

Frithelstock Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 3rd September 2013 – 8.00pm – Frithelstock Village Hall
(Ref: 2013/SEPT)

Present:

*	Mr. M Poole (Chairman)	*	Mr. H Pettifer
*	Mr. R Hunkin (Vice-Chairman)	*	Mr. M Stokes
	Mr. M Baker	*	Mr. G Ball
*	Mr. A Heard		Mr P Blosse (Clerk)

(* denotes present at meeting)

In attendance: Cllr Gaston Dezart (DCC), Cllr Phil Pennington (TDC), Gwen Barrow and Beth Simons (Bluecoats Children's Centre).

MINUTES

Note: Unfortunately Mr P Blosse, Parish Clerk, was unable to be present due to illness and therefore the Chairman requested Mr M Stokes to record these Minutes.

1. Welcome – The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Apologies – were received from Mr T Warrington, Mr S Robinson, Mr M Baker and Mr P Blosse
3. Public Participation. There were no issues raised.
4. Crime Report - no report has been received.
5. Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2013 – these were unanimously approved and signed as a true record
6. Mrs Beth Simons gave a presentation on the work of the Bluecoats Children's Centre. She explained that the Centre and its staff are:
 - I. Part of the Bluecoats School, Torrington but:
 - II. Not just for child care and education but to support parents and the wider community, particularly where parent employment / health impacts on their children,
 - III. Set targets by Devon County Council that include helping families in need, isolated families and ensuring children are ready for education (ie from pregnancy to 5 year old),
 - IV. Not part of Social Services but have close links
 - V. Funded through DCC (Sure Start funding) for Children's Centres,Beth explained that she is the 'link' for Frithelstock and that she had requested this visit in part, to see if there are ways that the Centre can assist the Parish on any issues ie perhaps finding funding for a project.
Beth can be reached on: 01805 625830 or via e-mail: beth.simons@devon.gov.uk
7. Clerks Report

In the absence of the Clerk, there was no 'report' although the agenda items were discussed where possible. These were:

 - 7.1 Correspondence
 - (a) A letter (and DVD) has been received from RWE npower renewable advising of its Notice of Acceptance for its planning application for the construction of the Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm. Comments have to be lodged by 16th September 2013. This item was noted.
 - (b) A letter has been received from Great Torrington Town Council attaching a briefing paper prepared for Town Councillors regarding the imminent closure of beds at Torrington Community Hospital.

Also attached was a document 'Care Closer to Home' produced by the Clinical Commissioning Group. These documents are available for inspection.

7.2 Clerks Pay Award - this item was held over to the next meeting to allow more time to assess the work load of the Clerk.

7.3 Training Course

A request has been received that Frithelstock Parish Council share the cost of a 1-day Clerks Training Course with Buckland Brewer and Monkleigh Parish Councils. It was proposed by Mr G Ball, seconded by Mr H Pettifer that we agree to this request; all were in favour.

8. Telephone Box

Documents have been exchanged (some weeks ago) and it is understood that the telephone box became the property of the Parish 5 days thereafter; BT have removed the telephone service equipment.

Although it has been suggested that a Defibrillator be sited in the telephone box, the Village Hall Committee needs to be consulted because when the idea of such equipment was first raised, it was proposed that it be sited at the Village Hall.

The electricity supply will need to be confirmed if the defibrillator is to be sited in the telephone box..

9. Speeding / Flashing Signs

Following a site meeting with a highways safety engineer (Michael Newcombe) from Devon County Council, details have now been received regarding the costs associated with installing flashing speed warning signs near the Village Hall. The costs are:

£2100 + VAT for the sign plus £100 / year for electricity (payable in advance for 5 years ie £500)

£1,100 + VAT for solar panels if preferred

£215 + VAT for a pole to support the sign.

If we proceed, the sign will be owned by DCC who will be responsible for arranging any warranty repairs but NOT for general 'wear and tear' issues.

It was proposed by Mr Hunkin, seconded by Mr A Heard and agreed by all, that without outside funding the Parish Council cannot afford to proceed this year. Cllr Dezart promised £1500 from his 2014 Community Budget (his 2013 budget has been used up). Beth Simons asked if there was anything that she could do (speeding traffic is a danger to children and so could fall within her remit) and she agreed to look into potential funding options ie grants etc.

The meeting felt that greater police support is needed.

10. Other Highways Issues

10.1 Rakeham Hill – signage has been requested of DCC. 'SLOW' has been painted on the road and this is likely to be the best that we can achieve.

