

## **Minutes of Woolfardisworthy Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 January 2022**

**Present:** Councillor M Hill (Chairman), Councillors S Harding, S Hill, S Raffe, S Salvidant, L Spittles.

District Councillors Mrs A Dart (from Minute No: 2122 – 005.1), S Harding

No Members of the public

Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

### **2122 – 001 Public Comment Session**

**2122 – 001.1 Woolsery Village Hall** had asked if the Parish has any plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

At a meeting of the Trustees, this was talked about but they wished to avoid duplication. This item was further discussed under Minute No. 15.

**2122 – 001.2 Representations had been received on behalf of Woolsery Primary School** where children were experiencing hazardous conditions due to highway work, necessitating them to walk in the road on the way to school while negotiating machinery. In addition, other contractors working in the village were parked on the Copper Hill pavement causing more dangerous conditions.

These details had been raised with District Councillor Harding on the morning of the meeting and emailed to the Clerk.

In addition, a member of the public had spoken to the contractors and subsequently emailed Western Power Distribution who, in their reply, apologised and took full responsibility and explained that to avoid another road closure, other utility work had been done at the same time. The situation now seems to have improved although the road is restricted in place.

**2122 – 001.3 Damage to grass verge.** Photographic evidence had been supplied. It was thought that vehicles had been using this route to avoid the 4 way traffic lights in the village, connected with the road works. As the vehicles who had taken this route were unknown, there was nothing that could be done, it being hoped that the grass would recover and grow back over the next few months.

Councillor M Hill asked if there had been any effect on the residents of Manor Park and was advised there had been a high volume of heavy traffic but little disruption on the corner, and cones had now been placed there.

Councillor Hill considered there had been no forward planning, the work coinciding with the start of the new term.

**2122 – 001.4 Walland Barn Retrospective Application.** Councillor Salvidant had received representations and it was understood these would not be submitted to Torridge District Council.

**2122 – 002 Apologies**  
Councillor R Heywood (work commitments)

**2122 – 003 Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interest for items on the Agenda.**  
None announced.

**2122 – 004 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 December 2021.**

These will be ratified, along with the Minutes of this meeting, at the next in person meeting.

**2122 – 005 Clerk's Report**

**2122 – 005.1 Completion of P3 Footpath Survey.**

The Clerk will complete and return the Summary of Expenditure. Councillor Raffe was in the process of walking the footpaths in connection with the annual survey. Councillor Harding noted that one of the footpath routes involves land on Parkham Farms.

**2122 – 005.2 Atworthy Cross to Bradworthy**

Mrs L Hutchings, the former Clerk, had contacted Bradworthy Parish Council in this regard, as agreed.

**2122 – 005.3 Replacement pads ordered for the defibrillator at Woolsery Hall**

The former Clerk had ordered these and the invoice would be dealt with under Finance.

Action: The Clerk to order replacement pads for the Bucks Mills defibrillator, which expire on 28/4/22.

**2122 – 006 Reports**

**2122 – 006.1 County Councillor J Wilton-Love.** Not present, no report received.

**2122 – 006.2 District Councillors**

Councillor Mrs Dart had attended a meeting with Torridge District Council's two enforcement officers who gave an informative presentation on enforcement and the type of approach taken. To some degree, their powers are limited as some cases are very complex.

The two officers are willing to give the presentation to Parishes.

Business grants are available for Covid funding in the leisure, hospitality and accommodation sector and the details can be seen on the TDC website

Councillor Harding had nothing to add, no meetings having been attended.

**2122 – 006.3 Parish Councillors**

**Councillor Spittles.** The West bound Bucks Cross gateways had been demolished due to impact damage due to an accident between two cars. The Police had been involved.

The incident had been reported and the DCC Neighbourhood Highway Manager (NHM) had advised that a quotation was being obtained for a replacement which involved specialist material.

