

# *Frithestock Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7:30 pm in Frithestock Village Hall**

Councillors Present: Mr M Poole (Chairman), Mr M Baker, Mr G Ball, Mr H Pettifer and Mr M Stokes.

Clerk: In the absence of the Parish Clerk, notes were taken by Cllr. Mike Stokes

Also in attendance: Dr. Aussie Connor and 6 members of the public: Dave Debnam, Adrian Green, Collette Henerty, Richard Joseph, Mary Pearce and Maureen Poole.

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

127 Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

128 Apologies: Andrew Heard apologised that he had a prior engagement. Roger Hunkin and the Clerk, Patrick Blossie, were unable to attend due to ill health. Also Cllr. Phil Pennington (TDC), Gwen Barrow and Terry Warrington had sent their apologies. Heathcliff Pettifer apologised in advance that he would be late and joined the meeting at 8:00pm.

129 Public Participation:

- Mr Richard Joseph tabled a list of points which he wished discussed at the next meeting. The Chairman requested that this list (6 pages) be attached to these minutes. (see Appendix 1)
- Mr Joseph stated that the minutes regarding the recent wind turbine planning application did not correctly record the financial rewards for the parish that the Chairman had been able to extract from the applicant, in the event that planning approval was granted (by TDC). The Chairman disagreed with Mr Joseph's assertion and was adamant that what is minuted is what he said at the meeting.
- Mr Adrian Green raised concern that the Annual Parish Meeting minutes for 2014 are still not published on the website. The Chairman reiterated that he has asked the clerk for them and will remind him again.
- Mrs Maureen Poole suggested that a 'welcome pack' for newcomers to the parish would be a good idea. Mr Adrian Green was able to confirm that he has matters in hand and the work is some 80% complete. It will be finalised as soon as possible.

130 Presentation by Dr. Aussie Connor: An Overview of Using a Defibrillator: Dr. Connor explained that this was not training but that he briefly wanted to run through the operation of a defibrillator. He commented that the parish had made a good choice of machine and that it was "idiot proof". Aussie provided a guidance sheet on resuscitation. This will be added to the website.

131 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved and signed.

132 Report by Councillor Phil Pennington: Torridge District Council: No report.

133 Report by Councillor Gaston Dezart, Devon County Council: No report.

134 Matters Arising:

- a. Parish Lengthsman: No further information

- b. Potholes and drainage issues: Mr David Debnam advised that the gully near his home had been dug out but the spoil not removed. It was now being washed back. Mr Heath Pettifer expressed concern that a number of drains are not functioning on Torrington Hill and that, in the event of freezing weather, the road could become extremely dangerous. **He offered to prepare a Parish Plan of all drainage issues of which he is aware, for the next meeting.** This could then be taken up with DCC. His offer was accepted.

135 Clerk's Report: (a) The clerk had distributed by email 21 items of correspondence since the previous meeting:

1. **DCC Flood Risk Management - New Website**
2. **DCC: Tough Choices - Help shape your local services**
3. **DALC E-bulletin November 2014**
4. **CPRE: Seminar, Goodleigh Village Hall, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 9:30 – 12:45**
5. **Recycle Devon Thank You Awards and the Innovation Fund**
6. **Message from Met Office Advisor for SW ENGLAND for HEAVY RAIN**
7. **DCC: Community New Roundup, November 2014**
8. **DALC: DCLG consultations - details of two consultations from Central Government ending imminently on the subjects of Mobile Telephones and Travellers**
9. **TDC: Standards Committee - Parish / Town Council Rep needed**
10. **NEW CCG: Next round of Care Closer to Home Engagement Events**
11. **NEW CCG: Urgent and Necessary measures update**
12. **TDC: Legal Briefing**
13. **DCC Roads & Transport Management: Parish & Town Council Conferences - September 2014, Feedback request**
14. **NEW CCG: Stakeholders letter re 'Urgent and Necessary Measures'**
15. **DCC EMERGENCY PLANNING NEWLETTER DEC 14**
16. **Free Energy-Saving Installations with CosyDevon**
17. **Samuels Solicitors: Community assets**
18. **Community news roundup - December 2014**
19. **Temporary Traffic Order - Various Streets, Devon**
20. **NEW CCG: Update on Urgent and Necessary measures**
21. **Seasons Greeting from the Chair of Torridge District Council**

136 Local Government Boundary Commission: Electoral Review of Devon: This item had been emailed to members prior to the meeting for them to respond to individually if they so wished.

137 Consultation on Parish Poll Legislation: This item had been emailed to members prior to the meeting for them to respond to individually if they so wished.

138 Consultation on TDC Housing Renewal Policy: This item had been emailed to members prior to the meeting for them to respond to individually if they so wished.

139 Defibrillator: (i) Permanent Machine Mr Stokes advised the meeting that **he is arranging for the parish's machine to be registered with South West Ambulance Service** in order that, in the event of an emergency call requiring the need of such a machine, the caller could be directed to it.

(ii) Training: Not discussed.

