

Minutes of Woolserly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 21 November 2023 in Woolserly Sports and Community Hall at 7.30pm.

Chaired by: Councillor L Spittles	Clerked by: Mrs Sue Squire	
<p>Present: Councillors</p> <p>B Beech D Hancock S Harding (District Councillor) S Hill S Salvidant L Spittles</p> <p>County Councillor J Wilton Love</p> <p>4 Members of the public</p>	<p>Agenda: -</p> <p>Public Comment Session Apologies Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interests Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17/10/23 to be approved and signed as a true and accurate record Clerk's Report Reports from County, District & Parish Councillors Planning Neighbourhood Plan – Housing Survey Finances To consider a response to items raised under the Public Session Correspondence Christmas Tree Distribution of black refuse bags Date and time of next meeting</p>	
		Action:
<p>23/24.96 23/24.96.1 23/24.96.2 23/24.96.3 23/24.96.4 23/24.96.5 23/24.96.6</p>	<p>Public Comment Session.</p> <p>Numbers of members of the public attended were not recorded in the Minutes of 17/10/23. This would be dealt with under Minute No. 23/24.99.</p> <p>Potholes. The road from Woolserly to Bradworthy was in a bad condition. The resident had spoken to a Bradworthy Parish Councillor who informed that the Parish Council had been advised that nothing would be done until 2025. The resident asked what DCC were doing with the funding set aside to repair potholes. County Councillor Wilton-Love advised he would respond in his report under Minute No. 23/24.101.1</p> <p>Cars speeding through the village. This would be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p>There is no report from the Parish Council in the Parish News. The resident was advised that details were sent. The Clerk to enquire why it is not being included.</p> <p>Minutes. A resident asked why the draft Minutes are not on the website. The Chairman replied that this was because Councillors have chosen not to do this, the decision of the Council is that they are published after they have been approved.</p> <p>When are the road markings going to be refreshed. This would be discussed later in the meeting.</p>	<p></p> <p align="center">Clerk</p>
<p>23/24.97</p>	<p>Apologies. Councillors R Heywood (unwell), M Hill (work commitments), District Councillor Dart.</p>	
<p>23/24.98</p>	<p>Declarations of Personal / Prejudicial Interest for items on the Agenda. Councillor Spittles declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 91.1 (c) – reimbursement of postage costs.</p>	

23/24. 99	<p>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 October 2023 to be approved and signed as a true and accurate record after it was noted that four members of the public were present.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor S Hill Seconded by Councillor S Harding and unanimously agreed.</p>	
23/24. 100	<p>Clerk's Report:</p>	
23/24. 100.1	<p>Virtual pavement. DCC had been requested to reinstate this and the faded white lines.</p> <p>A reply from Highways has been received as follows: <i>Just to make you aware that technically the areas within Woolserly are not designated virtual footways (no pedestrian symbols or signage). Virtual footways are not supported by DCC's policy. The white lines are known as "edge of carriageway markers" and the Neighbourhood Highway Manager will raise these to the non-safety lining team to refresh. However, with these not being a defect, no delivery timeframe can be offered.</i></p> <p><i>As for the High Speed Friction from Farmers Arms, this is not something which would be renewed.</i></p> <p>Councillor Beech advised that he had spoken to previous Parish Council Chairman in post when the virtual pavement was agreed. Councillor Beech felt this facility fell into making Woolserly safe.</p>	
23/24. 100.2	<p>South West Water First Time Sewerage Application – letter from parishioner acknowledged noting the Parish Council would like any response from SWW to be shared with the Parish Council.</p> <p>An update was given by the Clerk who has been in email correspondence with the parishioner.</p> <p>The next step for us from SWW is for them to organise a consultation with the residents. Having heard nothing from them since their initial reply, I sent them a chasing email last week, to which I have not had a reply yet.</p> <p>Councillor Salvidant advised that the parishioner had contacted her advising that SWW had replied, as follows: <i>We are currently in the process of designing the First Time Sewerage scheme. When we have a final design we will be arranging a session with all residents to go through the design and the expected timeline.</i></p> <p>A letter from the Environmental Protection Officer at TDC was noted advising that he is leaving his role and giving the details of the future person to contact.</p>	
23/24. 101	<p>Reports from County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Councillors</p>	
23/24. 101.1	<p>County Councillor J Wilton-Love:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Neighbourhood Highway Officer, Kieran Stanbury is leaving his post to take up another within DCC. The new Neighbourhood Highway Officer appointed will be in post on a temporary basis and shadowed by Kieran Stanbury. ▪ Virtual Pavement. County Councillor Locality budgets had been cut in half, but he was willing to make a contribution towards renewing it. There is a pot of money specifically for road markings throughout the County for rural areas but the renewal of it will take time, due to resources. Councillor Hancock had noted that in the reply, DCC Highways had said it was a 'non safety defect' and felt it should be pointed out that the virtual pavement had been there for a long time and residents are now used to it, and it was not considered it was a safety defect. Councillor S Hill asked how DCC can stick to their Policy, but yet they are wanting safety. There are no pavements, more traffic and more people in Woolserly. 	<p>JWL will get costings to reinstall the virtual pavement</p>