Action: The Clerk to contact the NHM to enquire if Highways are going to remove the damaged gate or if the Parish Council is expected to do this.

**Councillor Raffe.** The state of the road between Crawl Cottage and Maids Moor, where subsidence work had previously been undertaken, is in a very poor state and Councillors noted that remedial work had only been undertaken at Huddesford Road.

Action: The Clerk to report to Highways asking if the full amount of work the Parish Council expected them to do had been done.

This item to be included under Priority Roads for the future.

**Councillor Salvident.**

1. Parts of the bank on the road by the stream at Bucks Mills is slipping and sections of the safety fencing are broken or missing completely. There is also an area below the bench where the fence has gone and erosion is taking place under the bank.  
**Action: The Clerk to report this to Highways.**
2. It had been noted that there are notices from DCC on dead Elm trees by the car park on that side of the stream / on land going down the village between the stream and the road, not on the car park side, requesting the owner to get in touch within 20 days, but no start date was given. Members of the public had approached the Woodland Trust about the condition of the trees.  
**Action: Councillor Harding to ascertain who is responsible for the trees. The Clerk to write to TDC, Highways and the Woodland Trust giving details of the situation.**
3. There had been a query regarding the beach huts on Bucks Mills beach with it being noted that notices had been fixed to them requesting people to contact TDC who own the land, as some of the structures are derelict and falling apart. Some notices were still there. Correspondence had passed between Mr Tom Phillips, Estate Manager at TDC and Sir Geoffrey Cox MP to explain the situation. District Councillor Dart had made some enquiries and would continue to do so.  
**Action: District Councillor Mrs Dart to make more enquiries.**  
  
Some residents who had recently moved to the area want to erect a shed to store their kayaks and it was suggested they contact Mr Phillips at TDC.
4. **Councillor S Hill** had received paperwork relating to the 20s Plenty Speed Limit Campaign from a resident at Parkham.  
**Action: The item to be on the February 2022 Agenda. The Clerk had received paperwork on the matter for Parkham Parish Council, and this to be forwarded to Councillors for studying.**

**2122 – 007 Planning Applications.** The following Applications were considered:

- 1/1410/2-21/FUL – proposed holiday unit – variation of condition 2 of permission 1/0135/2019/FUL – amended drawings on the plans schedule – 16 Forest Lakes, Woolsery.

Councillors gave their opinions and District Councillors informed of TDC's stance with District Councillor Dart speaking about how the right amount of housing for Torridge can be created.

**It was resolved to reply 'no comment'.**

- 1/1245/2021/FUL – Retrospective application for creation of drive way and change of use of land from agriculture to domestic for erection of domestic dog kennels / aviary (amended location plan) – Walland Barn, Bucks Cross

Councillor Salvigent gave the historic details and ahead of this meeting, she had received representations from a resident which had been circulated to Councillors. SS gave the historic details.

It was noted that details on the application form was incorrect and the question was posed that if this had been submitted as a full

application rather than a retrospective application, would planning permission have been granted and if TDC were aware of the details, would the decision have been different?

**Action:** The Clerk to draft a response and circulate to Councillors incorporating the above details.

**Planning Correspondence.** The following TDC Decision Notice was noted:

- Refusal for Application 1/0838/2021/FUL – Change of use of land to Animal Rescue Centre including erection of office building and animal shelters – land at grid reference 233424 118058, Woolsery.
- Freedom of Information Act Request to TDC in respect of Higher Town, Woolsery.

**Action:** The Clerk to follow this up with TDC as no response had been received.

**2122 – 008 Progress of Highway Issues**

**2122 – 008.1** There had been a meeting with County Councillor Wilton-Love. It was noted that Highways had posted a letter on the planning portal in respect of the property Brackenside and it was possible that Parkdene could pay for a refuge.

**2122 – 008.2 Grass cutting bid.** This had not been successful. Councillor M Hill had made further enquiries as to the reason for this and the reply was that DCC has it's own contractors whose charge was less than the amount quoted by the Parish Council's contractor.

**Action:** The Clerk to make enquiries with DCC under the Urban Highway Grass Cutting Contract to ascertain if this work would be eligible.

To be an item on the February Agenda.

The Grass Cutting Tender to be an item on the February Agenda.

**2122 – 008.3 Priority roads for 2022/23**

**Action:** the Clerk to circulate the list to Councillors and include the item on the February Agenda.

**Woolsery**

- Back Street – manhole cover. The Neighbourhood Highway Manager (NHW) had advised that after inspection, the dent does not warrant safety defect for emergency action. He believes this is a SWW asset and had referred the matter to them.

Councillor Raffie advised that the work had been done.

**Action:** Councillor Harding to check with TDC regarding a missing sign in the area.

- Merry Harriers Bends – reported. The NHM thought the problem was being caused by grass or spoil in the inlet which he would deal with when next in the area.
- Finger Post (Merry Harriers) – reported. The NHM advised the fingers had been replaced and were compliant.

**Action:** Councillor Spittles to check. She will also report that the speed limit sign at Bucks Cross was missing.

- Replacement of faulty finger posts – the fingers have been replaced

**Bucks Cross**

- Bucks Mills Signs – (1) “Slow Down, Sharp Bend” and (2) No parking in the village – update from site visit.  
The NHM advised that signing budgets are not confirmed for the new financial year yet however there are currently a high number of outstanding works to maintain existing signage and is unlikely to stretch to funding new signage. The traffic Team hold larger budgets for new signage however this is signed already at the A39 junction and this is unlikely to be progressed. Further to this installing signage at this point would require anyone to turn around on private land which is not something encouraged.
- Bucks Mills – Waterfall sign. Response from TDC – need to come up with wording.  
**Action: Councillor M Hill to speak to Janet Williams in TDC Environment Department.**
- Bucks Mills – Woodland Trust (assessment of trees) – email from the Woodland Trust refers.  
**Action: The Clerk to email the NHM regarding the fencing being replaced, copying in The Woodland Trust to enquire about funding they had set aside. Mention also to be made that the road is collapsing.**
- Bucks Mills – cattle on South West Coast Path – response from SW Coast Path – email from Lorna Sherriff refers.  
**Action: The details to be put on social media and also suggest that an alternative would be to contact the police.**

### Road Closures

**4 – 12 January 2022** – road from Fernlea to Auction Way. Works to excavate and lay new underground electricity cable to supply new works to include network reinforcement.

**7 – 11 February 2022** – road from Cranford Bridge to Farmers Arms. Closed to allow excavation of trench from electric pole.

**1 April 2022.** Repair work on overhead structure – road from Kennerland Cross to Cranford Cross, from the junction with road from Kennerland Cross to West Town Cross to the turning for Kennerland Farm.

**Action: The Clerk to email the details of this latest closure for Councillor Spittles to put on Facebook.**

- 2122 - 009 Bucks Mills First Time Sewerage Application SWW (Cllr Spittles)**  
It was understood that a decision would be made by the end of March 2022.
- 2122 - 010 Affordable Housing – Way Forward (Cllr M Hill)**  
Councillor Hill has a meeting with Westward Housing architect on 3/2/22.  
**Action: February Agenda**
- 2122 – 011 Parish Plan 2021 – updates (Cllr M Hill).**  
**Action: To be an item on the February Agenda.**
- 2122 - 012 Update from MVX Sub-Committee (Cllr Heywood)**  
There was no meeting held in January.
- 2122 - 013 Projects**  
a. Planting of Wildflowers. (Cllr Raffe & Cllr Harding) – update on sponsorship and Highways response re signs.

Councillor Raffe had approached Merry Harriers, Overly Meadow, Westcountry Nurseries and had the contact details of Springfield. Those who have replied expressed an interest in sponsoring a gateway to the village, mentioning the wild flowers or bee friendly plants that could be used, although these may not be as picturesque as less insect friendly plants.

