meeting or to send a written Report.</p>	<p>Action:</p>
<p>23/24.41</p>	<p>Public Comment Session.</p>	
<p>23/24.41.1</p>	<p>A resident enquired if anything is ever going to be done about the state of the roads, some of which are now practically impassable. This item was discussed under Minute No. 23/24.46.1 - County Councillor Wilton-Love's Report.</p>	
<p>23/24.41.2</p>	<p>A resident spoke about the enforcement issue at Higher Town and enquired if the Parish Council had been able to speak to the enforcement officer at TDC. The parishioner reminded Councillors that the owner had said the structure would be taken down when the person living there was deceased. This item was discussed under Minute No. 23/24.46.2 and 23/24.49.2.</p>	
<p>23/24.41.3</p>	<p>Email received regarding the withdrawal of the mobile library service which had been forwarded to Councillors. On the day of the meeting, the Clerk found details of a petition objecting to the plans and that there would be a meeting of DCC's Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 28 September 2023 at County Hall, Exeter, 10.30am. The call-in had been made by a number of County Councillors who were not satisfied with the way the decision to scrap the service had been made. Proposed by Councillor M Hill that the Parish Council signs the petition. Seconded by Councillor Spittles and agreed.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>23/24.41.4</p>	<p>Email received advising that a resident had added their name to reports of potholes which involves a drop on one side spreading across the road and another where people drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid them. County Councillor Wilton-Love had responded advising that these are with the contractor for repair and will be done within the allocated time, 30 days from creation of the work ticket on 13 July. County Councillor Wilton-Love had added that he shared the resident's angst with the roads and is planned to undertake Chapter 8 training to be able to fix them himself.</p>	

	The Neighbourhood Highways Officer has been working on a way to repair roads at a lower cost which will mean more being surfaced and not just patched which will, in turn, start to prevent these issues in the future.	
23/24.42	Apologies. District Councillor Harding informed the meeting when it was almost over that District Councillor Dart had texted her apologies.	
23/24.43	Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interests. Councillor Salvidant declared a Personal Interest in Minute No. 23/24. South West Water First Time Sewerage Application at Bucks Mills.	
23/24.44	Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023. Approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Councillor Spittles Seconded by Councillor Salvidant and unanimously agreed.	
23/24.45	Clerk's Report.	
23/24.45.1	Enquiry if Woolsery has a Parish Plan. The response as directed had been sent to the parishioner.	
23/24.45.2	Broken safety mirror. The resident who reported this has been advised that the mirror has been replaced.	
23/24.45.3	Freedom of Information Act Request. A response was sent by the deadline date of 21/6/23. As a result of this, a member of the public replied which was sent to Councillors on 21/6/23. Councillors directed the Clerk to respond as follows: We have no further information that we can furnish you with.	Clerk
23/24.45.4	Abridged Minutes in the Community News. The June meeting details have been sent for inclusion.	
23/24.45.5	Airband's proposal for a wooden pole in Manor Park. The company had been requested to demonstrate that there is no alternative site. No response had been received.	
23/24.45.6	Woolsery Primary School / Field. The Clerk continues to be in email correspondence with her counterpart at Ugborough Parish Council in connection with a similar situation and an update is expected to be given at the August meeting, due to their annual leave.	August Agenda
23/24.45.7	Clothes Bank. The Clerk has been in extensive correspondence with Elm Tree Textiles regarding the timescale of putting the clothes bank in place which is due to be delivered the week commencing 24 July.	Clerk to ask for exact day & give SH mobile no.
23/24.45.8	Grit Bins. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer has been advised of the locations agreed to date.	
23/24.45.9	Coronation Mugs. A request for a discount was requested but not acted upon. The mugs had been delivered to the Primary School on 13/7/23 and given to the children. Councillor S Hill will deal with the few that are surplus. The total cost for 180 mugs was £830.40 net with £166.08 reclaimable VAT: gross total £996.48 which has been paid by BACS.	SH
23/24.45.10	The Pensions Regulator. It was noted that the re-enrolment and re-declaration had been completed.	
23/24.45.11	RNLI Life Saving Effect Consultation. A strong letter of objection, approved by Councillors, had been sent and a reply received advising that no decision has yet been made.	

