

Frithestock Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st December at 7:30 pm in Frithestock Village Hall

Councillors Present: Mr M Baker, Mr Andrew Heard, Mr M Goldman, Mrs Elizabeth Hunkin, Mr Roger Hunkin and Mr M Stokes.

Clerk: Mr P Blossie

Also in attendance: Cllr. Phil Pennington (TDC), and 3 members of the public: Dave Debnam, Arthur Poole and Richard Joseph

KEY: Actions are shown in bold blue type Decisions are shown in bold red type

99. Welcome. Mike Stokes welcomed all to the meeting.

100. Apologies for Absence Mackie Poole and Cllr. Gaston Dezart

101. Declarations of Interest Mark Goldman re item 104, planning decision in respect of Drummetts Lodge

102. Public Participation Arthur Poole pointed out that the bus shelter needed cleaning. **Andrew Heard will provide the power and water for a power-sprayer using his tractor and Mike Baker liaise with a local homeowner to park the vehicle will the work is done.** It was pointed out that a number of signs around the parish also need cleaning and it was agreed that this would be discussed with Gaston Dezart when he meets with parish councillors and Cllr. Phil Pennington about Rakeham Hill traffic safety. Richard Joseph reported that the data capture equipment for the flashing sign had been passed to him and that it should provide excellent information once a number of month's data has been collated. He also reported that there was an issue with a local motor cyclist which he had discussed with PCSO Melissa Baker. Melissa has asked for any future incidents to be reported by calling 101.

103. Torridge and North Devon Draft Plan Consultation The Chairman invited all present to take part in this item, which was discussed at some length. It was generally agreed that the expectations of the consultation exercise were somewhat higher than normally expected of a parish council and that, in the case of the wind energy policy in particular, extremely detailed and technical. There was generally very little support for wind turbines and some doubt about their viability. It was agreed to submit the following general observations:

- a. **Provision of affordable homes.** Clause 7.31 list 4 qualifications that would be expected of applicants seeking affordable housing in rural areas. It was unclear whether applicants were expected to meet one or all of the criteria and, therefore, the clause required clarification.
- b. **Starter homes and exception sites.** No comment.
- c. **New policy for wind energy development** Members wished to endorse Appendix 2 of the consultation document that suggested that local people should have the final say on

any wind turbine development proposal. It was also the Councils' view that local communities should be refunded appropriately for any loss of amenities resulting from such developments.

- 104. Planning Decision: 1/0877/2015/REM, Drummetts Lodge, Reserved matters for replacement dwelling pursuant to 1/0270/2014/OUT – Granted Permission** Noted
- 105. Proposed Development, Hele Lane** Cllr. Phil Pennington explained that he had called-in this application (to force a requirement for it to be discussed by the Plans Committee). In the meantime, the applicant had revised the plans so that all 3 properties on the site would share a single entrance. Cllr. Pennington sought the Parish Council's view on whether this would affect its objection to the development. The Council could foresee no change in the potential increase in the volume of traffic using Hele Lane and, specifically, the dangerous junction with the A388. Roger Hunkin suggested that a site visit by the Plans Committee would be helpful. **Cllr. Pennington said that he will use his own judgment about whether to continue with the call-in. The Clerk will forward to Cllr. Pennington the evidence compiled last year by Greg Ball about the accidents and incidents at the junction.**
- 106. Meeting Dates for 2016:** Mike Stokes said that the noise and disruption at the last parish council meeting, when a skittles match was in progress at the same time, was intolerable. Mike Short had suggested that if parish council meetings were held on Thursday evenings they would not clash with either skittles matches or Pilates. Although Mackie Poole was not present, Roger Hunkin reported that Mackie was against changing from the current arrangements, which had been in place for at least 50 years. The Clerk said that Thursday evenings would be no more difficult for him than Tuesdays but that he felt Parish Council meetings ought to take precedence. **It was agreed that, with effect from March 2016, main parish council meetings would be held on the first Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November each year.** The timing of meetings was discussed and it was agreed to continue the current arrangement of 7:30 starts for winter meetings and 8:00 for summer meetings. **It was also agreed that the meeting length would be restricted to 2 hours and that Standing Orders would be adjusted appropriately if necessary.**
- 107. Members' Reports:** Mike Stokes reported that Mackie Poole had kindly donated a Christmas tree. **Roger Hunkin will liaise with Mr Parris, who supplied power for last year's tree, and coordinate the placing and decoration of the tree.** Mike also asked whether there were sufficient stocks of salt for the winter. It was believed that there is about 3 tons of salt in stock at various sites but that it is now at least 2-3 years old and deteriorating. **The Clerk will ask the Snow Warden, Terry Warrington to arrange for the delivery of extra stocks. Mike Baker reported a blocked drain which he will arrange to be cleaned out.**
- 108. Insurance:** The Clerk reported that the Council's insurance policy was due for renewal this month. He had informed Zurich about the flashing sign, which had been added to the policy at no extra charge. **The company had offered a discounted premium if the Council enters into a 3 year agreement. It was unanimously agreed to accept this proposal.**

109. Finance: A number of cheques were signed, including a reimbursement to Mark Goldman for the purchase of a laptop following a successful application to DALC for a Transparency Code grant. These will be reported in detail at the next full meeting of the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:20 pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: (Chair)

NAME: **DATE:**

Next meeting will be held in Frithelstock Village Hall on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7:30pm.