

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: District Cllr A Moore, and one member of the public.

- 54/03/22. To receive apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr R Arnold. Apologies were received from County Cllr R Chesterton, District Cllr R Stanley and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.
- 55/03/22. Disclosures of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr Balment declared a personal and pecuniary interest in items 62/03/22 and 65/03/22 as a Director of F C S Balment & Sons Ltd. Cllr Webber declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 65/03/22 as his business had submitted an invoice.
- 56/03/22. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2022 as an accurate record of the Meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.
- 57/03/22. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda).** Cllr Chesterton has met with members of the public who attended the previous meeting and agreed that the state of their road at Easterlands is in a dreadful condition. He has agreed to meet the Highways Neighbourhood Officer at the site.
- 58/03/22. Public questions.** A member of the public from Washfield asked the Parish Council to support a proposal from the Memorial Hall Trustees in response to the Climate Emergency, to install photo-voltaic panels on the roof of the hall, batteries and a car charging point. He will share quotes from local companies. The Parish Council has agreed to look at the proposal favourably, and District Cllr A Moore agreed to raise the proposal with the Devon Climate Response Group including investigating grants. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- 59/03/22. Planning**
- a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.**
22/00429/Full Erection of 2 dwellings following demolition of agricultural buildings utilising the Class Q fall back position. Location: Land and buildings at NGR 292771 117216 (Pylemoor Farm), Washfield. No objections. planning at Pylemoor farm
- b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.** No decisions.
- c) To note the Plan Mid Devon Issues Consultation –** The Chair agreed to circulate the link for Cllrs to consider and raise any issues for a coordinated response by the Chair. District Cllr Moore noted this is the chance for the Parish Council to comment on the rural environment, designated areas for housing and issues affecting Washfield Parish.

e) **Any other planning matters.** None reported.

60/03/22. Highways

a) **To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed.** It was noted that Councillors should continue logging on the website areas where the roads are damaged, potholed, and degraded, recognising the backlog and limited resources of the Council ([Pothole map - devon.gov.uk](https://www.devon.gov.uk)). The new Neighbourhood Highways Officer for Tiverton West is Russell Hookway.

b) **Any other highways matters.** It was noted that the road approaching the link road bridge has deteriorated, and a milk tanker recently broke an axle in the pothole on Stoodleigh Drive.

Cllr Wood agreed to circulate information about the DCC Road Warden Scheme and the Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund for consideration. It was agreed this will be discussed at the next meeting.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/opportunities/road-warden-scheme>
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/casestudy/100000-funding-to-roll-out-community-road-warden-scheme-countywide>

61/03/22. **Siting of benches.** FCS Balment & Sons have done a very good job installing 3 benches in the village and 2 on the green. The 4th will be installed on the triangular wood plot – Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross and Cllr Balment have agreed to arrange to meet with the owner to confirm the location.

62/03/22. Reports

a) **County Cllr.** Cllr Chesterton's report was circulated by email prior to the meeting and included the following information: DCC passed their 2022/23 budget in February. The Government has announced that the Adult Social Care Precept is continuing for next year. This budget recommends to Council that a 1% Adult Social Care Precept is set to help fund valuable services. This increase along with a general council tax increase of 1.99% will mean an overall council tax increase of 2.99% next year which is an extra £45.18 for a Band D property. This budget was one of the most challenging the authority has ever faced. Investment of over £87 million is needed for DCC's services next year and even with the increase in funding from Government that level of investment is not affordable without making significant savings and taking money from reserves to support the young, the elderly and the most vulnerable in our communities.

DCC are in the process of putting a bid into government for the relocation and rebuilding of Tiverton High School, this is being applied for as an 'exceptional case' due to flood risk. The first stage "Nomination" was submitted at the end of last month, which allows DCC to put in the "Bid", which is the additional evidence needed, including evidence of the exceptional case. At this point design or masterplans are not requested and do not form part of the selection process.

If successful, the delivering body (the Department for Education) would engage/consult with school stakeholders on the delivery proposal.

Airband, who are contracted by CDS, are targeting how they can meet 'hard to reach properties' across Mid Devon with a fibre to the property roll out.

Recent storms caused a very busy few days in the Network Operations Control

Centre.

DCC has a bid process open to allow local communities to request 20 mph zones in their area, these bids must be supported by town/parish councils and their local county councillor. Closing date is 31st March 2022.

Cllr Chesterton still has money in the 2021/22 Locality budget pot. Any potential beneficiaries should contact him if they are looking for funding. The 22/23 pot is being reduced from £10,000 to £8,000 per division, any unused money from this year will be rolled over

b) District Cllr. Cllr Moore reported that MDDC has agreed in principle to move ahead with a 3-weekly *residual* waste (ie black bag) collection service. The Pilot trial showed improved recycling rates with some financial benefit to the Council also arising. There are a number of practical issues to be addressed for effective scheme implementation. The change to service frequency was targeted for September 2022. MDDC's Budget for 2022/23 was approved at the Full Council meeting held on 23rd February.

The Parish Council and residents of Washfield were encouraged to contribute to the public consultation regarding the next MDDC Local Plan.

The State of the District Debate will be held by Zoom from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on 5 April 2022 with the topic Mid-Devon's Communities and Climate Change. All welcome to join in the debate.

Washfield residents will be welcome to join a coffee morning between 10:00 am and midday on 26 March at Bampton's Community Centre where they can meet and raise issues with their local elected representatives (MDDC, DCC, Police & Crime Commissioner and MP).

63/03/22. 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. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross has agreed to meet with the Chairs of the Social Club and Village Hall next week to discuss events.

64/03/22. Finance:

a) To approve any payments. Cllr Balment and Cllr Webber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room while payments to their businesses were discussed.

It was resolved to make the following payments:

R J Webber - £144.00 preparing bases for benches (Chq no 000542)

Mrs J Larcombe - £106.92 Clerk's salary and expenses for 2021-22 (Chq no 000543)

F C S Balment & Sons Ltd - £1004.04 prepare and concrete 3 bases for benches (Chq no 000544)

65/03/22. Footpaths

a) Signing of the Parish Paths Partnership Agreement. Following concerns raised at the last meeting Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross has spoken to Ros Davies, DCC Parish Paths Liaison Officer, and circulated further information on the P3 scheme, inviting questions from Councillors that she will put forward to Ms Davies. The agreement, which would be signed by representatives of Washfield Parish Council and Ms Davies sets out the background to the P3 scheme, the grant funding and

responsibilities of both parties. In addition to the basic grant there are funds available to enable larger scale projects to be undertaken that improve the Washfield rights of way network, but joining the scheme does not negate any responsibility of Devon County Council.

Mr and Mrs Roberts have reiterated their support for the scheme and have offered to be involved which was noted and appreciated.

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

66/03/22. Community Resilience Plan for Washfield. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross explained that this will be progressed before the next meeting with feedback given at the next meeting.

67/03/22. Update on plans for the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that this will follow on from the Mid Devon State of the District event on 5th May, with the intention of a panel with a representative from MDCC (Jason Ball, MDDC's climate and sustainability specialist) a local ecologist and raise Ideas from the Village Day with examples from good practice. This is still planned for Wednesday 4th May. Cllr Taylor-Ross will again approach potential speakers.

68/03/22. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence.

Cllr Moore has agreed to forward information from Cllr Stanley about Airband High Speed Internet about their progress with fibre to the premise connection to the village.

Cllr Balment has been told the light outside the Church is on the list to be fixed by DCC, in June.

69/01/22. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 18th May 2022.