	<p>Councillor Wilton-Love advised it was considered a non safety defect because there is no signage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potholes. The information given about no repairs until 2025 is incorrect. Most of DCC’s budget goes on social care, but there has been more money allocated to repair potholes. <p>The meeting was advised that the Chairman had received a letter from Sir Geoffrey Cox MP KC encouraging people to sign a constituency-wide Parliamentary Petition regarding the state of the roads in the Torridge and West Devon area. A Parliamentary Petition is a formal process, which must obey certain rules and is formally presented by him to the House of Commons and the Speaker on the floor of the Chamber of the House. It is recorded in Hansard and the Government is obliged to formally respond to the Petition. The Petition is required by 29 January 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEN (Special Educational Needs) within Devon has been failing in recent years but the latest CQC (Care Quality Commission) Report was positive. There are now more permanent staff and coming to live in the County and it is hoped that by this time next year, a ‘satisfactory’ grading will have been achieved. Funding from central government has been obtained which will result in the Council being in a much better financial position. 	
<p>23/24. 101.2</p>	<p>District Councillor Harding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full Council ratified policies for housing ▪ Talk from TDC Leader about the levelling up meeting in London, where a team of auditors are coming to identify to needs for TDC and it will be known by June 2024 what to aim for ▪ At the External Scrutiny Committee, it was reported that Harland and Wolfe is increasing the workforce at their Appledore Shipyard ▪ At the Area Advisory Group meeting, a speaker talked about her work with Devon Communities Together and there was also a brief talk about the Strategic Plan from the Chief Executive Officer. These group meetings have started again pre-Covid and Parishes can email questions and have a say even if no one attends. 	
<p>23/24. 101.3</p>	<p>M Hill Play area in the village. To report on a Working Group / liaison with Councillor Harding. Minute No. 23/24.101.8 refers.</p> <p>Affordable Housing Attendance at Area Advisory Group meeting. Councillor Harding had reported on this earlier in the meeting.</p>	
<p>23/24. 101.4</p>	<p>B Beech (1) Community Speed Watch.</p> <p>⇒ Three residents, in addition to Councillor Beech, are official members of the Woolserly Parish Community Speed Watch Team, having successfully passed the first part of the training and the relevant Certificates have been issued.</p> <p>The team is fully operative and all have been issued with kit which belongs to the Community Speedwatch Team.</p> <p>Councillor Beech was concerned about being responsible for the equipment.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.</i> It was clarified that the equipment provided by Devon and Cornwall Police had not given this to the Parish Council, and the resident will be responsible for it. It had been made clear by the Police that when Speed Watch sessions are organised, it is not necessary to notify anyone except the Police either before or afterwards.</p>	

	<p>Standing Orders were reinstated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ National Road Safety Week – 19-25 November. Email circulated to Councillors by Councillor Beech on 31/10/23. ⇒ Community Speedwatch Newsletter. Email circulated to Councillors by Councillor Beech on 17/10/23. ⇒ The situation at Bucks Cross was discussed where potential speed watch signs had been looked at. The team had been asked if they wanted to view it as a potential site, which they did not but the area could be revisited. It was felt that the 40mph signs were not very clear. <p>Standing Orders were suspended to enable a member of the public to speak. The meeting was advised that the areas considered were not being done sequentially.</p> <p>Standing Orders were reinstated.</p> <p>Councillor Spittles advised that this matter had been discussed for years and nothing has even been done. Councillor Beech felt whole area needs to be viewed by Police for alternative arrangements. Councillor Hancock suggested that the Parish Council registers its concerns. County Councillor Wilton-Love had visited the area and was aware of the problems, adding that if the Police designate it a dangerous area, DCC is liable.</p> <p>Councillor Beech had received a message from PCSO Rendle advising that PC 10428 Bennett is the Road Casualty Reduction Officer who has a background in traffic. PCSO Rendle had advised him that Councillor Beech would be in contact.</p> <p>(2) Parking problems in Manor Park. This item was deferred until the January 2024 meeting pending paperwork to be circulated by Councillor Beech.</p> <p>(3) North Devon Link Road Closure between North Aller and the Landkey Junction. Email correspondence with the Public Liaison Officer at Griffiths Contractors. <i>Noted.</i></p>	
<p>23/24. 101.5</p>	<p>D Hancock. Dog Bins / Notices. There was no update to give and the bins had not been moved.</p> <p>Separately, he had noticed water coming out from the pipe at The Manor discharging directly onto the road and into the drain.</p>	<p>DH to speak to MXB</p>
<p>23/24. 101.6</p>	<p>S Harding. Nothing to report as all covered under his District Councillor Report.</p>	
<p>23/24. 101.7</p>	<p>R Heywood</p> <p>(1) Bus Shelter at East Park. Update on liaising with the bus company</p> <p>(2) Disputed landownership bordering Woolsery’s Manor House Deferred to the December Meeting when it was hoped Councillor Heywood would be present.</p>	<p>December Agenda</p>
<p>23/24. 101.8</p>	<p>S Hill</p> <p>(1) Grit bin location at Cranford. Councillor Heywood to report on his discussion with the Moore family. This item was deferred pending more information from Councillor Heywood.</p> <p>(2) She is now dealing with the play area and is liaising with people to arrange a suitable meeting.</p> <p>(3) Petition from Geoffrey Cox. This had been mentioned under County Councillor Wilton-Love’s Report. The MP had sent the letter to the Chairman and the Petition is to be publicized encouraging people to sign it.</p>	<p>December Agenda</p>