10.2 Hele Lane. There has still been no progress on infilling of pot holes in the lay-bys. DCC have given permission for the Parish Council to arrange the infilling of pot holes and Peter Hutchings has been asked to deal with this, when he is able.

It was proposed by Mr A Heard, seconded by Mr H Pettifer, that the Parish Council write to South West Water concerning flooding along Hele Lane. This was agreed by all.

10.3 Hele Lane road narrowing – there is still no decision from the new owners of Little Stone regarding relinquishing an area of garden to enable the works to go ahead.

11. MVF Best Kept Village competition - nothing further to report.

12. Green Infrastructure Study - This item was deferred

13. War Memorial

Mr M Stokes reported that the War Memorials Trust have been approached for a grant of £1683, to provide access steps from the road up to the level of the War Memorial. This represents 50% of the cost of the works and is the maximum percentage possible under the grants scheme. The application has been acknowledged and we await the outcome.

The War Memorials Trust has included the Frithelstock War Memorial on its database, to which has been added, several photographs of the existing. This can be viewed on: www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk (search under Frithelstock).

14. Commemorative Stone

There have been several items of correspondence between the Cabinet Office and the Parish Council in which it was alleged, that the Commemorative Stone included an inappropriate style of Royal Cipher. The matter was first raised anonymously, but the matter is now closed as far as we are concerned following confirmation from the Cabinet Office that there is no issue to address.

The Chairman however, has asked that a note be placed on the Frithelstock web site requesting that any complaints on any issue be addressed to the Parish Council and NOT made anonymously to an outside body.

15. Members Report

15.1 It was reported that further granite stones have been stolen from Rothern Bridge (listed structure) since being replaced by DCC Highways. It was proposed to ask DCC and TDC to increase security measures.

15.2 Mr M Stokes reported on the recent (23rd July 2013) meeting of the Torrington Area Advisory Group that he and the Chairman attended. Cllr Phil Collins, leader of TDC had addressed the meeting and had outlined the main issues facing TDC. These included the cut backs in Government funding and planning associated with the Old Dairy site at Taddiport. On a positive note, construction has commenced on the Holsworthy Agricentre.

Of more local interest to Frithelstock is the likelihood that projects looking for TAP funding will no longer be the remit of local Parish Councils but be voted on at future meetings of the Area Advisory Group.

On the Local Plan, Cllr Collins advised that TDC had received 4000 comments, that there will be a 2nd consultation in October with the Plan coming into force in Spring 2014.

The remainder of the meeting was concerned with the issue of planning applications for wind turbines and the apparent lack of policy of TDC. Officers from TDC explained that when an application is rejected, the applicant usually takes the matter to appeal and invariably, the Planning Inspectorate allows the appeal.

This would seem contrary to government policy of allowing a local community a greater say in what is allowed in its area.

16. Planning

1/0017/2013/FUL	Erection of 500kw wind turbine at Bowden Farm, Buckland Brewer – amended size from 74m to 67m to blade tip	Frithelstock Parish Council felt it not appropriate to discuss further.
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17. Chairman's Items

- Letter of thanks received from Judith Seaman regarding the contribution made for grass cutting at the Parish Church
- Torrington Cottage Hospital – letter of thanks received for the local support in organising petitions against the closure of beds
- There has been no communication of late from the Parish Lengthsman. Cllr Pennington was asked to investigate.
- Bus Shelter – it was reported that the bus shelter was damaged by a Stage Coach bus on 2nd September 2013. Witnesses obtained details of the vehicle involved and the Chairman has been in contact with the company. Stage Coach agreed to respond within 3 days but that claim forms could take a month to be forthcoming. Concern was expressed that within such time period, the bus could be repaired and any blame rejected. When the police were contacted, they did not wish to be involved!

Mr R Hunkin proposed, seconded by Mr G Ball, that we give Stage Coach until Friday (6th September) to respond, otherwise we again contact the police.

Cllr Pennington suggested that we contact Mr Tony Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner concerning the police negativity over what is essentially a public safety matter.

Mr H Pettifer proposed that a Risk Assessment be carried out on the damaged bus shelter to cover the Parish Council's position.

The Chairman along with Messrs Ball and Pettifer agreed to prepare this after the meeting.

18. Date of next meeting – **Tuesday, 5th November 2013 – 7.30pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed as true

Date

(Chairman)