	<p>A copy of the letter was also sent to Sir Geoffrey Cox MP KC which was acknowledged and who attended the meeting on 29/6/23 in Hartland where a RNLI representative was present.</p>	
<p>23/24. 45.12</p>	<p>Dog Waste Bin in Manor Park. TDC had been requested to increase the frequency of collection and a reply received as follows:</p> <p>These bins should be emptied once a week. As there are 2 dog bins in the area, it cannot be guaranteed that the collection will be more than once a week and it is recommended that residents take their dog waste home and put in their black bins. The last line to be included in the Village News.</p> <p>Separately on the morning of the meeting, TDC had emailed advising that a request had been received for the bin to be moved but when the operative was seen to be investigating other areas, members of the public advised that they did not want to have the bin near their property.</p> <p>The details were forwarded to Councillors for information and further discussion.</p> <p>It was noted that there are 4 bins in Woolsery: Old Market Drive, Copper Hill, South Park and East Park.</p> <p>Councillor Hancock advised of a conversation he had with the operative. Councillor Beech informed that TDC had said they would not move a dog bin without consulting the Parish Council.</p> <p>To reply: The Parish Council has never received a complaint regarding the original location and there is no reason to believe it should have been moved.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>23/24. 45.13</p>	<p>Road markings to prevent parking near the junction at Manor Park. County Councillor Wilton-Love has been asked to enquire if Highways would consider this and he is meeting the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to discuss further.</p>	
<p>23/24. 45.14</p>	<p>Community Speed Watch. The Clerk has informed Councillor Beech of the number of properties in the Parish for inclusion on the application form which has been completed, sent to the Police and a response awaited.</p>	
<p>23/24. 45.15</p>	<p>Obstruction of sight due to vegetation near The Manor. The Clerk has emailed MXB as directed.</p> <p>Councillor Heywood referred to the forthcoming meeting between the County Councillor and Neighbourhood Highways Officer and asked ownership could be clarified. According to the Land Registry, it was owned by The Manor, but historically it was owned by Highways and the Parish Council was responsible for trimming when it was grass and the Parish Council was never involved in any negotiations in a change of ownership.</p> <p>Councillor Heywood had carried out research of the planning records which did not indicate it belonged to The Manor. There is a grey area as to the ownership and where the responsibility lies.</p> <p>The Parish Council is continually receiving complaints about visibility being obscured by the high growth of the shrubs.</p> <p>Standing Orders were lifted.</p> <p>There was a discussion on liability and the understanding that the land had always been in the ownership of Highways.</p> <p>Standing Orders were reinstated.</p>	<p>To be raised at the next MXB meeting in August</p>
<p>23/24. 46</p>	<p>Reports from County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Councillors</p>	
<p>23/24. 46.1</p>	<p>County Councillor J Wilton-Love.</p> <p>He would shortly be undertaking Chapter 8 training, has a van and tools and will repair potholes himself due to falling standards. He has been looking at how</p>	

	<p>different areas of the Country has been maintaining its roads and in neighbouring Cornwall, they do not sub-contract the work and run the contract as an economically sound and profitable business.</p> <p>There is 2 years remaining on the Milestone contract and a meeting of County Councillors has been planned to discuss setting up an arms length company for complete accountability.</p> <p>Councillor M Hill asked about a local scheme, similar to what the Lengthsman's duties were, comprising a small unit to visit Parishes in the area to repair potholes, clear drains, cut back vegetation and clean signs.</p> <p>Councillor Beech spoke about weight restrictions on roads and was told this would be problematic.</p> <p>County Councillor Wilton-Love continued that the Neighbourhood Highways Officer is looking at a new hybrid system which is more cost efficient for smaller roads and there is a new material which is more robust for fixing potholes.</p> <p>Councillor Heywood suggested that the absence of local knowledge is problematic as when dealing with buddle holes, damage to roads occur. Councillor Wilton-Love replied that there is no current control over this and the situation would be addressed by bringing the contract back in house.</p> <p>County Councillor Wilton-Love spoke about the South West Water First Time Sewerage Application.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were lifted to enable the Chairman to report on his attendance at a site meeting in this regard.</i></p> <p>South West Water and its Agents gave details of options and work is being done on the finer details. A public open meeting will then be held. Councillor Spittles suggested a précis is available prior to a public meeting giving the reason for the scheme. The Parish of Parkham has to be involved too.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were reinstated.</i></p>	