	<p>Councillor S Hill will arrange for it to be in various public buildings to give residents the opportunity to sign it.</p> <p>Along with the Petition, there was also correspondence regarding Levelling Up Partnership Priorities, where the deadline to respond was by 30 November. Five priorities had been suggested and Councillors were given the opportunity to vote for each one, with the result as follows:</p> <p>A. The restoration of the Bideford-Barnstaple Railway Line. 0</p> <p>B. The expansion of the Holsworthy Agri-business Centre as a hub for Agri industry. 1</p> <p>C. The redevelopment of the former Taddiport Creamery Site. 0</p> <p>D. The creation of a Bideford Maritime Heritage area, including historic ships and a Maritime Heritage Centre. 6</p> <p>E. The rejuvenation of Bideford, Northam, Torrington and Holsworthy town centres with a town centre improvement scheme and special retail zones. 5</p> <p>There was the opportunity to suggest other items and the following to be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspension of car parking charges to encourage people to use the towns. - Rejuvenate town centres with young people in mind. <p>Sir Geoffrey's letter also had a paragraph regarding Royal Mail Letter Post and Broadband. Councillor S Hill will speak to Councillor Heywood regarding this, following on from Councillor Heywood's letter to Ofcom.</p>	<p>Clerk to reply</p> <p>SH</p>
23/24. 101.9	L Spittles – no items to raise.	
23/24. 101.10	<p>S Salvidant Planning Application for The Log House, Higher Town Farm, Woolsery.</p> <p>Councillor Salvidant had been in correspondence with the applicant who emailed her in this connection, who had hoped that a Parish Councillor could call in the application. The member of the public was informed that no individual Parish Councillor can do this and the application has to go through the normal planning process.</p> <p>Separate to the above, Councillor Salvidant reported that the previous weekend, there had been a large working party who grouted the sea wall at Bucks Mills. The working party had been trained by TDC officers to do the grouting which took 4 – 5 hours while the tide was out.</p>	
23/24. 101.11	<p>Police. The PCSO was hoping to attend but due to other circumstances, was unable to. She hopes to come to a meeting early in 2024. Meanwhile, the crime figures for the last 3 months have been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 criminal damage 2 public order 1 domestic related 1 driving related 1 harassment 1 assault <p>This is the link to the Bideford Neighbourhood Police Team page https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/area/your-area/devon-cornwall/north--west-devon/westward-ho-northam--appledore-hartland-rural/about-us/our-priorities</p>	
23/24. 102	Planning.	
23/24. 102.1	<p>The following applications were considered:</p> <p>1/1034/2023/FUL – Extension to dwelling and associated works at 10 South Park, Woolsery.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Spittles to respond 'no comment'.</p>	

