

# *Frithestock Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at 8:00pm in Frithestock Village Hall**

Councillors Present: Mr M Poole (Chairman), Mr R Hunkin (Vice-Chairman), Mr M Baker, Mr G Ball, Mr A Heard, Mr H Pettifer and Mr M Stokes.

Clerk: Mr P Blossie

Also in attendance: PCSO Melissa Baker and 11 members of the public: Gwen Barrow, Dave Debnam, Mark Goldman, Melanie Goldman, A Hunkin, Rose Hunkin, Richard Joseph, Mary Pearce, A Poole, Nick Reid and Terry Warrington.

<b>KEY: Actions are shown in bold blue type    Decisions are shown in bold red type</b>
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60 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

61 Apologies: Cllr. Gaston Dezart and Cllr. Phil Pennington.

62 Public Participation: (i) PCSO Melissa Baker gave a crime report. During the past 2 months there had been two RTCs – one on Rakeham Hill and one on the A388, and a report of cows on the road. Four crimes had been logged: 1 theft, 1 cause or provocation of violence, 1 burglary and 1 complaint about dogs not resulting in an injury. She was pleased to report that Frithestock remained a low crime area. There were occasional reports of suspect vehicles and parishioners were asked to be vigilant. PCSO Baker explained some staff changes in the Torrington neighbourhood. There were now 5 in the team, including 3 PCSPs, 1 acting sergeant. The neighbourhood also had 1 hybrid officer allocated to it but the officer, Simon Smith, was not in post yet. Parishioners asked whether the police could do anything about the parking problem on Rakeham Hill. She explained that there were powers to remove cars if they were obstructing the highway but that did not apply in this case. In order for the police to be involved they would have to be called out and a log made but she felt it would not be reasonable to do this for 'near misses'. (See also item 71.) Heathcliff Pettifer raised an issue about vandalism at Rothern Bridge. (ii) Dave Debnam reported that the gully and verge between his property and the village hall had still not been done. Parishioners also complained about the poor workmanship of the road maintenance that had recently been carried out. Both of these issues will be reported to Cllr Gaston Dezart by the clerk. (iii) Richard Joseph reported that the re-painting of the stones on the village green was  $\frac{3}{4}$  complete.

63 Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held on 6th May and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were approved and signed.

64 Report by Councillor Phil Pennington: Torridge District Council: Cllr. Pennington was not present.

65 Report by Councillor Gaston Dezart, Devon District Council: Cllr. Dezart was not present but had provided the clerk with a written report. Gas Lane now have to refer all purchasing to County Hall, and he had received no response to the request for sharing the cost of a flashing speed sign. Most of his activities over the past few weeks had been attending meetings and consultations regarding the cuts to residential care homes, day centres and youth clubs. The only success to date was the retention of the Pill in Bideford. He was now trying to keep Springfield,

even if it has to be run by the private sector. A new committee has been formed, Bideford Forum, which will embrace wider issues and supersede the Tidy Town Initiative. He had submitted a report on the Tarka Trail regarding access, encouraging users to come into the town, and also mentioned the lighting in the tunnel and dangerous parking off the A386 to access the Trail at Weare Gifford.

**66 Matters Arising:**

- I. Parish Lengthsman: Nothing to report in the absence of Cllr Dezart.
- II. Potholes and drainage issues: Nothing to report in the absence of Cllr Dezart.

**67 Clerk's Report:** (i) The clerk presented 15 items of correspondence, many of which had been distributed earlier by email:

- I. **TDC: Consultation on the Licencing of Sex Establishments**
- II. **TDC: First World War – Remembering Our Fallen Heroes**
- III. **Town and Parish Council Meeting – Arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014**
- IV. **DALC Newsletter June 2014**
- V. **Devon Youth Service Review update**
- VI. **Updated Torridge recycling Booklet**
- VII. **DCC: Grass Cutting Programme – showing that Frithelstock had been due for 0.5 days work today**
- VIII. **NIGHT TIME Road closure A386 Weare Giffard Cross to Rakenham Toll House X Monkleigh Mon 23rd June**
- IX. **Armed Forces Week - Flag Raising Ceremony**
- X. **Jim Wood: Holsworthy M C trial**
- XI. **Devon County Council Day Services Review**
- XII. **DALC: Governance and Accountability**
- XIII. **DCC: Devon Remembers – links to project website**
- XIV. **Plantlife: Events Calendar**
- XV. **DCC: Day Services - Message from Councillor Stuart Barker**
- XVI. **DCC: Emergency Management newsletter**
- XVII. **J Parker's Wholesale brochure (passed on to Cllr Mike Baker)**