<p>23/24. 46.2</p>	<p>District Councillor Harding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He had attended a Leadership Meeting under Part B Confidential but he was able to advise that there are plans involving the Middle Dock with Universities being interested and more than enough private people who have expressed an interest. ▪ Planning – update of the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan. He had enquired why Parishes could not use it and was told this would be in order when submitting responses to planning applications. ▪ TDC Planning Department had won an award for Council planning. He is hoping to arrange a joint meeting of the Parishes in his Ward for a presentation on planning and input from Parish Councils ▪ Clovelly Lifeboat. He invited Sir Geoffrey Cox MP KC to get involved who attended the meeting in Hartland on 29 June. A 'Friends of Clovelly Lifeboat Station' is being formed, to be launched on Lifeboat Day, 6 August. The RNLI had said at the meeting that the review was about safety but when he asked if closure of the Station was on the table, no answer was given. <p>The Appledore lifeboat is often involved with incidents on the Torridge, and the new Shannon craft still has issues crossing the Bar at certain tide times, so the Clovelly lifeboat is needed to be able to attend rescues at any time.</p> <p>On Sea Sunday (10 July), no crew from Appledore were present as they were involved in incidents on the River Torridge and in addition, there is a</p>	

	<p>crew problem as people cannot find anywhere to live, whereas at Clovelly, there is a full crew living locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The request for additional dog waste bins in Bucks Mills had been made and he would chase this up ▪ Village Play Area. He had spoken to TK Play based in Frithelstockstone and a site visit is to be held ▪ He was annoyed with the enforcement officer regarding Higher Town where there are negotiations about submitting a planning application. Earlier in the meeting it had been mentioned that the structure was supposed to have been taken down on the death of the resident, and Councillor Harding was completely against the suggestion of a planning application being submitted <p>Standing Orders were lifted for a member of the public to speak about the Higher Town enforcement issue.</p> <p>The resident asked if TDC enforcement would listen to them and District Councillor Harding advised that in dealing with enforcement cases, one of the items to be covered is negotiations and this must be the reason why a planning application has been mentioned.</p> <p>Councillor Heywood suggested that the Parish Council invite the owner to a meeting for an update and this was felt to be appropriate.</p> <p>Standing Orders were reinstated.</p>	Clerk
23/24. 47	Parish Councillors	
23/24. 47.1	B Beech. As reported earlier in the meeting, the Community Speedwatch Form had been completed and submitted.	
23/24. 47.2	<p>D Hancock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 20mph sign at Old Market Drive had been knocked over and put upright ▪ Regarding the request at the last meeting for the virtual pavement marking to be reinstated, this was in a bad state. County Councillor Wilton-Love advised that the matter was with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer for further consideration <p>Clarification should be obtained at the MXB meeting as to what their intentions are as an area where the virtual pavement was is now a pavement</p>	
23/24. 47.3	S Harding. No items raised – all covered under his District Councillor Report.	
23/24. 47.4	<p>R Heywood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The letter to Ofcom had been drafted and would be circulated to Councillors for approval ▪ The mirror at Cranford had been replaced, which may look as if it is in the wrong place but there was no choice as to where it should go ▪ Bus Shelter at East Park. He had contacted Hemmings Coaches who did not have any objections. The bench at this location is well used and liked and he questioned whether a shelter would inhibit its popularity and suggested a shelter away from the bench. To be an Agenda item at the next meeting 	RH August Agenda
23/24. 47.5	<p>M Hill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It had not been possible to ascertain the discussions in relation to the Village Play Area at the Woolsery Sports and Community Hall meeting. To be an item on the next Agenda ▪ His attendance at the South West Water First Time Sewerage Application site meeting had been covered earlier in the meeting ▪ Webnos – defibrillator reporting. Councillor S Hill had taken this on 	August Agenda
23/24.	S Hill.	

47.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There had been no further progress about the grit bin location at Cranford and the intention is to write a general letter to residents advising that unless an area can be agreed, no grit bin will go there ▪ Defibrillator in the former telephone box in Woolserly. A remote, motion sensed solar light had been obtained and would be fixed in the next few weeks. An article about the defibrillator had been sent for inclusion in the Village News 	SH SH
23/24. 47.7	<p>L Spittles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further to an email sent earlier in the day, she had picked up the diversion sign at Claw Cross which had been there for nearly a year and left it in the Bucks Cross Village Hall car park for County Councillor Wilton-Love to collect at some point. Councillor Spittles asked who was responsible for signs that are left at the location after the roadworks are finished. County Councillor Wilton-Love advised that it is a different gang who are tasked with delivering and collecting signs ▪ Airband had erected a pole on the verge outside Eastern and Western Cottages opposite the junction to Woolserly, where there had been some road traffic accidents recently. The question was asked that if flower planters are not allowed to be there, what is the justification for the poles to be put there. In reply, County Councillor Wilton-Love advised that Airband was so far behind with the work schedule that they have been given permission to site them in an effort to catch up ▪ Photographs showing poor hedge cutting technique is not to be followed up as the hedge is recovering 	LS will take photos to show the effect the pole is having in the area
23/24. 47.8	<p>S Salvidant.</p> <p>Attendance at South West Water First Time Sewerage Application site meeting which had been covered elsewhere in the meeting.</p>	
23/24. 48	<p>Update from MXB Sub-Committee. No meeting had been held.</p>	
23/24. 49	<p>Planning. The following planning application was considered:</p>	
23/24. 49.1	<p>1/0450/2023/FUL – erection of agricultural storage shed – land at Grid Reference 233928 121128 – Woolserly. Proposed by Councillor Spittles to respond: ‘Should lighting be considered, thought needs to be given to the dark sky area, otherwise there are no other comments. Seconded by Councillor S Hill and unanimously agreed.</p>	Clerk
23/24. 49.2	<p>Planning Correspondence: Decisions, Enforcement & Appeals.</p> <p>The following TDC Decision Notice was noted: Approval for Application 1/0319/2023/FUL – Four holiday lodges with parking, extension to existing access at Forest Lakes, Woolserly.</p> <p>It was noted that Application 1/0204/2023/OUT – outline application for erection of 3 no. dwellings with all matters reserved except for access – land at Lower Town, Woolserly, had been withdrawn.</p> <p>Enforcement – Higher Town Farm. As a result of the Clerk requesting an update from the Enforcement Officer, a reply has been received advising that they have been negotiating with the landowner and requested a planning application to be submitted by the end of August 2023.</p>	
23/24. 50	<p>Affordable Housing. Councillor M Hill advised there had been no contact from Westward Housing Association and other companies were being looked at.</p>	
23/24. 51	<p>Neighbourhood Plan. This item was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	August Agenda

23/24. 52	Finances.	
23/24. 52.1	<p>Payments to be authorised: Proposed by Councillor Spittles Seconded by Councillor S Hill and unanimously agreed.</p> <p>a. Sue Squire: July 2023 salary £480.62 Expenses (broadband, mileage, stationery, photocopying) £ 16.50 £497.12</p> <p>b. HMRC PAYE £120.20</p> <p>c. Westcotts. 2022/23 internal audit fee (including £5 from 2021/22) £359.00</p> <p>d. Mr R Stoneman. Grass cutting: March – June 2023 £1,300.00</p> <p>e. Bucks Cross Village Hall. Hire of Hall for this meeting £ 25.00</p> <p>f. Woolserly Sports and Community Hall. May & June 2023. £ 28.00</p> <p>g. Income and Bank Account Balances:</p> <p>NatWest Current Account as at 18/7/23: £1,248.50</p> <p>NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 18/7/23: £23,152.16 Interest of £21.86 has been earned on this amount in the last month.</p> <p>h. Letter of thanks received for 2023/24 grant from Citizens Advice and South West Heritage Trust (North Devon Record Office).</p>	Clerk Clerk to send a copy of the grass cutting areas to Cllrs
23/24. 53	Correspondence received. Emails from various agencies had been forwarded to Councillors.	
23/24. 53.1	Forestry Commission – Winslade Forestry Operation. Email and attachment dated 23/6/23 and circulated to Councillors. Clerk to respond thanking the sender for the information.	Clerk
23/24. 54	Date of October 2023 Meeting. This is scheduled for the third Tuesday as usual, on 17 th . Due to the Clerk's leave (14 – 29 October inclusive), she will be unavailable on that day.	Clerk to ask Mrs L Hutchings if she is available
23/24. 55	Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 15 August 2023 at 7.30pm at Woolserly Sports and Community Hall. The meeting ended at 9.17pm.	
<p>Summary of Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Petition to be signed supporting objections to the withdrawal of the mobile library service ➤ Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 June 2023 ➤ Planning ➤ Payments 		
These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.		
Signed: Chair of Woolserly Parish Council.	Date:	