

Frithelstock Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th March 2014 at 7:30pm 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) and 8 members of the public: Susan Bowman, Adrian Green, Audrey Hunkin, Viv Jones, Richard Joseph, Mary Pearce, Judith Seaman and Terry Warrington.

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

16 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

17 Apologies: Greg Ball and Sam Robinson

18 Public Participation Cllr. Gaston Dezart (i) reported that DCC had decided to carry on with the badger cull although there had been some opposition to it, with some people believing shooting to be inhumane and ineffective compared to gassing. (ii) The Chamber of Commerce had developed a plan for the development of The Wharf at East-the-Water for which the artist's impression was "quite nice". There had been no opposition to the scheme and he thought the application would probably be approved. (iii) The County Council had previously encouraged a 'Youth Parliament' to give young people a better understanding of local politics and to get them more involved but although they had wanted to make a 3-minute presentation at a recent Council meeting they had been refused. (iv) The Youth Centre at The Pill in Bideford is under threat as they cannot afford to pay staff. The Pollyfield Centre, East-the-Water had closed recently due to lack of police support and being unable to appoint a Youth Worker. (v) Two primary schools in Bideford have obtained permission for extra classroom. More staff and pupils are expected which could impact on traffic congestion. Agreement had been reached with Western Power to provide an extra car park East-the-Water.

19 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2014 were approved and signed.

20 Matters Arising:

- I. Parish Lengthsman: Cllr. Dezart could not state when the lengthsman would be able to start on their schedules of work again. The Clerk had been informed by Julian Roskilly at DCC Highways that the lengthsman program is suspended to enable extra resource to help with all the storm related matters and that he was not sure when the next visit will be as they are "very much off program". Julian Roskilly had said that the lengthsman can only do basic tasks, mainly cleaning of water features, sign cleaning etc., and that it must be Highway related and not somewhere where they would need traffic control – which counts out the A and B roads. They cannot do anything that requires materials or is tarmac related. If unsure, the Parish Council can add it to the list and he will let us know what isn't achievable and he will look at other ways to accomplish those items. **The Clerk is to inform Julian about the work required in Hele Lane and the gully and verge between Huskhill Cottage and the village hall and Cllr Dezart was asked was to follow up the requests as well.**

- II. Potholes and drainage issues: Cllr. Dezart reported that Devon County had received 11,500 reports of potholes and 1,300 fallen trees so far this year and was doing all it could to deal with them.
- III. Rubbish at Jericho: The Chairman had not met with Mr Bracken. He had identified the landowner and reported the problem to him and had been given an assurance that the landowner had discussed the problem with the tenant himself and that Mr Bracken had been given a deadline to remove the rubbish.
- 21 Clerk's Report: The clerk presented 14 items of correspondence, many of which had been distributed earlier by email:

- 1) DCC Highways: Delay to the Parish Lengthsman Programme
- 2) Torrington Area Advisory Group – agenda for meeting on 21st January 2014 and a letter advising next meeting 15th April 2014, 7:00pm, Methodist Church Hall, Mill Street, Torrington
- 3) Devon Countryside Access Forum – applications for membership of the forum required by 21st February
- 4) Poster for Care Closer To Home public meetings
- 5) DCC: Community News Roundup, January 2014
- 6) DCC: Flood Clean-up and Repair Works
- 7) Rural Revitalization Conference Bristol 26th June 2014
- 8) Schedules of Planning Applications
- 9) Best Kept Village Competition – Judging Schedule and Posters
- 10) Torridge DC: Empty Homes Toolkit – Guidance for identifying and tackling empty properties within the parish
- 11) Devon Mobile Library Service timetables – no service to Frithelstock
- 12) Linking Life in the Torridge - Parish Survey – no service to Frithelstock
- 13) Register of Electors 2013/14 – copies held by clerk and chairman
- 14) DCC: Community News Round-Up, February 2014

22 Consultation Request: DCC Day Services **It was agreed that members would make their own representations to the consultation if they so wished.**

- I. A Stakeholders Event is being held at Cedars Inn on 7th March 2014 between 2:00 and 4:30pm

23 South West Heritage Trust/North Devon Record Office An email had been received stating that the future of the North Devon Record Office was uncertain following the creation of the South West Heritage Trust. Mackie Poole supplied a list of the documents dating from 1894-1950 that are held there. Richard Joseph suggested digitising the records and destroying the originals. A decision on the future of the Records Office will not be taken for another 12 months. **Members were advised by the Chairman to make their own representations to help ensure that the Record Office does not close.**

24 Grant Applications:

- I. Victim Support: **It was unanimously agreed not to make any donation at this time.**
- II. Village Hall – balance of previously agreed donation figure of £750 **It was agreed that a further sum of £171.41 was due to the village hall in the current financial year** and that a payment would be made on receipt of suitable invoices provided that they were made out to Frithelstock Parish Council.

25 Report of the Torrington Area Advisory Group, 21st January 2014: Mike Stokes gave a resume of the last meeting of the Torrington Area Advisory Committee. The main subjects that were considered were:

- The impact of budget cuts
- Torrington Council's Empty Homes Initiative
- Progress of the Local Plan, and
- Lack of communication with Parish Councils

A copy of Mike Stokes report of the meeting is attached at Appendix 1.