(ii) The Clerk pointed out that a number of items had been received about 24 hours before the last meeting and that these could not be dealt with properly because all items for discussion needed to be included on an agenda and posted on the notice board at least 3 clear working days before the meeting. He asked for any items for future agendas to be provided to him at least one week in advance in future.

**68 Defibrillator**

- I. I. Progress Report: Greg Ball confirmed that the power supply to the telephone box was sufficient for the heated box. Mackie Poole explained that it would not be possible to lease a machine because they cannot be managed effectively. A machine has therefore been ordered and the supplier has issued a machine on loan pending delivery of a new one in 10-12 weeks' time. In the meantime, a heated box will be provided (in about 6 weeks' time) which will need to be installed in the telephone box. It was proposed that the loan machine should be sited in the village hall until the machine in the telephone box is ready to use. The clerk will formalise this with the Village Hall Committee. Dave Debnam offered to supply and fit hooks for the machine in the hallway. The clerk will add the machine to the Parish Council's insurance once it has been received. Greg Ball asked whether training would be given. Mike Stokes demonstrated that the machine is simple to use and is meant to be 'fool-proof' in that it will not operate if a pulse is

registered. Mike Baker suggested that parishioners should be notified. Items will be added to the newsletter and website. All village hall users and keyholders will also be told where to find the machine.

- II. Balsdon Trust Application: Mackie Poole was pleased to report that the application to the Balsdon Trust had been successful and a cheque for £400 had been received, for which a receipt had been sent. The defibrillator fund now stands at £1,733.00.

69 Flashing Speed Signs: In the absence of Cllr Dezart there was nothing more to report.

70 War Memorial:

- I. Commemorative Event: Mackie Poole reported that the planting of the poppy beds was under way. However, it was agreed that there would be no commemorative event as Frithelstock was too small a village.
- II. Addition of Names to the Memorial: Richard Joseph read out a letter that he had submitted to the Parish Council which listed a number of steps that he and Dave Debnam felt should be taken into account before any decisions were made about adding names to the memorial. He praised Judith Seaman's work so far but thought it might be incomplete because she did not have access to the internet, and that it ought to be independently verified. He felt that there should be no urgency in adding new names until more research had been done and descendants had been contacted, where possible, and suggested that the work ought to be planned at the centenary of the end of WWI in 2018. He listed 10 points in all and said "unless the PCC acts on these points, it will be presenting itself as arrogant, amateur in execution and inviting trouble for the future." Mackie Poole thought that the letter was rude to the Parish Council and to Judith Seaman. Roger Hunkin said that the letter itself was arrogant and Mike Stokes found it offensive. He pointed out that the memorial currently has only WWI and WWII names on it, that although Judith does not use the internet, nor did any previous researchers and that adding names that also appear on other memorials is both common practice and perfectly acceptable as it reflects that some people have valid reasons to be connected with more than one place. Mackie Poole pointed out that there had never been any intent to make a speedy decision about which names, if any, should be added to the memorial and that the inclusion of the item on the previous agenda had only been to discuss the improvement works and the possibility of a commemorative event. Richard Joseph's letter had made reference to an issue with the Commemorative Stone and Greg Ball felt that the issue with the war memorial had been raised solely to resurrect that debate, which, Mackie Poole explained had been satisfactorily resolved and was supported by many of the parishioners attending the meeting. Richard Joseph and Dave Debnam admitted that there have been a misunderstanding about how quickly the Parish Council intended to act over the inclusion of new names. Mike Stokes proposed that the Parish Council should take its time to make a considered opinion about the matter once Judith Seaman has completed her research. The clerk read a covering letter from Judith enclosed with resumes of 6 servicemen who had died (5 in WWI and 1 in WWII) and 11 who had survived who might be considered for inclusion on the war memorial. Heathcliff Pettifer explained that he had looked into costings but these depended largely on the number of names to be added and suggested that it would be better to make that decision first.