Councillor Raffe suggested that each business create their own display to represent themselves.

The question had been asked if there were volunteers to prepare certain areas for wild planting, and raised beds. Councillor Raffe was willing to be involved and it was hoped that members of the public would wish to be involved and although Woolsery was not a problem, there was a health and safety risk at Horns Cross due to the A39.

**Action: Councillors Raffe and Harding to provide a sketch and costings with a view to the Parish Council doing this work, and the item to be on the February Agenda for further discussion.**

### **Woolsery**

- a. BT payphone and installation of a defib / electricity for bus shelter. BT's response advised that one call lasting 4 seconds had been made in September 2021. There is a good mobile signal in Woolsery and Councillors considered the payphone was no longer required.

**Proposed by Councillor Harding to adopt the telephone box in Woolsery for £1 under the Adopt a Box scheme from BT. Seconded by Councillor Raffe and unanimously agreed.**

**Action: The Clerk to enquire from TDC's Conservation Officer if this listed structure can be painted green.**

- b. Copper Hill Bus Shelter – measurement of area.

**Action: Deferred – to be an item on the February Agenda.**

### **Bucks Cross**

- a. To look at options for slats in the old bus shelter. It was decided to shelve this item and should no longer be an Agenda item.

### **2122 - 014 Parking**

- a. Copper Close Car Park – ownership (Cllr Harding re conversation with Mr Boundy).

**Action: To be an item on the February Agenda.**

### **2122 - 015 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

Councillor Harding suggested replacement gates to the church / churchyard and would obtain costs. **Action: Councillor Harding**

Other suggestions: Large screen at the Village Hall for parishioners to watch the Party at the Palace on the Saturday and a big picnic on the Sunday. It was understood that the Merry Harriers are looking to plant red, white and blue flowers at village entrances.

MXB may also wish to be involved.

**Action: Councillor Harding to put these ideas to the School and Village Hall. To be on the February Agenda.**

### **2122 - 016 Policies.** The following Policies were deferred for review:

- Equal Opportunities
- Filming
- Privacy
- Gritting

**Action: February Agenda**

**2122 - 017 Finances**

**Payments to be authorised:**

**Proposed by Councillor Harding, seconded by Councillor Raffe and unanimously agreed.**

a. Lisa Hutchings	December 2021	£ 439.68
b. HMRC 20% tax	December 2021	£ 109.92
c. Councillor Allowances 2021		£1,439.94
d. Robert Stoneman Grass Cutting		£1,250.00
e. SLCC Membership		£ 112.00
f. Community Heartbeat Trust (late invoice received) for replacement Woolsery defibrillator pads		£ 58.50

**Income and Bank Account Balances**

NatWest Current Account:	<b>£2,786.55</b>
NatWest Reserve account:	<b>£20,530.03</b>

**Setting of Precept 2022/23**

**Proposed by Councillor M Hill to increase the Precept by 3% from £14,566 to £15,002.**

**Seconded by Councillor Spittles and unanimously agreed.**

**Proposed by Councillor Harding to agree the 2022/23 Budget.**

**Seconded by Councillor Raffe and unanimously agreed.**

**2122 - 018 Correspondence received.**

**2122 – 018.1** The Headteacher of Woolsery School wishes to give a presentation at the February regarding Federating with Parkham / Buckland Brewer School. Agreed.

**2122 – 018.2 RPII Play Area Operational Inspector Training opportunity. *Noted.***

**2122 – 019 Date and time of next meeting:** Tuesday, 15 February 2022 at Bucks Cross Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.53pm.

**Summary of Decisions:**

- **Planning Applications**
- **Purchase of Woolsery telephone box under BT's Adopt a Box scheme**
- **Payments**
- **2022/23 Precept and Budget**

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**Chairman**

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**Date**