26 Balsdon Trust: The Parish Council's application for a donation towards the cost of a flashing speed sign had been refused. **Members were asked to give some thought to alternative sources of funds.**

27 Defibrillator: There was a general discussion about possible sources of funds for a defibrillator, including a hire-purchase option that would cost about £400 per year including the cost of consumables. It was reported that the total cost of a defibrillator would be about £2,000, including training, and that £724 had been raised by the Village Hall Committee so far. **It was proposed by Roger Hunkin, seconded by Mike Stokes and unanimously agreed that the Chairman would submit a grant application to the Balsdon Trust. It was also agreed that the Clerk would include an application for a TAP Fund grant of £333 as part of an application that he is compiling for Buckland Brewer, Langtree and Peters Marland Parish Councils.**

28 War Memorial:

- I. DCC Grant Application A letter had been received from DCC approving the application for 50% contribution towards the scheme cost. The payment should be received shortly.
- II. Commemorative event Mackie Poole reported that the Bishop of Crediton will supply poppies to Frithelstock Church for planting in the village and that these will be placed around the war memorial in boxes to be made for the purpose by Sidney Adams. A memorial event is planned for Bideford for 27th July 2014. (The First World War started on 28th July 1914.) Terry Warrington suggested that the church bells should be rung. **Roger Hunkin suggested that members should give consideration to the matter and that a decision should be made at the next meeting.** Judith Seaman gave a presentation of the extensive work that she has done to identify 5 local men who had died in action and 5 who had survived, none of whom were included on the memorial. They were:

Those who had died

Private Samuel Richard Bennett
Captain John White Cater MC
Private John S Hutchings M M
Gunner George Lake
Private Samuel Charles Mitchell

Those who survived

James Charles Beer
Gunner George Bond
Private Richard Shapland Cole
Leading Mechanic John Petherbridge
Private Edward Petherbridge

Judith asked for these names to be added to the memorial, which was agreed in principal subject to confirmation by an appropriate body. Mike Stokes to discuss with the War Memorials Trust. Thanks were extended to Judith for her hard work.

29 Report from the Snow Warden/Salt & Grit Bins: Every bin has been checked and is in order. The bin at Southcott has been moved to the T-junction at the bottom of Southcott. This is currently empty but DCC has been asked to fill it.

30 Bus Shelter: Roger Hunkin reported that the bill for the repair and replacement of the bus shelter has been paid by Stagecoach's insurers.

31 Road Safety - Accidents within the parish: Prior to the meeting Greg Ball had distributed by email details of a number of accidents in the village, mainly at the junction of Hele Lane and the A388. The information had been shared with the police. Despite a number of requests and suggestions DCC had so far refused to do any work to improve safety at this junction. **The Clerk will pass on the details to Cllr Gaston Dezart.** It was also reported that some residents are parking on the double yellow lines, making the situation more hazardous. Richard Joseph reported that about 350 vehicle pass through Frithelstock Stone during rush hours.

32 Annual Parish Meeting:

- I. Agenda/Speaker: **It was agreed that the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting would be the same as last year. It was also agreed that Michael Newcombe, DCCs Road Safety Officer, would be invited as guest speaker (proposed by Heathcliffe Pettifer, seconded by Mike Baker).**
- II. Nominations for Representative Members on to the Village Hall Management Committee: It was unanimously agreed that the 5 existing representatives would be nominated again: Mackie Poole, Roger Hunkin, Peter Hutchings, Gale Riddell and Eileen Brown.

33 Members' Reports:

Mackie Poole reported (i) that the tree surgeon had asked permission to cut down trees opposite the playing field and this had been given following consultation with the person who had planted them. (ii) The Archdeacon of Barnstaple will be conducting the Holy Communion Service at St Mary and St Gregory's Church at 11:00am on 16th March 2014.

Mike Baker reported that a small blue van had been spotted circulating round the village and that Irish Travellers were reported to be in the area. Parishioners were advised to be vigilant.

Andrew Heard asked whether there were any developments about the pavement in Hele Lane.

Mackie Poole said that the owner had not yet decided if he would release the land required and therefore DCC can do nothing at the present time.

Heathcliffe Pettifer (i) expressed his thanks to Phil Pennington for assistance with providing sandbags during the recent bad weather. (ii) He also reported that the Clinton Arms was up for sale. It was generally agreed that the parish would not want to lose this amenity.

34 Planning:

- i. 1/1153/2013/FUL - Refurbishment of play area equipment to allow construction of bespoke play equipment, Play Area, Frithelstock – A response had been requested by 26th February. Following consultation by email the Chairman had responded to support the application and the Clerk had composed the following response:

This application has been considered by the Parish Councillors and is fully supported by them. The scheme looks well thought out, with good use of the current site and building materials and should cause a minimum affect to the area. The change of usage for the land is not much different to existing usage. There is no change to access point of the land. It would offer better security and facilities to support TK Play's business. It is good to see local businesses doing well, especially one that employs local people and tradesmen.

- ii. Property at The Glen: Mackie Poole had received a report about a reputed 'concealed garage' at a property in the Glen and had advised that it should be referred to Torridge District Council.

35 Finance:

- 35.1 The following expenses were approved:
- Clerk: Salary – Net Pay and expenses: £140.80; PAYE element £33.80
 - Citizens Advice Bureau – grant, £25.00
 - Buckland Brewer Parish Council re Clerk’s Training Day - £30.00
- 35.2 Bank balances: Community Account - £3,018.49 as at 11/01/14
Business Money Manager - £ 663.97 as at 11/01/14
- 35.3 A new bank mandate was completed as the bank now requires one in a new format.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:05 pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: (Chair)

NAME: DATE:

Next meeting will be held in Frithelstock Village Hall on Tuesday 6th May 2014 at 7:30pm.