

Fritchelstock Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 8pm in Fritchelstock Village Hall

Councillors Present: Mike Stokes (Chair), Mackie Poole (Vice Chair), Lizzie Hunkin, Roger Hunkin, Mike Baker, Mark Goldman and District Cllr Phil Pennington

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Also in attendance: 6 members of the public

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

63. **Welcome:** Cllr Stokes welcomed everyone to the meeting.
64. **Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Andrew Heard and County Councillor Andrew Saywell
65. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 2nd November 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record: Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Goldman, all in favour.
66. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Baker, grass cutting
67. **Public Speaking Time**
- 67.1 A couple of residents are unhappy with a cattle shed that has been erected in the village. It is obstructive and appears to be constructed out of odd bits and pieces and due to its height, it is unbecoming to look at. Residents asked what kind of permissions were required to put up such a structure. D.Cllr Pennington reported he had asked the Re-enforcement Officer to take a look and ensure there were no false or improper building going on because it looked to be a very intrusive building.
- 67.2 The gully that had been dug out recently near the Village Hall had not had the spoil removed and has now been pushed back into the gully again by traffic. Attach email.
- 67.3 PCSO Melissa Baker was unable to attend the meeting, however, she reported:
- 0 crimes
 - 2 highway disruptions, 1 sudden death and 1 firearms (pheasant shooting)

68. District and County Councillor Reports

68.1 District Councillor Phil Pennington

- D.Cllr Pennington reported the Council tax would be similar to last year, somewhere in the region of 3.5% for Torridge.
- Torridge District Council is going through a transformation programme: the Bridge Building (on the corner of B ridge Street and Allhalland Street) was to go for sale, the staff and customer point will be relocated to Riverbank House.
- There is potential risk to Northam Burrow as the winter storms affect the northern end of the pebble ridge. There is potential risk to both the golf course and the rubbish tip.
- C.Cllr Pennington reminded Councillors that he is still holding some funds and will assist in any way he can with upcoming projects.
- Planning fees are set to rise by 20%, this is not a Torridge District Council decision, it was forced by Government.
- A resident at Rakeham Hill has been advised that he needs planning permission for the vehicular opening he has created. The Paris Council was disappointed that such an effort to improve road safety by removing some vehicles off the road, has been subjected to what is seen as a bureaucratic interference.

68.2 County Councillor Andrew Saywell

C.Cllr Andrew Saywell did not make the meeting, however, he forwarded the following report:

Pothole Action Fund: It has been announced that for this financial year the Torrington Rural Division will have the largest amount of 'Pothole Action Fund' money – £210,000 – allocated to it out of all 60 County Council Divisions. The Chancellor announced in the recent Budget that an additional £45m will be put in the nationwide fund for the coming financial year. The Department for Transport are yet to decide how to allocate this money, however if the split is based on the usual formula of road length this *could* mean an additional £1.75m for Devon. He emphasised the '*could*'. Nonetheless the officers will soon start work on which roads they will allocate for repairs using the pothole action fund for the forthcoming financial year. If there are any particularly bad minor roads within the Parish of Frithelstock then please forward details as soon as possible? He will pass on any suggestions to the officers for consideration and will report back to the Parish Council if or when they are allocated for repairs.

New ATM in Torrington: Since November's meeting the 24 hour, free to use ATM cash machine has been installed outside Duffy's Hardware Store in Torrington. This is a great addition not only for the town but also for the surrounding rural communities. While it doesn't substitute for the loss of the banks, it is a substantial improvement on the limited access to cash machines residents has previously.

LEP: C.Cllr Saywell was delighted to be able to secure a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Local Enterprise Partnership who agreed to come down to see him *in Torrington!* The meeting took place earlier this week and he had Sean Kearny, Economic Regeneration Officer from Torridge District Council, with him to discuss regeneration and economic development

opportunities in both Torrington and the wider Torridge District Area. While a single meeting will not solve our problems overnight he thinks it was an important first step in getting organisations like the LEP to become aware of the problems we face and to start taking an interest in this part of the world.

