

Frithelstock Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2014 at 8:00pm in Frithelstock Village Hall

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

Clerk: Mr P Blossie

Also in attendance: Cllr. Gaston Dezart (DCC), Cllr. Phil Pennington and 12 members of the public: Gwen Barrow, Charles Beer, Christopher Beer, Paul Brown, Sarah Brown, Dave Debnam, Jennifer Dorey, Mark Goldman, Anson Gonselves, Richard Joseph, Marcelle Paton-Smith and Arthur Poole.

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

78 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

79 Apologies: Greg Ball was not able to attend due to work commitments. Heathcliff Pettifer apologised in advance that he would be late and joined the meeting at 8:25pm.

80 Public Participation: The Chairman moved item 95.b forward as this was the only item on the agenda that members of the public wished to speak on. Paul and Sarah Brown outlined their objection to the wind turbine proposed at Horwood Coombe on the grounds of its proximity to their home, the effect on their property value and the potential impact on Sarah's health as she has suffered brain damage and would be affected by flicker from the turbine. Paul read out sections of Frithelstock Parish Council's wind turbine policy and felt that the Parish Council should object because the structure will exceed 50 feet in height, would adversely affect property prices and would affect nearby residents. Jennifer Dorey objected because the turbine would be likely to disturb her mare and foal and also her permanent bat roost. She felt that the turbine should be erected in a more suitable spot and not on high ground, as proposed, as this would make the turbine even more obtrusive. The clerk explained that the request for consultation on these plans had only just been received by email but that the plans were not yet available. Mike Stokes and the Clerk explained the planning regulations pertaining to wind turbines and the need to reach a decision based on material planning concerns only. Cllr Phil Pennington stressed the importance of members declaring their interests in circumstances such as these, including where there are prejudicial interests. A general discussion followed but the Council was unable to formulate a proposal that it felt that it could vote on. **It was decided that a special meeting would be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16th September to re-visit the item.**

81 Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held on 1st July 2014 were approved and signed.

82 Report by Councillor Phil Pennington: Torridge District Council: Cllr. Pennington reported that the new Holsworthy Livestock Market was to open on Wednesday 3rd September. He also explained that the government cutbacks were still having an impact and that Torridge Council was investigating voluntary redundancies. It was also considering various proposals for joint working or joining up with neighbouring district councils, including West Devon, South Hams and North Cornwall as well as North Devon. His preference was to combine with either North Cornwall or North Devon but recognized that the cross-county border issue could be a barrier to

working with North Cornwall, and that joint working arrangements with North Devon had not gone as smoothly as might have been hoped.

83 Report by Councillor Gaston Dezart, Devon District Council: Cllr. Dezart reported that the gully outside the village hall would be cleared in the near future and “before there was any more rain”. He had been made a promise by Simon Philips of Devon Highways that it would be done “this month”. Mackie Poole said that he had talked to two drain cleaners in the village on 19th August who had said that they could not park on the public highway for more than 5 minutes without erecting traffic lights. **Cllr Dezart undertook to follow this up.** He also reminded the Parish Council that his offer to contribute £1,500 towards a flashing sign, or any other similar device, still stood.

84 Matters Arising:

- I. Parish Lengthsman: An update on the parish lengthsman is now available on a new Town and Parish Councils webpage. **Cllr Dezart undertook to find out when the lengthsman would be visiting Frithelstock.**
- II. Potholes and drainage issues: See report by Cllr Dezart (Item 83)

85 Clerk’s Report: (i) The clerk presented 24 items of correspondence, many of which had been distributed earlier by email:

1. DALC Newsletter – July 2014
2. Go North Devon - New Free Service for Cancer Patients
3. Torridge Area meeting – REMINDER – Langtree Village Hall, Wednesday 10th September, 6:00pm
4. CAB: Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon CAB Newsletter
5. Local Bus Services: Carmel Coaches
6. TDC: Legal Briefing – July 2014
7. Plymouth University: Wind farm survey
8. DCC: Community News Roundup - July 2014
9. TDC: Town & Parish Fund 2014/15
10. Smartwater: War Memorials in your Parish NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
11. TDC: North Devon Journal - Community Awards
12. Community Council of Devon: Conference - 25th September 2014
13. DALC: Newsletter, August 2014
14. Devon Highways Town & Parish Conference 2014 – A ticket was provided for Cllr Mike Baker
15. Barnstaple Town Council: Invitation to Environment School, 11th October 2014
16. CPRE Devon Seminar with Mel Stride MP, Okehampton, 19th September
17. DALC Annual Report 2013-14
18. DCC: Community New Roundup, August 2014
19. STITCH report in response to evaluation of Torrington Community Hospital
20. Torridge Town and Parish meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 10 September 2014
21. DCC: Emergency Management Newsletter, September 2014
22. Devon Highways - Parish & Town Council Webpage
23. Healthwatch Voices, Issue 5, September 2014
24. Clerks and Councils Direct, July 2014

86 Pavement in Hele Lane – Andrew Heard: Andrew asked if the property owners in Hele Lane had been asked if they would release some land for a footpath and, if they would, if Devon County

would have the funds to do the project? Mackie Poole explained that he had approached residents twice and was told that they would think about it. **It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Steve Beer.**

87 Hedgerow Relocation, Town Farm: Charles Beer explained that he had a 16 acre block of land consisting of 12 acres of clay and 4 of arable pasture. He wanted to relocate a hedge to create a permanent pasture to make better use of the arable land. Jennifer Dorey was concerned that this might create more dust on her property but Charles felt that this wouldn't be so. **The Council agreed unanimously to the relocation of the hedge.**

88 Defibrillator: Mike Stokes explained that the heated cabinet had now been installed in the telephone box. It was proposed by Mike Stokes, seconded by Mike Baker and **agreed unanimously to move the loaned defibrillator from the village hall to the telephone box and that this would be advertised on the village website and in the Prior.** A local GP will provide training once the new, permanent machine has been installed.

89 Flashing Speed Signs: Cllr. Dezart reported that Devon County council will not meet any of the cost of a flashing sign for the village. Prices had already been discussed at an earlier meeting and, provided the grant of £1,500 offered by Cllr Dezart was received, the Clerk confirmed that there were sufficient funds to meet the shortfall. **It was agreed unanimously to proceed with a scheme to install a flashing sign.**

90 War Memorial: Mike Stokes explained that the work on the steps was now complete and that virtually all of the cost had been met by grants from the War Memorials Trust and DCCs 'Devon Remembers' Scheme. **Some unbudgeted work to infill the top step at a cost of £123.14 would need to be met by the Parish Council and this was agreed unanimously.** It was **agreed to hold an 'opening ceremony' on Saturday 13th September between 12:00 and 1:00 to be arranged by Heathcliff Pettifer with the landlord of the Clinton Arms. Mackie Poole will let everyone know the details once it has been organized.** Richard Joseph reported that he had seen children playing on the memorial and had taken a picture of them. He asked whether the Council had considered the safety aspects of people stepping off the steps onto the road. Mike Stokes explained that a Risk Assessment had been done, that the risk was recognized but that it was no greater than the risk of stepping of the bank. Mackie Poole thanked Roger Hunkin and Heathcliff Pettifer for cleaning the memorial.

91 TAP Fund 2014/15: **It was agreed unanimously that the clerk would submit a TAP Fund claim for a contribution towards the flashing sign.** This would contribute a sum of about £330 towards the cost of the scheme.

92 Devon Waste Plan Consultation: Members were advised to submit their own responses to the consultation if they so desired.

93 Best Kept Village, Competition Results: Roger Hunkin said that a full report would be included in the next issue of the Prior. Mackie Poole was disappointed in the result and said that we would need to make an earlier start on getting the village ready next year.

94 Members' Reports:

Roger Hunkin (i) presented the Parish Council with a collection of photographs from the Coronation year, 1953, a village event to commemorate the Queens of England from Boadicea to Queen Elizabeth II. Richard Joseph offered to put them on the website. **It was agreed unanimously to have the pictures framed and displayed in the village hall.** (ii) Roger also asked whether the Village Hall Committee had made any progress with improvements to the car park. He was assured that this was in progress.

95 Planning:

- a. Application: 1/0270/2014/OUT – Drummets Lodge, Proposed Replacement Dwelling
Members reviewed the plans but were unable to make any recommendations due to the fact that the outline plans gave no indication about the proposed construction. Members were unanimous in agreeing that the existing building needed to be replaced.
- b. Proposed Application: Wind Turbine Scheme: Horwood Combe (1/0845/2014/FUL)
(See item 80. Public Participation.) The plans for this application were not available in time for the meeting. It was agreed to hold a special meeting of the Parish Council on 16th September to review the scheme, giving members more time to gauge local opinion. **The Clerk will ensure that all members have a copy of the wind turbine policy before the meeting.**
- c. Decision: 1/0556/2013/FUL, Proposed dwelling, land r/o 7 Meadowstone Close - Refused

96 Finance:

I. The following expenses were approved:

Clerk: Salary – Net Pay and expenses: £141.53; PAYE element £33.60

Cardiac Science, heated box for defibrillator: ££409.00 + VAT

Devon Stone Walling – Work to War Memorial: £2,415.38

II. Receipts since last meeting:

VAT Reclaim - £164.92

III. Bank Balances:

Community Account - £7,278.43 as at 11/08/14

Business Money Manager - £664.21 as at 11/07/14

IV. Church and Cemetery Grants: **It was proposed by Mike Stokes, seconded by Roger Hunkin and agreed unanimously that the annual grant to the church would be increased from £250.00 to £500.00 and that this would be reflected in precepts for future years.**

97. Chairman's Report: (i) Reminded members that there is a Joint Area Advisory Meeting in Langtree village hall on Wednesday 10th September and as many as possible were asked to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:10 pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: (Chair)

NAME: DATE:

Next meetings will be held in Frithelstock Village Hall on Tuesday 16th September 2014 at 8:00pm and Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 7:30pm.