140 Flashing Speed Signs: The meeting was advised that no progress had been made due to the cancelled meeting with DCC. **It was agreed that Mr Roskilly's supervisor or line manager (Simon Philips?) would be asked to attend a site visit instead.** Following telephone comments from DCC Highways, **it was decided to revert back to the original sign specification of a 30mph roundel**

**and 'SLOW DOWN'** because the original decision for a speed indicator, from experience, tends to encourage some road users to try and 'test the system'.

141 Village Photographs: Mrs Maureen Poole tabled a 'notice board' type display on which she had mounted enlarged copies of the photographs. Further work is required to identify some of the names but when complete, she suggested that it be mounted on display in the Village Hall. **It was agreed that when complete, she should obtain costs for framing although, provided these were "reasonable", she should progress matters, keeping the Chairman advised.**

142 Parking in Hele Lane: The problems that arose on Christmas/Boxing Days (road blocked by inconsiderate parking of adjacent vehicles) was considered a 'one-off' and no further action is necessary. However, concern was raised that one resident parks his vehicle at the narrow point of Hele Lane, facing the wrong way, under a street light that switches off at midnight. It was suggested that, for a small donation to the village hall funds, parishioners could park in the village hall car park. The Village Hall Management Committee were requested to give this some thought.

143 Christmas Tree Lights: **A letter of thanks is to be sent to Gordon Hatcher for his cooperation in providing electricity for the lights over many years.** Mr Parish, the new tenant in the corner bungalow (Church Lane), after some reluctance (being concerned over how much it would cost him), agreed to provide an electrical supply. **It was agreed to send a cheque for £10 to Mr Parish as a 'thank you'.** Thanks were expressed to Mr M Poole (Chairman) for the supply of the Christmas Tree and also to him and Mr Arthur Poole for erecting and decorating it.

144 Poorlands Charity: (i) Ratify Action Taken This Year and Plan for Future Spending: A 'thank you' has been received from Mary Goaman for the Parish Council's donation of £30 to the charity. **This action had been taken by the Chairman as an emergency item and was ratified unanimously by the members present.** It was recognised that funds are very low and there is a need to raise monies for future years. The Entertainment Committee is to be asked to consider including the Poorlands Charity as one of its recipients from future fund raising events and the Village Hall Management Committee will be asked whether a donation box could be placed on the bar.

(ii) Ratify appointments to the Poorlands Committee: **It was proposed by Mike Baker, seconded by Greg Ball, that the appointment of Maureen Poole, Gale Riddell and Michael Short to the Poorlands Committee be ratified. This was agreed unanimously.**

145 Snow Warden: No volunteers have come forward although Terry Warrington has indicated that he could be persuaded to undertake the role. Greg Ball has had no contact from DCC over his request to how a new warden can be trained. Concern was expressed that the salt supplies held by Messrs M Poole (Chairman), R Hunkin (Vice-Chairman) and S Beer have deteriorated over time and need to be collected by DCC and replenished.

146 2014/15 Budget Monitoring Review: Not considered as the papers had not been distributed prior to the meeting.

147 2015/16 Budget and Precept Setting: **It was proposed by Mike Baker and seconded by Heath Pettifer that the precept request to TDC should be increased to £5,000 for the coming financial year. Agreed unanimously.**

148 Members' Reports: None.

149 Planning:

- I. Electronic delivery of planning applications wef 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015: It was agreed that wef 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, when planning applications become 'electronic only', members

would respond (even if 'no comment') to the Chairman, who would in turn respond to TDC on behalf of the Parish Council. If any member feels that a special meeting is required then this will be arranged.

- II. Decision: 1/1174/2014/CPE – 2 Rakeham Cottage, Alteration to existing drive to enable access to parking area – Granted Permission – Noted

150 Finance:

- I. The following expenses were approved (£1,361.99 + VAT):

Zurich Municipal – Insurance Premium (£230.00 + VAT)

Clerk: Salary – Net Pay and expenses (Net £148.19; PAYE element £33.80)

Cardiac Science – Defibrillator (£920.00 + VAT)

Poorlands Charity - £30.00

- II. Receipts since last meeting (£2,065.00):

Locality Budget Grant (Flashing Sign) - £1,500.00

M Poole and R Hunkin – Donations re Flashing Sign (£550.00)

Website advertising: £15.00

- III. Bank Balances:

Community Account - £8,768.44 as at 11/12/14

Business Money Manager - £664.33 as at 11/10/14

151 Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported the inconvenience he faces when cheques are required. It means that he has to visit the Clerk to obtain the chequebook and then seek the signatures of two other councillors, most of whom are not too local to the village. **It was proposed by Heath Pettifer and seconded by Greg Ball that the Chairman retains the chequebook to ease the process. It was also agreed that the requirement for three signatures be reduced to two be investigated.**

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:25 pm**

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

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

**Next meeting will be held in Frithelstock Village Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 at 7:30pm.**

**Paper presented by Richard Joseph 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

I have SIX items for the PCC for the next meeting on 3 March.

