

Minutes of Woolserly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 March 2024 in Woolserly Sports & Community Hall at 7pm.

Chaired by: Councillor M Hill	Clerked by: Mrs Sue Squire
Present: Councillors D Hancock from Minute No. 23/24.144.2 M Hill S Hill S Salvidant L Spittles 3 Members of the public	Agenda: - Time set aside to discuss a proposed play area at Old Market Drive Public Comment Session Apologies Declarations of Interest for items on the Agenda Clerk, County, District & Parish Councillor Reports Planning Finance To consider a response to items raised under the Public Session Correspondence Annual Parish Meeting Date and time of next meeting
	Action:
23/24.143	<p>A time had been set aside to allow members of the public to air their views about a proposed play area at Old Market Drive.</p> <p>Councillor M Hill informed the meeting that the grass area at Old Market Drive was owned by the Parish Council. It had previously been suggested that due to parking problems at Old Market Drive, that 2 – 3 metres of the outside strip of the road be taken for car parking. It had then been ascertained that 2 metres in from the hedge, there is the distribution hub for the power cables to the properties and because it would cost between £3,000 and £4,000 to move it, this was unaffordable and the idea was dropped.</p> <p>A further idea was to put a low fence on the edge of the green to prevent people from parking there. Leading on from that, there was a suggestion of picnic tables.</p> <p>Councillor Spittles advised that a previous Parish Survey had identified a lack of play equipment in the village and this was now a priority since the Primary School field was no longer available as a recreational facility.</p> <p>A recent online Woolserly village playpark questionnaire resulted in 97 people responding, all of whom wanted something with 10% offering help. There were many comments about the proposed play area not being in the right place on the grounds, that it was too small, and other comments about the type of equipment people thought would be suitable.</p> <p>The Parish Council does not own any other land or buildings apart from the green area at Old Market Drive in response to a question as to whether the Parish Council owned the Sports and Community Hall. If the Community Hall Committee decided to provide a play area on the land surrounding the Hall, the Parish Council would support the idea.</p> <p>A resident, representing a family member who works nights and sleeps during the day felt that the area was too residential for a play area, too close to the houses, near a busy road and close to the School and in the wrong place.</p> <p>A question was asked about why the School field was no longer being used and was advised it was a decision taken by the Governing Body.</p> <p>Councillor M Hill considered there would be merit in opening up a discussion with the School and Governors again. The problem is access and the problem of vandalism and insurance cover. The Parish Council had already ascertained that its insurance could not cover property and land it does not own.</p>

	<p>The School field was owned by the Parish Council at one time and the understanding was when the ownership passed to the School in trust in the 1980s, that there would be public access outside of School hours which had continued until Summer 2023 when the field was closed to the public.</p> <p>It was appreciated that there had been cycles of vandalism throughout this time period and there was now the added the risk of damage to the new polytunnels used by the School and it was pointed out that the Parish Council has no control over the decisions taken by the School.</p> <p>Historic details were spoken about, including Parish Council Minutes and their storage.</p> <p>Councillor Salvivant brought examples of low tables suitable for toddlers with games on the top from NBB Recycled Furniture which was of interest. If the project went ahead, the surrounding trees would require pollarding.</p> <p>This part of the meeting ended at 7.43pm and the full Parish Council meeting began.</p>	
23/24. 144	Public Comment Session.	
23/24. 144.1	Representations regarding a blocked drain which had previously been reported by the resident and received a reference number. The parishioner contacted the Clerk who in turn directly got in touch with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer. The site was inspected on 29/2/24 and appropriate instructions was passed to the contractor as a priority. The resident was kept up to date with the situation.	
23/24. 144.2	Potholes. The parishioner was advised that as previously informed at every meeting when they make representations about potholes, that the Parish Council cannot do anything about it. It is not in the Parish Council's remit and that advised on numerous occasions, they should report the details to DCC Highways either via the website or by telephone.	
23/24. 144.3	Drains near the Manor. The same parishioner raised this and was advised that the problem had been reported to DCC Highways by Councillor Hancock and the Clerk and the Neighbourhood Highways Officer was waiting for further instructions from his line manager.	
23/24. 144.4	Track to Dipple Farm is practically impassable. The parishioner was advised that it was hoped the state of the roads Petition organised by Sir Geoffrey Cox MP KC would be presented to Parliament shortly.	
23/24. 144.5	Village News. The parishioner had previously complained that reports of Parish Council meetings were not included. This was no longer the case and details were included. The parishioner now complained that Councillors names and contact details were not in the Village News.	Clerk to send the details for inclusion
23/24. 145	Apologies. Councillors B Beech (unwell), R Heywood (working commitments).	
23/24. 146	Declaration of Personal / Prejudicial Interest for items on the Agenda. Councillor S Hill declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 23/24.151.1.	
23/24. 147	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 February 2024. Approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Councillor Spittles Secoded by Councillor Hancock and unanimously agreed.	
23/24. 148	Clerk's Report.	

23/24. 148.1	Sinking Drain Cover. Councillor Hancock had provided the What3Words reference enabling the problem to be reported to DCC Highways.	
23/24. 148.2	A Report of the February Parish Council Meeting was sent to the editor of the Village News on 21/2/24. A reminder was sent to the editor on 28/2/24 to check it had been received and that the Report would be included in the March edition. This had been confirmed.	
23/24. 148.3	Telegraph pole opposite the entrance to All Hallows Church. A reminder had been sent to BT with a copy of the original letter for ease of reference.	
23/24. 148.4	Planning responses submitted.	
23/24. 148.5	Payments made.	
23/24. 148.6	Parking problems in Manor Park. Details of a response from the Neighbourhood Highways officer had been circulated to Councillors.	
23/24. 148.7	<p>Dog bins. TDC had been advised of the What3Words reference, supplied by Councillor Hancock, showing the correct locations.</p> <p>There continued to be representations from parishioners about the locations.</p> <p>Standing Orders were lifted to allow a member of the public to speak about the dangerous location of the bin at the end of Manor Park.</p> <p>Standing Orders were reinstated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The bin at Old Market Drive to remain in place ▪ The bin at Copper Hill to be moved to the end of the pavement which runs out on the left hand side ▪ The bin at Manor Park (East Park entrance) to go back to its original position. ▪ The bin at Manor Park (Copper Hill entrance) to be moved towards the Clovelly entrance to the village. ▪ The Clerk to ask TDC why the additional bin requested for Bucks Mills has not been supplied 	DH will send W3W ref to the Clerk to advise TDC Clerk / MH will provide map
23/24. 148.8	<p>Water coming from the pipe at The Manor. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had inspected and sent a report which had been circulated to Councillors. A reply from the Neighbourhood Highways Officer's line manager is awaited as to the next step.</p> <p>A reminder to be sent as due to a high volume of rain, the water is beginning to erode the road surface.</p>	Clerk
23/24. 148.9	Grass being churned up on the verge at Manor Park as a result of road closures / diversions in the village. A reply from the Neighbourhood Highway Officer had been circulated to Councillors.	
23/24. 148.10	Grass Cutting Contract. It has been established that this expires in 2025.	
23/24. 148.11	Log House Appeal Representations submitted to the Planning Inspectorate's website.	
23/24. 148.12	South Park Fence. Written to Westward Housing as instructed and informed the resident. No reply had been received and a reminder to be sent.	Clerk
23/24. 149	Reports from County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Councillors.	
23/24. 149.1	<p>County Councillor J Wilton-Love. Not present, no apologies or Report received.</p> <p>Councillor M Hill will telephone the County Councillor and request that he attends the next meeting.</p>	MH

23/24. 149.2	District Councillors. None present, no apologies sent or Report received.	
23/24. 149.3	Parish Councillors	
23/24. 149.3.1	M Hill. Issues covered elsewhere in the meeting.	
23/24. 149.3.2	B Beech. Items deferred. (1) Community Speed Watch. (2) Parking problems in Manor Park.	April Agenda
23/24. 149.3.3	D Hancock. He and Councillor S Hill had walked around the village so that a village map could be populated showing areas of concern regarding road junction markings, signs, virtual pavements and parking issues. It had been noted that there is a ransom strip at Manor Park, opposite East Park as a potential space to make a lay by for approximately 3 vehicles which would help the parking problems and be a potential solution for cars parked too close to the junction. Standing Orders were lifted for a member of the public to advise that the cars were parked so far up Manor Park, that a fire engine could not get through. Standing Orders were reinstated. Bus stop. A discussion took place and it was acknowledged there were a number of enquiries that needed to take place before this could progress.	S Hill to provide marked up map the Clerk to request site meeting of Road Safety Officers
23/24. 149.3.4	S Harding. Not present. Play Area	
23/24. 149.3.4	R Heywood. Not present. Deferred to the next meeting. (1) Bus Shelter at East Park (2) Disputed landownership bordering Woolsery's Manor House (3) Occupation of field next to the Potting Shed	April Agenda
23/24. 149.3.5	S Hill (1) Royal Mail letter post and Broadband (in liaison with Councillor Heywood). This had been done with the original email factored in. (2) Report on distribution of black bags / community day on Saturday, 2 March 2024 between 10am and 12 noon at Woolsery Sports and Community Hall. The event had been well supported and all bags given out. Names to be checked for a future similar event to prevent duplication. (3) Map of the village highlighting highway issues is being prepared to send to the Clerk who will then request a site meeting with the Road Safety Officers of Devon and Cornwall Police and DCC Highways. Covered under Minute No. 23/24.149.3. Standing Orders were lifted to allow a parishioner to enquire if a bus shelter had been approved. They were advised that the Parish Council was trying to find a suitable space. Standing Orders were reinstated.	
23/24. 149.3.6	S Salvidant (1) The grit bin had been moved as requested. (2) An email had been received regarding a mud slide and was circulated to Councillors on 18/3/24. A working party may have to be formed as all the mud has to be removed.	

	<p>Of related concern is the cliff path to the beach due to an historic major slip and recent excess rainfall.</p> <p>The gabions on the left of the cliff path towards the slipway look as if they are bowing.</p> <p>TDC to be advised and a request made that the officers who make checks attend earlier than the next scheduled visit in case of a serious problem. The What3Words reference of reliving.pilots.local to be supplied.</p>	Clerk						
23/24. 149.3.7	<p>L Spittles</p> <p>During the black bag distribution morning, people attempted to collect bags for holiday lets. A discussion ensued about holiday lets being lived in all year round and some in the Parish using TDC services such as refuse collections.</p> <p>As a result of the above, the Clerk to contact TDC to advise that full black refuse bins are left outside of holiday let properties up to nearly a week before the next collection and the question to be asked as to whether the properties are registered for Council Tax and if they check holiday lets with a 12 month licence to see if they have people living in them on a permanent basis.</p>	Clerk						
23/24. 150	Planning							
23/24. 150.1	<p>The following Application was considered:</p> <p>1/0159/20224/FUL – Erection of an extension and external alterations – Whispering Winds, Bucks Cross.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Spittles to respond ‘no comment’.</p> <p>Seconded by Councillor S Hill and unanimously agreed.</p>	Clerk						
23/24. 150.2	Planning Correspondence: Decisions, Enforcement & Appeals. None.							
23/24. 151	Finance							
23/24. 151.1	<p><u>Payments to be authorised:</u></p> <p>Councillor S Hill declared a Prejudicial Interest, left the room and did not take part in the discussion, decision or voting thereon.</p> <p>Councillor Hancock proposed approval of the payments.</p> <p>Seconded by Councillor Spittles and agreed.</p> <p>a. Sue Squire:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">March 2024 salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£480.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Expenses (broadband/photocopying/mileage)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 16.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£497.12</td> </tr> </table> <p>b. HMRC PAYE £120.20</p> <p>c. Cllr S Hill. Reimbursement for community morning refreshments £ 21.98</p> <p>d. <u>Income and Bank Account Balances.</u> These were not available at the time of the meeting and would be advised to Councillors.</p>	March 2024 salary	£480.62	Expenses (broadband/photocopying/mileage)	£ 16.50		£497.12	Clerk
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23/24. 152	To consider a response to items raised under the Public Session. None.							
23/24. 153	Correspondence received. Emails from various agencies have been forwarded to Councillors.							
23/24. 153.1	<p>Devon County Council / Torbay Council Devolution Deal.</p> <p>The Clerk attended a Zoom presentation on 27/2/24, organised by the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC).</p> <p>The DALC has followed up the presentation with a recording of the event which was circulated to Councillors on 28/2/24 and on 29/2/24, the DALC’s response to the consultation was made available and circulated to Councillors.</p>							

	<p>The following response to be sent:</p> <p>Woolserly Parish Council in the Torridge District Council area has concerns that 3 Councillors from Torbay and 3 from Devon are proposed. As Devon is much larger than Torbay, it was felt that more Councillors should represent Devon.</p> <p>Parish Councils had not been included in the discussions and many delegates representing this third tier of government were unhappy about this, feeling that the proposals put forward had been made without the voice of Parish Councils being heard, which, it has to be said, form a large part of the local government network in Devon.</p> <p>It was felt important that the view from rural Devon was considered, made up from a majority of villages, hamlets and settlements compared to the towns such as Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington, Holsworthy, Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth, Tavistock, Crediton and the City of Exeter.</p> <p>There are far more Parishes scattered around Devon whose demographics should be taken into account.</p> <p>Woolserly Parish Councillors also felt that the emphasis is far too southern county based geographically.</p> <p>There are more questions than answers. Please come back when you have a proper plan where all the questions can be answered together with an explanation of the defined benefits for all the area in Devon.</p> <p>Yet again, the north of the County has been ignored, always the poor cousin, and should be addressed. The north western part of the county has been marginalised once again.</p>	Clerk
23/24. 154	<p>Annual Parish Meeting. The suggestion has been made that this meeting, to be held between 1 March and 1 June each year, is held on a separate evening to a Parish Council meeting and for organisations to be invited to have a table to promote themselves using resources and props, to make it a more social evening, with refreshments.</p> <p>Councillors welcomed this idea and the Clerk to book Woolserly Sports and Community Hall for Tuesday, 14 May 2024 at 7.30pm and invite village organisations to participate.</p>	Clerk
23/24. 155	<p>Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 16 April 2024 at Bucks Cross Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.09pm.</p>	
<p>Summary of Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 February 2024 ➤ Planning ➤ Payments 		
<p>These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.</p>		
Signed: Chair of Woolserly Parish Council.	Date:	