	<p>Seconded by Councillor S Hill and unanimously agreed.</p> <p>1/1118/2023/FUL – Proposed single storey extensions side and rear including alterations – Gorley, Bucks Cross, Bideford. Proposed by Councillor Spittles to respond ‘no comment’. Seconded by Councillor Harding and unanimously agreed.</p>																
23/24. 102.3	<p>Planning Correspondence: Decisions, Enforcement & Appeals.</p> <p>Withdrawn application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application 1/0666/2023/FUL – construction of 1 no. dwelling at land at Higher Ashmansworthy, Woolserly. <p>The following TDC Decision Notices were noted:</p> <p>Approvals for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application 1/0450/2023/FUL – erection of agricultural storage shed – land at Grid Reference 233923 121156, Woolserly. - Application 1/0901/2023/FUL – Part retrospective application for the use of building to house 150 kW biomass boiler and installation of flue to serve existing residential units at Lane Barton, Woolserly. - Application 1/1158/2022/FUL – Erection of 4 no. holiday lodges (additional drainage and amended red edge) – land at Merry Harriers, Woolserly. <p>Refusal for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application 1/0919/2023/FUL – Retention of lodge for use as dwelling – The Log House, Higher Town Farm, Woolserly. 																
23/24. 103	Neighbourhood Plan – Housing Survey. Deferred to the December Meeting.	December Agenda															
23/24. 104	Finances.																
23/24. 104.1	<p>Sue Squire:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">(a) November 2023 salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£480.62</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses (broadband/photocopying/mileage)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 16.50</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£497.12</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>The expenses amount had not been included on the Agenda and in the circumstances, a separate approval was carried out:</i></p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Spittles to approve the sum of £497.32, seconded by Councillor Salvidant and unanimously agreed.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">(b) HMRC PAYE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£120.20</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>(c) Cllr Spittles. Reimbursement for cost of sending defibrillator for recycling. £6.99</p> <p>Councillor Spittles declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item, left the room and did not take part in the discussion, decision or voting thereon.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Harding that Councillor S Hill chaired this part of the meeting, seconded by Councillor Hancock and unanimously agreed. Proposed by Councillor Harding to approve the payment, seconded by Councillor Hancock and unanimously agreed.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">(d) Woolserly Sports and Community Hall. September Meeting and planning meeting organised by District Councillor Harding</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£28.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">(e) It was noted that 123 Reg has taken the annual domain name fee by direct debit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£14.39</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Items B and D, proposed for approval and payment by Councillor Spittles, seconded by Councillor Hancock and unanimously agreed.</p>	(a) November 2023 salary	£480.62		Expenses (broadband/photocopying/mileage)	£ 16.50	£497.12	(b) HMRC PAYE	£120.20		(d) Woolserly Sports and Community Hall. September Meeting and planning meeting organised by District Councillor Harding	£28.00		(e) It was noted that 123 Reg has taken the annual domain name fee by direct debit	£14.39		
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23/24. 101.2	<p>(f) Balances:</p> <p>NatWest Current Account as at 21/11/23: £6,361.25 NatWest Savings Account as at 21/11/23: £19,702.59. <i>Interest £25.01 (31/10/23)</i></p> <p>NatWest Current Account as at 17/10/23: £6,964.07 NatWest Savings Account as at 17/10/23: £19,677.58 <i>Interest £23.18</i></p>	
23/24. 102	<p>To consider a response to items raised under the Public Session. All items had previously been covered.</p>	
23/24. 103	<p>Correspondence received. Emails from various agencies have been forwarded to Councillors.</p>	
23/24. 103.1	<p>RNLI – Review of Clovelly Lifeboat Station. A letter was noted which had been circulated to Councillors, advising there are no plans to close the Lifeboat Station at this time.</p>	
23/24. 103.2	<p>Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Consultation. Email, with poster, circulated to Councillors on 1/11/23. The consultation is running until 30/11/23.</p>	
23/24. 103.3	<p>Devon County Council Public Rights of Way (P3). Email received and circulated to Councillors on 9/11/23 with an update on coordination arrangements for the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme.</p>	
23/24. 104	<p>Christmas Tree. Councillors to agree that a Christmas Tree is purchased from Stacey's Christmas Trees, as in past years.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor S Hill, seconded by Councillor Spittles and unanimously agreed.</p>	<p>Clerk to order and make arrangements for delivery</p>
23/24. 105	<p>Distribution of black refuse bags in early 2024. This initiative was discussed and it was noted that when the bags were distributed in February 2023, the alternative suggestion was for bike stands at Woolserly Sports and Community Hall. It was felt that this facility would be something that the Hall Committee may wish to consider and Councillor S Hill to approach them.</p> <p>Councillor S Hill had prepared a comparison of costings which were circulated to Councillors.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>Deferred to the Dec Meeting for a decision to be made</p>
23/24. 106	<p>Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 7.30pm at Woolserly Sports and Social Club.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.57pm.</p>	
<p>Summary of Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 October 2023 ➤ Planning ➤ Payments ➤ That Councillor S Hill chair the meeting for part of the Finance item ➤ Purchase of a Christmas Tree 		
<p>These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.</p>		
<p>Signed: Chair of Parish Council.</p>	<p>Date:</p>	