**ONE**

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Please refer to Minutes 114 (4 November) – para 29 (b)

29. (b) Openness of Local Government Bodies Regs 2014: Review of Standing Order: The Clerk explained that there had been a change in the law meaning that filming or recording of Parish Council meetings was now possible. This would have meant a change of Standing Orders if Frithelstock had been using the NALC model but, as this Parish had adopted a ‘home-grown’ version, which made no mention of filming or recording, it was not essential to make any change at this time. However, Standing Orders ought to be reviewed annually and this has not been done since 2009. The Clerk recommended that the Council ought to consider implementing the NALC model in order to demonstrate good governance, but that this could be done next May, when the Council is due for re-election. A document had been distributed by email showing possible new wording for Standing Orders relating to filming and recording as background information for members. It was agreed to review Standing Orders after May 2015.

**ACTION**

1 Does this mean the FP accepts that the public can film, record and photograph meetings? If yes, then it does not confirm the fact and the Minute needs amending. If no, then the FP is in breach of English law – as changes took place on 6 August last. It is law now – and the FP cannot hide behind proposed ‘wording’. The minute is so wrapped up in jargon that the poor parish resident won’t have a clue! Explain and publish exactly what is the ‘home-grown; standing order? Surely this should be published on the website?

2 A full explanation is needed to explain all the changes that took place on 6 August last – including, the duties of councillors, chairman, vice chairman and clerk. Also the new rights of electors and public.

**TWO**

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#### **ACTION**

The FPC should agree to use the Communities Parish and Local Councils (CPALC) which is open to all concerned.

- 1 It is free (whereas the NALC) requires 5.6p per elector and only open to parish clerks?
- 2 Such a decision/choice should be put to the electors as it is fundamental and in any event the electors can now demand such a poll.
- 3 The site clearly shows many of the rights of electors, the duties of councillors etc.
- 4 The site reference is [www.cpalc.org.uk](http://www.cpalc.org.uk)

#### **THREE**

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The FPC does not consult its electors – in fact it has not done so formally since 2006 (the survey about selling or refurbishing the Village Hall). The FPC has a duty to seek the views of electors on major issues or any issues of significance/consequence.

There was, for example, a need to ask residents; opinions regarding the last major planning allocation for a turbine at Catsborough Cross – only one councillor sought residents' views by sending out an email (H Pettifer – who at least understands that he represents residents' views and not just those of councillors). But there was no formal poll.

We have the technology to solicit the views of approx. 100 residents via the internet.

#### **ACTION**

The FPC re-iterates in a fresh Minute its undertaking to consult residents' opinions in future – on such issues of funding from turbines installations, any change to the FP's wind energy policy, or any action that affects electors – the list is larger of course.

## FOUR

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### **Public Works Contracts – War Memorial Steps**

Overall, the results have been well received, though it is a pity that the left coping has a double dip and is not level with the other side. But this to one side for a moment.

Since July 2013 when the idea was first mentioned, there have been Minutes about the search from grants, progress, build, extra names and celebrations.

But nowhere have the two quotes been published for residents to see (as in Minute 8.5 July 2013), no summary of the final grants received and from whom. No details of the savings made by the ‘cherry-picking’ of work carried out by councillors. Did the parish gain or lose by their efforts? No one can tell. The FP has a duty to inform residents. No mention anywhere of the contractor who was awarded the contract.

At what point did the councillors ‘volunteer’ to carry out the various tasks? Before the specification was sent out or after the tender (or tenders) were received? Many residents think the work done by councillors was done free of any charge or expenses.

#### **ACTION**

- 1 The FPC needs to explain in detail, all the financial transactions, and to show showing savings achieved by the tasks carried out by councillors.
- 2 In future, the FPC must not cherry pick any tasks in a contract placed to a third party. To do so, in my opinion, invites criticism and the suspicion that councillors have gained financially from their role in office.

And unless, the contractor re-quoted knowing that certain works had work done by others ahead of their work, any sure basis for legal compensation in the event will be compromised.

## FIVE

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### **Minute 4 November and Agenda**

Without knowing what will be said later, I understand that I am being blamed for the non-collection of monies from the bar at the Clinton Arms. I elected NOT to continue to do so as I put a suggestion to the trustees in November 2013 (for consideration in December 2013). I never had any response, or acknowledgement – and the discourtesy resulted in (along with the much voiced public comments about the trustees doing precious little to raise any money themselves) Ian and I dropping the whole idea. In any case, so few residents support the Clinton on a regular basis that it was blatantly unfair to expect outsiders to contribute.

In November last, I received a call from xxxxxxxxxxx asking if there were any monies? (My point about residents supporting the pub is underlined here.) Having said no – I asked what had happened to my suggestion. It was ‘discussed in full and it was thought that it was up to neighbours to go to the assistance of anyone living alone. Facts since, prove that this assumption is severely flawed.

Either the Poorland’s Charity or the Parish Council need to think of those who live alone and – as a minimum – provide information on personal alarms, and other devices in the case where the person living alone can contact someone for help where they fall or are prevented from reaching a phone.

#### ACTION

- 1 Agree that either the Poorlands or the PC will do something for the vulnerable.
- 2 Check and add to the provisional list of residents living alone.

Attach list here.

*At this point Richard listed 13 names, including his own, which have not been reproduced as it is not known whether those people wished to have their names published.*