

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th May 2016 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs R Arnold (Chair), M Balment, J Boundy, J Mock, Mrs A Trout and R Webber.
In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

01/05/16. Election of

- a) Chairman.** Cllr Roger Arnold was proposed by Cllr J Boundy and seconded by Cllr M Balment. There were no other nominations. Cllr Arnold was unanimously elected as Chair and accepted the Office.
- b) Vice-chair.** Cllr Martin Balment was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Trout and seconded by Cllr J Mock. There were no other nominations. Cllr Balment was unanimously elected as Vice-chair.

02/05/16. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr P Crease. Apologies were received from County Cllr Mrs P Colthorpe, District Cllr A Moore and District Cllr R Stanley

03/05/16. Disclosure of interest in item on the Agenda. There were no disclosures.

04/05/16. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2016 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

05/05/16. Matters arising from the minutes. It was noted that trees are now being felled on Stoodleigh Drive. A telephone wire had been brought down by a tree that was being felled. At the last meeting it was reported that trees had come down across Stoodleigh Drive during windy weather and there were still some trees that appeared to be in a dangerous condition.

06/05/16. Planning

- a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.** No applications received.
- b) To note the comments agreed for planning application: 16/00521/Full** Installation of replacement windows to first floor flat 1 – 2 The Weeches, Washfield.
16/00522/LBC. Applicant: Mr M Balment.
Comment: Washfield Parish Council has no objections.
- c) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.**
15/01920/Full Replacement of shingle roofing with natural slate. Pylemoor Manor, Washfield & 15/01921/LBC Listed Building Consent for replacement of shingle roofing with natural slate. Pylemoor Manor, Washfield.
Decision: conditional approval granted.
- d) Any other planning matters.** MDDC is reviewing its Statement of Community Involvement and has also prepared a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), 'Refuse storage for new residential properties'. The consultation period for both documents will be 23rd May to 18th July.

07/05/16. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. In Long Lane the road surface from Pound House to Lurleigh is very muddy and there is a lot of water. People have to use this road at the moment because of a diversion while highways work is carried out at Lower Washfield. There was a complaint that trees across the public footpath from the Village (opposite Churchpitt Cottages) to Long Lane were making it difficult to walk along. The collapsing manhole was filled in on a Sunday. Water is now coming out of Cotleigh Farm Lane onto the highway. It was questioned whether the area where the hedge was removed, opposite the end of this lane, should have been surfaced with tarmac. This will be checked with planning. The Clerk reported the Lengthman service is now only minimal.

b) To note acknowledgement of Washfield Parish Council's objection to the closure of the entrance of Washfield Lane. Washfield Parish Council made an objection to the prohibition of vehicles proposal for Washfield Lane because concerns about changes to this junction have not been fully addressed and the plans mean residents of Washfield will find their access onto Rackenford Road more difficult. Washfield Parish Council's response has been acknowledged by Ian Roberts, replying on behalf of the County Solicitor. The Council's response will form part of the public record which may be made publically available. The comments will be considered by members of the appropriate highways committee and the Council will be contacted again when a decision is reached. Councillors pointed out the new road was already being built. Councillors want to know details of how the closure of the existing junction will be carried out and were concerned about agricultural vehicles needing to use the junction.

08/05/16. Finance:

a) To approve any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Mrs J Larcombe - £70.96 Clerk's salary & expenses (chq no 479)

AON UK Ltd - £161.06 annual insurance (chq no 480)

b) To approve the annual accounts for 2015-16 and the Annual Governance Statement. The annual accounts and Annual Governance Statement were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Trout and seconded by Cllr J Boundy.

09/05/16. County & District Cllr Reports. A County Council Report had been received by email from Cllr Mrs Colthorpe. Schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' will not now have to go down the 'across the board' academisation route originally planned by the government. 91% of D.C.C. schools are in the good or outstanding categories so only a small number of the county's schools will be affected – which is good news for our finances since it had been estimated that the legal work associated with transferring all our schools to academy status would have cost the county some £3 million and, even after academisation, DCC would have remained responsible for managing and paying for school transport.

The 'Public Service Mutual' which is now providing the library service on behalf of DCC was officially launched on 1st April and is called 'Libraries Unlimited'. There has been no loss of front-line staff, no libraries have been closed and it is anticipated that, in the future, at least some of the libraries will be able to provide longer opening hours than previously.

Devon and Somerset's Trading Standards department is jointly run by the two counties and, as the biggest in the country, has recently been mentioned in the House of Lords. The department has just successfully brought a criminal

prosecution against a father and son partnership which had been defrauding elderly people and, under the 'Proceeds of Crime Act', has been able to recover some of the money for the pair's victims.

The South West Rail Project is currently out to consultation after a year in the making and it is hoped that the Okehampton/Exeter line - to be called OkeRail – will be able to provide a passenger service by 2017.

'Visit Devon' which, as Devon's part of a countrywide scheme, has been languishing for some years has instead been set up by D.C.C. as a private company and is now functioning again for the promotion of tourism in the county.

Successful trials have been carried out on Dartmoor and Exmoor for the provision of broadband by a method which, while complying with the government decree that provision shall be land-based, does not involve laying miles of cables and it may be that something similar may be suitable for other areas such as the more rural parts of Tiverton West. BT phase 2 has been scrapped as it is not good value for money and the county is now looking at tenders from a small number of other companies.

The A 396 is fully open again.

No District Councillor report.

10/05/16. Possible night landing sites in Washfield for the Devon Air Ambulance. This item was put on the agenda following an enquiry from a parishioner and is thought to have originated from the NFU. Councillors need more details before it can be discussed.

11/05/16. To discuss superfast broadband provision for Washfield. The lack of superfast broadband provision for Washfield was brought up at the Annual Parish Meeting by a concerned parishioner. Although boxes have been installed, and some properties will be able to access superfast broadband when it is activated from the Oakford end, there will be a number of properties who will be more than the 1.8Km limit for copper pipe from the Rackenford Road box and will not be able to receive it. Some parishioners have signed a petition saying they want superfast broadband. An option would be for people to contribute to the £25,000 cost of providing an additional cabinet but there is probably not enough interest to do this. Cllr Colthorpe's information about broadband provision was noted.

12/05/16. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence. The following correspondence was noted.

MDDC – State of the District Debate

Clerk & Councils Direct – May 2016 edition

13/05/16. Public Questions. Mr Roberts spoke about arrangements for the Village Day on June 4th. The Parish Council is marking the restoration of the War Memorial Shelter at the start of the event. Questions were raised about public liability insurance for the other activities that are planned to be held on the Village Green that day. Although the Parish Council has public liability insurance, any group using the Village Green for an event has to have their own public liability insurance and a risk assessment has to be produced and provided to the Council. At this point it was not clear which organisation would be taking responsibility for the event and providing public liability insurance. It was agreed that if an additional premium was charged to cover the event this could be paid by the Parish Council.

14/05/16. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th July 2016 at 7.30pm