

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HORRABRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018, 7.30PM, AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

(also available at [www.horrabridge-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.horrabridge-pc.gov.uk/))

**PRESENT:** Cllrs, P Beard (Chair), A Minns, A Moorhead, C Edmondson, M Huda, D Keane, E Hemsil, S Roche  
Ms S Honey (Clerk), D Cloke (WDBC) Plus 12 members of the public

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and made an announcement regarding the Public Participation Policy (PPP). He explained that the PPP had not proven very successful and so the Council were suspending the policy under SO 11.3, for 6 months until May 2019 and that the Council would now revert back to the previously used;

### **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

1. Mr Sweetinburgh asked if the Council would produce certain paperwork associated with the sale of Walkham Meadows back in 2016. He also requested details surrounding a payment he believed had been made to the Council from a Solicitor regarding the sale, the related invoice, the internal auditors report of the time and a presumed discrepancy made in the accounts of that time. Cllrs Roche and Hemsil explained that the Solicitor payment had been made between the solicitors of both parties as is the norm in such transactions and that the Council had not received any cheque for the transaction and that these enquiries had already been answered a long time ago. Mr Sweetinburgh suggested that the Council would be hearing from the Court in due course.
2. Mr A Berry asked if his email query would be addressed; enquiring whether *individual* Councillors had received any requests from parishioners during the months of June through to August 2018. Cllr Roche explained that both he and the Clerk had already replied to Mr Berry's email of the same and had also emailed the query to councillors direct. Cllr Roche asked all the Council then and there if they had received any individual queries during the given dates. All replied they **had not received** any queries or requests from parishioners during the dates in question. Cllr Roche said the only queries the Council had received lately were two; Mr Berry's and Mrs McGavin.
3. One member of the public questioned Cllr Roche's answer to Mr Berry but he replied that any questions that cannot be answered at a meeting will be included and answered at the next scheduled month's meeting.
4. Mr Sweetinburgh then returned to his original query but Cllr Roche produced an email dated 6th December 2016 time; 14.15pm and read this out for all to hear in reply to one of Mr Sweetinburgh's queries. Mr Sweetinburgh started to ask another question but the Chairman called an end to the session.

### **043:18/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr D Moyle (WDBC), Cllr P Sanders (WDBC) and T Lear

### **044:18/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **045:18/19 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2018 were **agreed** as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed by C Edmondson, seconded by D Keane.

### **046:18/19 APPOINTMENT OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Under Rule 8 of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rule 1986, the Council is now able to fill the casual vacancy for 3 HORRABRIDGE councillors by co-option.

**No applications had been received.**

### **047:18/19 PLANNING**

0505/18 Proposed extension to Heather Lea, Plymouth road. Cllr Roche explained that the application had been discussed at the recent Planning Meeting and that the Council had **supported** the application.

0411/18 Magpie Leisure Park Cllr Roche provided an update informing everyone that there had been lots of objections online. However, Dartmoor National Park were apparently very busy and had not issued any new information as yet.

#### **048:18/19 PROGRESS REPORTS**

##### Horrabridge Rangers Sports Association

Cllr E Hemsil informed everyone that the Trustee had now been changed to the Parish Council. The finances transferred were under £500 with expenditure at approximately £30 /£40 per month. Cllrs M Huda and E Hemsil had arranged a meeting, scheduled for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October where they would be asking if any money had been paid for the use of the pitches.

##### Play Equipment in the Park

The Chairman said the play equipment had been ordered with delivery expected near half term.

##### Hedge Cutting

Cllr A Moorhead reported that the work was now booked for this week and that the Handyman would be needed to help tidy up after.

##### Pavilion Project

As the Council were undecided as to the detail and specification of the project and whether to engage an architect to inspect the building as it was and rebuild or build from new; the item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **049:18/19 OPEN DAY TO DISCUSS FLOOD RISK ISSUES**

The Council noted that an Open Day had been arranged for Tuesday 20 November in the Village Hall to discuss flood risk issues; time 4.00pm to 7.00pm.

#### **050:18/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Cllr Roche explained that the PPP had been suggested as a good idea by the Internal Auditor in May 2018; however, it did not seem to be working well and so the Standing Orders (SO) would be readdressed after 6 months (as required by SO's ) in May 2019.

Parishioners would still be able to ask questions under the previous system and **Cllr Minns proposed** the Council return to the original, 20 minutes before and 10 minutes after each meeting but to include a limit on speaking time. Cllr Huda seconded the proposal. The Council **all agreed** the motion.

#### **051:18/19 BURIAL COSTS**

Cllr Hemsil explained that a new schedule of costs had been compiled earlier in the year but had not been agreed by the Council. The Council **agreed to defer** the item to the next meeting when the new costs would be considered.

#### **052:18/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitor

The bank reconciliation (App A) and payment list (App B), dated 30 September 2018, was reviewed and the following payments **approved**.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
PKF Littlejohns	28/09/2018	External Audit Services	360.00
Stevensons	14/09/2018	Crockery for V Hall	152.65
CiLCA	14/09/2018	Course for Clerk	250.00
HRSA	21/09/2018	Donation for Firework Display	300.00

DC Besgrove	01/09/2018	Install boiler heater V Hall	696.00
S Honey	30/09/2018	PAYE Rebate	115.60
A Taylor	30/09/2018	Final Pay	116.45
S Honey	10/09/2018	Booking Diary 2019	3.99
S Honey	21/09/2018	Diary Organiser 2019	10.00
BT Phone	27/09/2018	BT charges (DD)	95.93
Dartmoor National Park	03/07/2018	Certificate of Lawfulness 0428/18	58.50
P Beard	05/10/2018	Sickness cover for Handyman	160.00
V Rowe	01/10/2018	Relief caretaking duties	125.00
Thomas Fire Protection	04/10/2018	Fire equipment service	120.00
Colourbridge	24/09/2018	Village signs	228.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£2,792.12</b>

### 053:18/19 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Before he gave his report; Cllr D Cloke wished to clarify the PPP decision and asked if it was subject to a 6 month ruling. The Chairman confirmed this as correct.

Report Cllr Cloke spoke about the internet provision in the area. Although it appeared BT were not excellent they were managing to cover 96% with super fast broadband. Unfortunately not enough people were committed for the facility to be provided in other areas. Two other companies; Airband and Gigga had been awarded a second tranche of finance from the Government. Horrabridge has quite a good connection but improvement is ongoing.

Regarding the Medium Term Finance Strategy over 3 years; West Devon would be making changes to service provision and the 2019/20 financial year would see a £400,000 deficit. The Chairman asked is this might mean a 3 weekly black bin collection? Cllr Cloke suggested a new contract was possibly in the process of being drawn up and this may include a 3 week collection service. Food would stay at weekly collection but there was uncertainty over garden waste. However, the Council Tax is limited to 2.9% (£6.40 per year on an average Band D property) which is very low. Although when the Devon County Council (DCC) add a contribution for the Fire, Police and other services it could rise. However the Precept could also rise. The Chairman mentioned that there might be a 4.9% cap. Cllr Cloke said the Government had not mentioned a cap on the Precept as yet; however, more tasks could be moved o parish councils from DCC and West Devon.

Cllr Cloke asked parishioners to use his Council email to contact him with any queries as he does not use social media.

### 054:18/19 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

#### I. Southern Link Meeting

Cllr Roche attended the meeting and explained the detail of the Police Report which the parish does not receive. Violent crime had increased but this had been over the World Cup which had been expected, levels had now returned to normal.

Drugs; West Devon appear to be escaping the use of "county lines" but North Devon and the South Hams have problems with use of the drug on the increase. Young persons of

15/16 years of age and experimenting with drugs due to access to the Dark Web being delivered by Royal Mail.

Cllr Huda said he had discovered and banned two people using Keratin on the Public House property. People were openly dealing drugs in the Park and so the village does have a problem.

Recycling; has been reducing due to people contaminating the items with food waste. Other areas recycle various types of plastics.

The TAP Fund; has been extended to Charities and other bodies not just parish councils. There are still funds available.

- II. The Chairman informed everyone that the Remembrance Day Parade had been arranged and the wreaths and poppies were on order for the occasion.  
War Memorial Refurbishment  
The Chairman was pleased to announce that the project was now fully funded. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter of thanks to Andrew Collins for his efforts to raise the complete funding required.
- III. I was noted that a section of the Stone Wall in the Burial ground would need remedial work soon.
- IV. Cllr C Edmondson asked if there were any TPO's in relation to the work at Magpie Caravan Park as trees were being felled. Cllr Minns advised Cllr Edmondson to look up the DP website where a map of tree TPO's was available; unfortunately trees would be felled in the interests of erecting power lines. Some residents have had Notice to Quit which the councillors felt was a pity.
- V. Cllr Keane said that a suspected drug dealer in Copperfields had been reported to Police.
- VI. The Chairman informed everyone that the Christmas light switch on would be on 1st December 2018. Mince pies and mulled wine would be available; subject to approval of a donation by the parish council. Entertainment had been arranged and more details would follow. The council have been informed by Devon County Council that the street lights are now 25 years old and cannot be used to mount displays on.
- VII. The Highways Chapter 8 training course was available but did we have to provide protective equipment which must be worn during the course? Apparently a specification was in the Office.

### **055:18/19 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 13 November 2018.

*Note: All meetings are held on the second Tuesday in the month, at 7.30pm, unless otherwise specified*

**Public Open Session** - One member of the public had left by this time.

The Chair offered another 10 minute session for members of the public to speak once more.

- I. A member of the public thanked the Council for providing the new play equipment in the park then asked if detail of the PPP could be put on the Council website. Cllr Cloke said that there was a 3 minute limit at West Devon when planning issues were being considered.
- II. Mr Benfield asked if the Council had received a letter or Summons from the Court regarding Mr Sweetinburgh's complaint. The Chairman replied that no letter had been received to date.
- III. Another person asked if the Pavilion plans had been decided yet and would it be for sports only or everyone. The Chairman replied that if the Council were to apply for Big Lottery Funding then the project must be available to all and perhaps a Working Party should be set up to consider the project.

A lady then asked if the village had a Ladies Football team and if so; would separate facilities be required?

Another person suggested the Council visit other local parishes and see if they have similar buildings and whether they would be suitable for us and if so how were they funded

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Cllr P Beard, Chair