Torrington Fire Station: A rumour started a couple of months ago in the town that the Fire Station was going to close. As a member of the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority C.Cllr Saywell is happy to put on the record that this rumour is categorically **untrue**. There are 85 stations throughout Devon and Somerset and there are no plans to close any of them. Indeed, Torrington has a full roster of retained Firefighters and is not struggling for recruits. If you happen to hear this rumour yourselves then please scotch it.

30mph sign on Hele Lane: C.Cllr Saywell has had further meetings to discuss this matter with the Traffic Officers at County Hall. They are aware of it being a problem and have assured him that action will be taken, however, it will take some time due to other demands County wide. He will continue to make the case for Frithelstock and put pressure on the officers to make sure that this does not fall down the priority list!

69. Matters Arising

69.1 Highways

The Clerk had received notification that the damaged Village Sign located on the approach to Frithelstock would be dealt with in due course.

69.2 Playing Field Equipment

The Parish Council reviewed the 3 quotes received for the trampoline on the playing field. Cllr Poole proposed the Parish Council accepts the TK Play Equipment quotation, seconded by Cllr Baker, all in favour. The Clerk was asked to notify all 3 companies of the decision. **Action Clerk**

69.3 Playing Field Committee

Cllr Goldman has been speaking to members of the Playing Field Committee who resigned asking them if they'd like to continue, however, they all declined. He said we were left with 3 options: (1) make the Playing Field Committee a sub-committee of the Parish Council or (2) make the Playing Field Committee a sub-committee of the Village Hall Committee or (3) write to all residents asking if anyone would like to volunteer to become a member in the hopes of revitalising the Committee. Cllrs E Hunkin and Baker offered to write a description of what would be required of volunteers and forward to Richard Joseph for distribution. **Action Cllrs E Hunkin and Baker**. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether one-off insurance to cover all events was possible or does the Parish Council need to cover each event separately. **Action Clerk**

69.4 Speed-Watch Report

Richard Joseph reported that following the Parish Council meeting in November, he wrote to the Chief Executive of Devon and Cornwall Police to register a complaint about the removal of the TK Play Speedwatch site (CT31). He was advised to make a formal complaint against PC Juniper who is checking all Speed-watch sites in Devon. Richard Newton, in the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, wrote first to acknowledge the complaint and more recently, to accept that the site's removal was due to an error on their part as

it has been used and that, subject to a Health & Safety check, it would be reinstated.

69.5 Review of Budget

The Budget was reviewed by Councillors and amendments were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Goldman, seconded by Cllr E Hunkin, all in favour. **Action Clerk**. The Precept of £5,750.00 was agreed, proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Goldman, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

69.6 Data Protection

The Clerk advised Councillors that the General Data Protection Regulations will be coming into effect in May 2018. Unfortunately, not all details are fully known at this stage, however, a number of briefings have been scheduled by NALC. Cllr Poole proposed the Clerk attend, seconded by Cllr Goldman, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

69.7 Items Not on the Agenda

- Torridge Area Advisory meeting – Cllr Pennington to look into it. **Action Cllr Pennington**
- TAP Fund – the Clerk confirmed Buckland Brewer had been notified
- Insurance Renewal – the Clerk confirmed the Insurance was renewed

70. New Items

70.1 Church Lane Hedge

The hedge opposite David Smith's house has not been cut on the field side. Cllr R Hunkin mentioned this was probably due to how wet the fields are.

70.2 Torridge Community Governance Review

Torridge District Council is starting the first round of consultation for a Community Governance Review of the Town and Parish Council in the area. The review gives local people the opportunity to have their views heard about whether current parish arrangements should be changed. This could include the creation or abolition of parishes and parish councils, or changes to parish boundaries. The first period of consultation is now underway and will remain open until 23rd February 2018. Parish Councillors decided not to make any changes.

70.3 Flooding

Cllr Heard has been approached by a resident about the recurrence of flooding at Old Pound, bus-stop and Broadpark – Councillors confirmed it was a blocked drain that had been cleaned recently, however, the rain has washed the detritus back in again. It has been reported to Highways and will be discussed at the next meeting to see if there have been any changes. **Action Clerk**

The Clerk was asked to report the blocked drain at Glenbridge which has caused flooding recently. Cllr E Hunkin to forward location to the Clerk.

Action Cllr E Hunkin and Clerk

70.4 Storage Facility for Playing Field Equipment

Adrian Green has suggested a Shipping Container is purchased to create storage for Village Green equipment and placed in the far corner of the playing field. He requested the Parish Council to use the money due to be

donated to the Village Hall Committee to make this purchase on their behalf in order to save on the VAT element. Cllr Poole proposed, seconded by Cllr Goldman, all in favour.

71. Planning

- 71.1 1/1006/2017/FUL: Laburnum House, Frithelstock for retrospective application to vary Condition 2 of permission 1/0021/2013/FUL. To note the decision made by Torridge District Council to grant permission for this application.
- 71.2 1/0635/2017/FULM: Land at Catsborough Cross, Monkleigh for erection of agricultural dairy unit.
Comments: Natural England required further information which took a long time to get through – the Clerk was asked to submit a comment in strong support of this application.
Decision: Support
Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Goldman, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

72. Clerks Report

- 72.1 Correspondence
The following correspondence, which had been previously circulated, was noted/reviewed:
- 72.1.1 TDC: Communities Conference Invitation
 - 72.1.2 DCC: Devon Countryside Access Forum – new members sought
 - 72.1.3 NHS: Notification of the retirement of Dr Alison Diamond
 - 72.1.4 TDC: Notice of Additional Hearings Sessions for the Examination of the Local Plan
 - 72.1.5 DCC: Parish & Town Council Conferences presentation
 - 72.1.6 DCC: Devon Communities Resilience Forum newsletter
 - 72.1.7 TDC: Waste & Recycling New Schemes Roadshows
 - 72.1.8 Highways: Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking
- 72.2 Defibrillator Update
The Clerk reported new pads for the defibrillator have been purchased. Cllr Stokes has received a letter of thanks from South West Ambulance Service for taking part in the Defibrillator Accreditation Scheme.

73. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- 73.1 Cllr Goldman
The 30mph as traffic enters the village from Saltrens has been smashed into hedge-row. The incident has been reported under reference number W181074378 and will be monitored by the Clerk. **Action Clerk**
- 73.2 Cllr Hunkin
A resident asked what happened with the Air Ambulance landing site, Cllr R Hunkin explained it wasn't going ahead, however, Buckland Brewer have installed theirs and it has been used.
Hele Lane Village Sign for April Agenda. **Action Clerk**

73.3 Cllr Stokes
Cllrs Stokes acknowledged and thanked Cllr Poole for supplying the Christmas Tree and its ultimate disposal and Cllr R Hunkin for assisting and taking off Christmas lights. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr and Mrs Parish thanking them for providing the electricity once again. **Action Clerk**
Cllr Stokes also mentioned receiving a letter from Sidney Adams of the Royal British Legion thanking the Parish Council for the donated wreath, however, he also stated his disappointment with the state of the War Memorial. Councillors decided to put this item on the April Agenda for further discussion.
Action Clerk

74. Finance

74.1 Payments
The following payments were approved: proposed by Cllr Stokes, seconded by Cllr E Hunkin, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

74.1.1 Clerks Salary & Expenses	£328.84
74.1.2 HMRC	£64.50
74.1.3 MJ Baker – Village Green grass cutting VH maintenance	£290.00
74.1.4 Great Torrington School – printing	£8.25
74.1.5 Parish Council Websites	328.30
74.1.6 Cardiac Science – defibrillator pads	£79.14

74.2 Review of the Bank Balance
As of 11th December 2017, the balance in the General Account was £16,107.30. There are outstanding payments totalling £1,099.03, giving a balance of £15,008.27 once these transactions have been cleared. The savings account balance stands at £665.52.

74.3 Grass Cutting
Cllr Baker left the meeting and Parish Councillors reviewed the quote received from MJ Baker. Cllr R Hunkin proposed we continue with this quote, seconded by Cllr E Hunkin, all in favour. Clerk to formally write to M J Baker. **Action Clerk.** Cllr Goldman said the “white stones” need to be addressed and it was decided to put this on the April Agenda. **Action Clerk**

75. Date of Next Meeting: was confirmed as 1st March 2018 at 8pm in the Village Hall, Frithelstock.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: (Chair)

NAME: DATE: