

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th May 2018 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's Mrs A Trout (Chair), M Balment, J Boundy, J Mock and R Webber.

In attendance: District Cllr R Stanley and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

01/05//18. Election of Officers:

a) Chair. Cllr Mrs Allison Trout was unanimously elected as Chair.

Proposed by Cllr J Boundy and seconded by Cllr M Balment.

Cllr Mrs Trout signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

b) Vice-chair. Cllr Martin Balment was unanimously elected as Vice-chair.

Proposed by Cllr J Boundy and seconded by Cllr R Webber.

02/05/18. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr's R Arnold and P Crease. Apologies were received from County Cllr Mrs P Colthorpe.

03/05/18. Disclosure of interest in item on the Agenda. There were no disclosures.

04/05/18. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2018 as an accurate record of the Meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

05/05/18. Matters arising from the minutes. Cllr Mrs Trout reported the bin by the Village Hall had been emptied again by MDDC.

06/05/18. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.

No applications received.

b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.

18/00051/CLU Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a dwelling in non-compliance with an agricultural condition. Kensington Farm Bungalow. Washfield, Tiverton. Decision: permission granted.

18/00330/FULL Stagstile, Lower Washfield, Tiverton, EX16 9PD. Erection of a replacement dwelling. Decision: conditional approval granted.

18/00410/Full & 18/00411/Full Erection of a livestock building. Decision: conditional approval granted.

c) Any other planning matters. MDDC are holding a consultation on the Tiverton Town Centre Regeneration Masterplan and Delivery Plan. The consultation ends on the 9th June.

07/05/18. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. The road surface between Rackenford Meadows and Cotleigh has been repaired and the sides of the road were ploughed. There are no signs to mark the end of the 30 mph limit. Motorists travelling from the Rackenford

direction along Rackenford Road cannot see the sign for Washfield as it is still obscured by a tree. The surface of the road from Emmerford to Washfield needs repairing and between Emmerford Cross and Stoodleigh Drive there is a very deep pothole that is filled with gravel. Potholes were also reported in Dark Lane. Water is running down Stanterton Hill and not into the drains. Dryhill Lane was reported to be in a very bad condition. It was noted that DCC has received extra money from the Government for potholes. The bridle path beyond Stoodleigh Church is blocked by a tree and is in a poor condition near Ramstorland Farm.

c) Further discussion on the possible refurbishment of fingerposts signs.

Cllr Webber will look at the condition of finger post signs in the parish and will report back to the next meeting.

d) To discuss whether a salt bit is required on the junction of Washfield Lane with Rackenford Meadows. This needs further investigation to see where it could be sited.

e) Any other highways matters. There were no other highways matters.

08/05/18. Finance

a) To approve any payments. It was resolved to make a payment to the Clerk for her wages (Chq no 501). This includes the increase in rate of pay as agreed by NALC and SLCC.

Following the Annual Parish Meeting at which Alan Sheath gave a talk on the work of the Churches Housing Action Team a donation of £50 was given to CHAT to help with the work that it does to help people with housing problems (Chq no 500). Washfield is in the area that CHAT covers.

b) To approve the annual insurance payment. The Clerk reported that AON, the Council's current insurer, are no longer supplying Parish Council insurance and she is trying to find a competitive quote from another provider. The insurance is due for renewal on 1st June. It was agreed to delegate responsibility to the Clerk, Chair and Vice-chair to accept a quote from another provider that is competitive and meets the Council's needs.

c) To approve the Annual Governance Statement. It was agreed to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

d) To approve the annual accounts for 2017-2018. It was agreed to approve the annual account for 2017-2018.

e) To approve the signing of the Certificate of Exemption. Receipts and payments were both below £25,000 for 2017-2018 and the Council met the other criteria so it was agreed to sign the Certificate of Exemption.

f) Further discussion on the 2018-2019 budget. The Clerk noted that the Council had reserves of £3930.71 at the end of the 2017-2018 financial year. The precept was £1450 and it is recommended that reserves should be a half to two thirds of the precept. As the reserves are much higher than recommended the Council needs to consider what it could do that would be of benefit to the parish rather than just increasing reserves.

09/05/18. County & District Cllr Reports. Cllr Mrs Colthorpe was unable to attend the meeting as she was attending a meeting of another Parish Council. Morebath and Washfield Parish Council meetings are often held on the same night and as Cllr Mrs

Colthorpe attended the Washfield Parish Council meeting last time she sent her apologies for this meeting. Her report sent by email is included as Appendix A.

Cllr Stanley reported that a new entrance to Marks & Spencer's is being created as work starts on the Premier Inn development. Everyone was encouraged to comment on the consultation for the Tiverton Town Centre Regeneration. In early 2019 the entrance from Fore Street to the Pannier Market will be widened by demolishing a shop currently run as 'Curiosity'. Cllr Stanley said he was disappointed by the response to the Housing Needs Survey carried out in Stoodleigh, Oakford and Washfield as there wasn't enough housing need to take the project forward.

10/05/18. New General Data Protection Regulations. The new GDPR come into place on 25th May. Greater care needs to be taken when storing and using personal data. The Clerk has been carrying out an audit to evidence what personal data is held by the Council. She is now putting together Privacy Notices etc. Parish Councils will not be required to have an independent Data Protection Officer.

11/05/18. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence. Cllr Mrs Trout thanked everyone for supporting the Annual Parish Meeting. There is a box in the Church where donations of food for the CHAT foodbank can be left.

12/05/18. Public Questions. There were no members of the public.

13/05/18. Date of the next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th July 2018

Appendix A. County Councillor's Report – May 2018

Some of you may have seen on Spotlight last week Somerset County Council's suggestion that the county might want to consider going unitary. D.C.C. was quick to issue a press release to the effect that Devon is not looking to follow suit but, should Somerset and its districts decide to pursue that course of action, there is a chance that the 'Heart of the South West's proposals to persuade central government to devolve more powers to the area's

authorities could be affected and HotSW representatives will be meeting on 25th May to discuss the way forward.

At County Hall Cllr Hart has re-shuffled his cabinet in light of John Clatworthy (Dawlish) having decided to step down as portfolio-holder for Finance and Asset Management, a role he has held since the present administration was elected in 2009 (and as shadow for two years before that). He will be replaced by Stuart Barker (Ashburton and Buckfastleigh) whose present portfolio responsibility for Economy and Skills will be taken over by Rufus Gilbert (Salcombe) with the addition of Skypark. At the Annual Meeting on 24th May, Mid Devon's Ray Radford will stand down as Chairman of the County Council to be replaced by Caroline Chugg (Braunton Rural), a long-serving chairman of the Farms Estate Committee.

Devon's cabinet recently agreed that, working with its partner agencies in neighbouring authorities, the county should host a 'Regional Adoption Agency', bringing together the core adoption services of Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay. Work has now commenced to recruit to the post of service manager, while consultation and engagement with staff and stakeholders continues. On a related topic – which caused some controversy earlier this year – work to review the current structure of foster carer fees is also continuing, the aim being to develop a fair and equitable fee structure which is acceptable to all parties.

Several people have asked me recently what has happened to the leat in Tiverton which hasn't been seen since last year. It hasn't dried up or been re-routed; it was turned off because a pipe at the junction of Barrington Street and Water Lane had collapsed and the leat was exacerbating the damage. The necessary work should have been done last autumn but unfortunately the weather intervened and it had to be postponed. It is now scheduled to begin on Tuesday 15th May so, unexpected complications notwithstanding (fingers crossed!), the leat should shortly be running again.

As 'ash dieback' begins to bite an increase in tree inspections is recommended to D.C.C.'s cabinet in a report due to be considered on Wednesday. With an estimated 13,500 ash trees on county council land (and a further 440,000 estimated to be owned by third parties or on unregistered land within falling distance of the highway) it is recommended that tree inspections be increased to every two years and potentially to annually. Ash trees account for about 20% of all trees in Devon and the report also recommends a number of important principles, including adoption of the 'Devon 3/2/1 formula' whereby each large tree lost is replaced with three new ones, a medium-sized tree with two and a small tree with one.

Please be aware that the new 'IKEA' opened last Thursday (10th May) and is expected to continue to affect traffic on approach roads to the store. Devon County Show starts on Thursday 17th May and on Saturday 19th the Exeter Chiefs Premiership semi-final at Sandy Park will be added to the mix! For those of you who prefer someone else to do the driving when you have a day out, the Sunday trains between Okehampton and Exeter will be resuming for the summer on 20th May with four trains running each way.