III. Improvement Works: Roger Hunkin reported that the steps were now in place and had been finished today. There is some stonework to be completed by the end of the week. The contractor needed to know what capping was wanted for the walls. **It was proposed by Mike Stokes, seconded by Mackie Poole and agreed unanimously to use slate.** Mike Stokes extended his thanks to Mackie Poole and Roger Hunkin for the work they had done in preparing the site with a digger.

71 Parking on Rakeham Hill - Letter of concern from Kim Warrington: Following receipt of a letter from Kim Warrington asking for action to be taken about vehicles parking on Rakeham Hill because they were causing a danger to traffic, Mackie Poole had contacted the police and DCC Highways. He reported that neither organisation could offer any solutions. There was a general discussion about the problem but it seemed that nothing could be done until someone was seriously injured.

72 Playing Fields: Suggestions for use of Cllr. Pennington's Fund: Terry Warrington had applied for a grant from the Community Grant Scheme, which had been successful, and he reported that it would be spent on revamping the gates and providing picnic benches.

73 Review of Taxi Licensing Policy: It was agreed that members would respond to the consultation request individually if they so wished.

74 Members' Reports:

Heathcliffe Pettifer reported that Drummets Lodge was on sale with outline planning permission and asked whether this was an option that was still available. Mark Goldman explained that it was and that it was a relatively inexpensive process that could give some reassurance that an application might be acceptable. No consultation request had yet been received but this would not happen until an application was submitted.

75 Planning: i) Report on the presentation by Mr & Mrs Goldman on their plans to build a bungalow in Hele Lane: Melanie explained that they planned to build a chalet-style bungalow on a plot of land between Meadowstone and Stone Cottage. The application had recently been submitted to Torridge D C. The property would not be connected to the main sewer. There was no objection was by any of the members or parishioners present. Mackie Poole suggested that parishioners could remain behind at the end of the meeting to discuss it further with Mel and Mark if they so wished.

ii) Draft Plan Consultation: A letter had been received from Torridge and North Devon Planning setting out the procedure for the next stage of consultation on the Draft Local Plan and providing the draft document on a CD. Responses were requested within 6 weeks, by 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The clerk will provide links to the consultation documents on the internet so that members can make their own responses if they so wish. Mike Baker took the CD.

76 Finance:

I. The following expenses were approved:

Clerk: Salary – Net Pay and expenses: £152.92; PAYE element £33.80

Buckland Brewer Parish Council, SLCC annual subscription (25%) - £25.25

Fritelstock Church, Annual Grant - £250.00 (paid by standing order)

Fritelstock Cemetery, Annual Grant - £250.00 (paid by standing order). The clerk read out a letter of thanks for the grant from Judith Seaman in her capacity as Treasurer to the PCC, explaining that it enabled them to keep the grass cut and the cemetery clear of nettles and brambles. **It was agreed to add the Cemetery and Church grants to the next agenda to discuss whether the amounts of the grants were still appropriate.**

II. Receipts since last meeting:

Balsdon Trust, Defibrillator Grant - £400.00  
Website advertising fees - £24.00

III. Bank Balances:

Community Account - £6,867.68 as at 11/06/14  
Business Money Manager - £664.05 as at 31/03/14

IV. Audits:

The internal audit had been completed by Adrian Green and the annual report and Governance Statement had been submitted to Grant Thornton by the due date of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014. The external auditor's report had been received already confirming that there were no matters requiring attention.

77. Chairman's Report: Mackie Poole reported that he had received a call from Mr Lake who was concerned about a garage that had been erected, apparently without planning permission, at October Wood. The matter had already been referred to Torridge District Council and was being dealt with by the Ombudsman.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:35 pm**

**SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: .....** (Chair)

**NAME: ..... DATE: .....**

**Next meeting will be held in Frithelstock Village Hall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 at 8:00pm.**