**Minutes of Coldridge Parish Council Meeting 7.30 on Thursday January 21st 2021 via Zoom.**

**Present:** **Councillors** Andrew Green, Marion Born, Chris Burrows, John Smith, Jeff Burrows DCC Councillor Margaret Squires

**Clerk** Keyth Richardson

**Apologies** Jim Sampson,

One member of the public registered their interest in attending but had problems logging in which was not known till after the meeting.

**Open Forum.** There was no Open Forum due to COVID-19 constraints. No issues for the meeting had been raised by parishioners with a Councillor or the Clerk.

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|  | item |  |
| 2020/21-54 | **Recording of meetings** | The meeting was not being recorded |
| 2020/21-55 | **Apologies** | Due to the current Corona virus regulations Jim Sampson was not allowed to leave his home to enter another’s to use their internet to join via Zoom, so he was not able to attend. He has no internet connection of his own. |
| 2020/21-56 | **Declarations of interest** | None reported.  |
| 2020/21-57 | **Minutes** | The minutes of the meeting on November 19th 2020 were approved. |
| 2020/21-58 | **Clerks update** | Potholes in the Square. He had checked all of these against the DCC criteria for a pothole which will be mended. A pothole has to be 300mm across, 40mm deep and have a vertical edge. Potholes which do not meet the criteria will not be mended. Only one of the many potholes met the criteria. The DCC highways website wrongly shows The Square as not being a public highway so both this fact and the relevant pothole were reported to the DCC Highways officer who looks after the Parish.Otters Holt/Williams Wood. There is still some evidence of habitation. John Smith agreed to talk to Richard Daw, who lives close by to see if he can provide further information and monitor the situation. The Clerk has informed the Enforcement Officer, but she is not able to carry out as many site visits as normal due to Covid regulations.The Police and Crime Commissioners annual report was circulated to all Councillors and the hard copy retained by the Clerk.  |
| 2020/21-59 | **Highways** | Road closures have been announced for Church Lane, for top dressing and Hawkridge Bridge to finalise the repairs to it.The drains in Church lane alongside Long Parks are all full of debris and have been reported  |
| 2020/21-60 | **Planning** | The following Planning Application has been withdrawn. 20/01930/PNCOU | Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to 3 dwellings under Class Q | Land and Buildings at NGR 270004 105307 (Meadow View) East Leigh Devon |
| 2020/21-61 | **Finance** | The following payments were agreed.a. clerk’s wages £251.40b. clerk’s expenses £3.15c. Mid Devon Mobility £200d. Graveyard grants: St Matthews Church £480 Allerbridge Chapel £320e. Christmas tree £20The amounts for Mid Devon Mobility and the two graveyard grants were arrived at after much discussion regarding the value of these services to the general well-being of the parish. |
| 2020/21-62 | **Councillors reports** | 1. Flooding at West Leigh corner. Whilst a local councillor had tried to clear this it is evident the drain is blocked and needs clearing professionally. The two councillors who had tried to clear drains noted the blue tag attached to each was hindering the flow of water as items were getting caught up on the tags and causing a blockage. (Cllr Squires offered to raise this with DCC Highways)
2. The warning signs for the bend and junction approaching Allerbridge from the north-west on the B3220 are missing. The pole is there but the signs have gone.
3. A pothole on the north bound carriageway of the B3220 opposite the Chapel Yard
4. Continued flooding at Gillscott on the north bound carriageway.
5. The road from Blackditch Cross to Kelland Hill is very poor with many potholes. It is so bad people are avoiding using it.
6. The road from Thorn Corner to West Leigh is still poor and attempts by local residents to ameliorate this are not sufficient. Cllr Squires offered to follow this up with DCC Highways.
7. Salt bins in the Parish are well-stocked.
8. The new bus service provided by MD Coaches is going well with a perfectly big enough bus being used.
9. Churchyard tree. The Council had not had a recent update, but it was reported a recent Parochial Church Council (PCC) had discussed this issue with no animosity, but that it was subject to 'Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction', meaning it has to go (via the Deanery) to Exeter Diocese for approval.
10. There was discussion over apparent activity in an agricultural field to the NW of Frogbury Cross which did not appear to within the allowed usage of the land. Smoke had been seen rising from a chimney, there were saplings planted alongside the drive to the barn. The Clerk was asked to raise this with MDDC Planning Enforcement Officer Sara Jenkins and to copy Cllr Squires into the correspondence. There is concern that the landowner may be able to claim residency if no action is taken to prevent the occupation of the land as residence, and that MDDC have closed the file on this property.
11. Despite assurances from the landowner to Chris Burrows the hedges near Thorn Corner have still not been trimmed. The clerk was asked to write a letter to the landowner asking him to trim them now.
12. There is still sewage running down the road at East Leigh from the sewage plant installed by MDDC. The Clerk has already taken this up with MDDC and chased them last week. He was asked to keep on chasing this issue.
13. One of the finger signs at Hobby Moor cross has fallen off. It is not clear where it has gone, and John Smith was asked to enquire via the Coldridge Calendar if anyone knew where it was.
14. Cllr Squires gave an update on MDDC and DCC finances. They have both lost income from their trading activities, such as leisure centres and car parks, which has led to all officers being asked to reduce their spending and activities to a bare minimum. It is expected that both Councils will raise their precepts by the maximum allowed by law before a referendum has to takes place.
15. The clerk reported that the car parking at Frogbury Cross was still being followed up by himself with MDDC officers. Currently about 12 cars need car parking spaces and there are only 6, leaving 6 on the road, which are a hazard.
16. Cllr Squires mentioned that the possibility of moving to a 3-weekly cycle of refuse and re-cycling collections had been raised within MDDC but was not likely to occur.
17. The Council asked the clerk to write to Stephen Walford CEO of MDDC to pass on their appreciation and thanks to the re-cycling and refuse team who have continued to provide a very professional service, including stacking bins for each household separately, throughout this difficult period.
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| 2020/21-63 | **Dates of next meetings** | Dates for 2021 are March 18th (which is expected to be a Zoom meeting), May 20th, July 15th, September 16th and November 18th.  |

The meeting closed at 20:50. Following the meeting the minutes for November 19th were taken by the Clerk to the Chairman for signature.

Signed: