

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday January 27th 2022 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mrs A Taylor-Ross (Chair), M Balment, J Boundy, J Mock and R Webber.

In attendance: County Cllr R Chesterton, seven members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

54/01/22. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr R Arnold. Apologies were received from District Cllrs A Moore and R Stanley.

55/01/22. Disclosures of interest in items on the agenda. Cllr Balment declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 65/01/22 b) because he cuts the Churchyard grass.

56/01/22. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2021 as an accurate record of the Meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

57/01/22. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda). Cllr Mock asked for clarification on the Parish Council's support for a green path as part of the Definitive Map Review. The Parish Council had agreed to support the claim for a green lane from Shilhay Copse to north of Springfield, subject to landowner agreement and evidence of historical use.

58/01/22. Public questions. Members of the public from Stoodleigh had attended the meeting to complain about the dreadful state of the road surface at the Stoodleigh Drive end of Lower Washfield Lane. A new surface was laid six years ago but wasn't laid properly. Although residents were told it would be redone properly that hasn't happened. Cllr Chesterton asked them to email him with the history and details as he would be meeting with the new Highways Neighbourhood Officer. He also offered to meet with the members of the public to look at the problems they had raised. There was also a concern that sat navs were sending delivery vehicles along unsuitable roads.

59/01/22. Update on co-option of a councillor. An application had been received from William Wood. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross proposed that Mr Wood be co-opted and this was seconded by Cllr Balment. The proposal was agreed and Mr Wood signed his Acceptance of Office Form.

60/01/22. Planning

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

22/00110/House. Erection of first floor extension. Location: Little Moorhayes, Washfield. No objections.

b) To note the comment made for application 21/02551/House Erection of two storey side extension with balcony at first floor level. Location: Cowlins Farm, Washfield. (Received between meetings). Councillors had no objections.

- c) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.**
- d) To note the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan Consultation and decide whether any response needs to be made.** The Neighbourhood Plan process was explained by Cllr Chesterton. The Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan would take Tiverton further than the MDDC Local Plan, particularly regarding the environmental route. It will also give weight to Plan Mid Devon, the local plan consultation that is just about to commence.
- e) Any other planning matters.** Details have just been received about Plan Mid Devon. This will be added to the agenda for the March meeting.

61/01/22. Highways

- a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed.** Plastic barriers have been placed around the culvert at Emmerford. Grips through the village have been cleared with a digger. Water is still ponding on Long Lane. This was looked at by Willie Pike, a DCC Highways Neighbourhood Officer, in November 2021 and it was logged. The road through Lower Washfield has got worse because of the lorries that are hauling away timber from the woods on that road. It was questioned whether there was any liability for the company to pay for repairs to the road but it was thought that their only liability was to clear the mud off the road.
- b) Any other highways matters.** None.

62/01/22. Siting of benches. FCS Balment & Sons are ready to install the benches. Sites were agreed.

63/01/22. Reports

- a) County Cllr.** Cllr Chesterton reported that he would be meeting the new Highways Neighbourhood Officer replacing Steve Leigh on 15th February and he has a long list of issues to raise with him. The process to set a balanced budget has started. The core services of Adult Social Care and Children's Services both cost a lot but DCC has a legal duty to supply. Some reservations have been raised by the Scrutiny Committee. The budget goes to Cabinet next and then Council. Cllr Chesterton has given the Village Hall Committee a grant of £500 from his Locality Budget towards the cost of a new defibrillator.
- b) District Cllr.** No report.

64/01/22. Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Washfield. The Village Hall and Social Club will be organising event/s during the period of 2nd to 5th June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed in principle to provide some funding and this will be discussed in more detail at the March meeting when more details will be available.

65/01/22. Finance:

- a) To approve any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payment: Mrs J Larcombe - £81.92 Clerk's salary (Cheque no 000541)
- b) To agree the Churchyard Grant for 2021-22.** It was resolved to give a grant of £500 (Cheque no 000540).
- c) To agree the budget and precept for 2022-23.** Councillors discussed the draft

budget prepared by the Clerk. The benches and picnic table will need to be added to the insurance, which will increase the annual premium. Councillors agreed the Council had adequate reserves. The budget was agreed. Councillors agreed to request a precept of £1494.00.

66/01/22. Footpaths

a) Signing of the Parish Paths Partnership Agreement. Councillors were concerned about taking on the responsibility and it was felt that it could be a lot of work for nothing. They questioned whose insurance would cover volunteers. It was also noted that the agreement said the funding needed to be kept in a separate bank account and it was felt there was no need for this with such a small amount of money. It was suggested that the Parish Council did not join the scheme and just did it within the parish. A meeting will be arranged with Stuart Hughes. Mr and Mrs Roberts, who had offered to be involved, were present at the meeting.

b) Any Footpath Matters. No footpath matters brought forward.

67/01/22. MDDC Parish Review 2021-22 – to discuss and decide if there are any recommendations. It was agreed that seven was the right number of councillors for the Parish Council. There were no recommendations for any changes.

68/01/22. Community Resilience Plan for Washfield. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross explained the plan would set out how any emergency in the parish might be dealt with. There is a template that can be used and other committees in the parish will be asked to contribute to filling it in. It was noted how people in the parish had worked together to provide support during the lockdowns for Covid.

69/01/22. To discuss a speaker for the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed to ask Jason Ball, MDDC's climate and sustainability specialist to speak at the meeting. Wednesday 4th May was suggested as a suitable date.

Mr & Mrs Roberts left the meeting.

70/01/22. Discussion of support in principle for the new build for Tiverton High School. The reasons why a new school needs to be built were explained, one of the main reasons being that the school is on a flood plain. Due to the flooding risk the site cannot be sold for housing development to fund the new build. New housing development at the eastern edge of the town will increase the need. A group of parents are now trying to get community support. Cllr Chesterton said he would be talking to Neil Parish MP the following day and that community pressure would help to try and get the funding allocated. The Parish Council agreed their support.

71/01/22. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence. There were no announcements or correspondence.

72/01/22. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 16th March 2022.