

## WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr's Mrs A Taylor-Ross (Chair), M Balment, J Boundy, John Mock, R Webber and W Wood.

**In attendance:** County Cllr R Chesterton, Mr & Mrs Roberts (Footpath Wardens), one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**19/07/22. To receive apologies.** Apologies were received from District Cllr A Moore.

**20/07/22. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross declared a personal and pecuniary interest in MDDC's decision for planning application 22/01011/PNCOU as her husband is the applicant.

**21/07/22. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 as an accurate record of the Meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

**22/07/22. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda).** It was reported that the street light by the Church had finally been repaired.

**23/07/22. Co-option of a Councillor.** An application form had been received from Angela Wych. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mrs Wych. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross and seconded by Cllr Wood.

**24/07/22. Public questions.** There were no questions from the member of the public.

#### **25/07/22. 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 fallback position. Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 292771 117216 (Pylemoor Farm), Washfield. Comment: no objections.

[22/00913/HOUSE](#) Removal and replacement of roof and lean-to extensions. Location: Cowlins Farm House, Washfield. Comment: no objections.

[22/00914/LBC](#) Listed building Consent for removal and replacement of roof and lean-to extensions and replacement staircase. Location: Cowlins Farm House, Washfield. Comment: no objections.

[22/01138/Full](#) Conversion of disused storage buildings into 2 holiday lets. Location: Cowlins, Washfield. Comment: no objections.

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

**22/00264/PNFG** Prior Notification for the erection of a forestry storage building. Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 292792:117206 (Adj. Pylemoor Farm), Washfield. Decision: acceptance.

**22/00641/PNCOU** Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to 1 dwelling under Class Q. Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 293938 116315 (Stanterton Farm), Washfield. Decision: prior approval refused.

**22/01011/PNCOU** Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to hotel (Use Class C1) under Class R (flexible business use) Location: Building at NGR 293030 116729 (Moorhayes Farm), Washfield. Decision: prior approval approved.

**c) Any other planning matters.** No other planning matters.

## **26/07/22. Footpaths**

**a) Any Footpath matters.** Mr and Mrs Roberts, Footpath Wardens, reported that part of Footpath 4 has been regraded and the stream diverted closer to its original course. The risk of slipping is now minimal. Part of Footpath 2 is not walkable and this is the second priority to sort out. It was suggested that part of the footpath near New Park needs diverting onto the road. Mr and Mrs Roberts and Cllr Taylor-Ross need to arrange a meeting with Stuart Howell, DCC Rights of Way Officer, to discuss what needs to be done.

Mr and Mrs Roberts left the meeting.

**b) Definitive Map Review for Washfield – final part of consultation.** As for the first consultation period it was agreed that the Council would support the claim for the addition of a bridleway through Barehills Wood together with the green lane from Shilhay Copse to north of Springfield, subject to landowner agreement and evidence of historical use. It was noted that DCC would be responsible for signage and gates etc if the bridleway was added to the definitive map and the Council said they would like the entrance well marked. There was concern that part of this route is muddy. Cllr Mock said he was aware of one landowner that was objecting to the claim. Cllr Chesterton said it would be helpful if landowners let him know if they have objections.

## **27/07/22. Highways**

**a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed.** South West Water has carried out an emergency road closure due to a broken drain by the village hall. As SWW deemed it an emergency they did not have to give notice and the road closure is from 14<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July. They would have to give DCC 3 months notice to close the road if it wasn't felt to be an emergency. Despite the signs saying the road is closed it is possible for cars to drive through, but not larger vehicles. Contractors arrived at 11.30pm and were there until about 3.00am with machines and flashing lights. No one has been seen working on the broken drain for the past few days but when Cllr Taylor-Ross tried to find out what was happening her call to SWW was deemed as not important and she was told she might get a call back in 3 days. She emailed Cllr Chesterton who spoke to enforcement and they were able to find out that the pipe had been repaired and SWW were waiting for the carriageway to be reinstated as soon as possible. There was concern that there was an open sewer from 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July and it was suggested that the Environment Agency should be written to and SWW

and highways copied in.

The tree in front of street light No 3, opposite 4 The Weeches, needs cutting back.

**b) Update on volunteers interested in the DCC Road Warden Scheme.** There was no update on volunteers from Washfield being interested in the Road Warden Scheme. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross reported that she had spoken to Cllr Liz Bulled, North Molton Parish Councillor and North Devon District Councillor. North Molton Parish Council decided to join the Self Help Scheme because they deemed the Road Warden Scheme too burdensome. This scheme allows minor works to be carried out in and around the public highway. The Parish Council increased their precept and DCC gave them match funding of £5,000 initially. This has now dropped to £1,000. A Highways sub-committee of 4 people meet every 8 weeks and report to the Parish Council. They surveyed their own roads, decided on priorities and now hire a contractor to do the work in priority order ie verges, drains, potholes etc.'

The following work can be completed under a road closure or using appropriate traffic management: clearing weeds, cleaning signs, cleaning drainage (gully grating), cutting grass, repairing finger posts, cutting hedges, set up a road closure for special events and [Managing verges for wildlife](#).

If the Parish Council signed up for this scheme an application could be made to the Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross will find out more about applying.

Cllr Wood will work with Cllr Webber to put together a proposal to bring to the next meeting.

If contractors are going to be asked to provide quotes a specification will need to be drawn up.

**c) Any other highways matters.** No other highways matters.

**28/07/22. Suggestions from members of the public for siting of remaining bench.** It was suggested that the seat could be sited on the wide verge opposite Haydon. Cllr Balment will speak to the owner of the adjoining land to see if they own it and, if they do, will give permission for the seat to be sited there.

## **29/07/22. Reports**

**a) County Cllr.** A written report from Cllr Chesterton was circulated to councillors by email prior to the meeting. The report included information on the retirement of Dr Phil Norrey, DCC's Chief Executive, and the recruitment of his replacement; an update on the Bus Service Improvement Plan and changes to Stagecoach services and information about the Growing Communities Fund. Tiverton was successful in its bid for 20mph zones, in front of other Devon towns. The areas covered are predominantly close to schools and will help keep children safe. It also includes the Town Centre and Westex shops. As yet there is no definite delivery date, but it will be before the end of this financial year.

**b) District Cllr.** Cllr Chesterton who is also a District Cllr gave a short report. Cabinet will agree the final arrangements for the roll out of wheelie bins for the residual waste collection across the district when it meets on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

Cllr Chesterton left the meeting.

**30/07/22. Finance:**

**a) To approve any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments:  
Washfield Memorial Hall - £60.00 (Chq no 548)

Mrs J Larcombe - £83.36 Clerk's salary (Chq no 549)

**b) Adding signatories to the bank account.** The Clerk has spoken to NatWest and this can be done online now. She will start the process.

**c) To note publication of notice for the exercise of public rights to inspect the accounts.** The notice was published on 30<sup>th</sup> June and the period for inspection is 1<sup>st</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**32/07/22. Community Resilience Plan for Washfield.** This item was carried forward to the next meeting.

**32/07/22. What we can do as a village to improve our contribution to the climate emergency.**

Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross reported that she was one of 9 people from the village that attended the Open Green Washfield meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June to discuss priorities and possibilities, looking at it from the point of view of individuals, families and as a community. The group agreed that a couple of flagship schemes would raise awareness, develop trust and would encourage the community to join in. They considered that the key areas are water, energy, waste, transport, food, housing and business.

A Plastic Free village scheme is being investigated and a Washfield Lift Share Whatsapp group has been started. The group is looking at whether it would be possible to restart milk deliveries and whether the Market Bus could spend less time in town. South West Water will be contacted about the waste of water from constant burst pipes and repairs. The group will promote the use of local / seasonal food and shops like House of Green etc. Local initiatives eg could the electric hand dryers at the village hall be replaced by paper towels, how to compost properly, monthly produce stall, an upgrade to the heating system and insulation in the village hall and improve village recycling. A trip to the Alternative Centre in Wales was suggested.

Community options to explore include a nature reserve, wind turbine, EV charging point, solar panels, lift sharing and Fair Trade.

Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross has signed up the village for a number of initiatives and is looking into other projects in Devon.

Cllr Balment noted that people are already doing a lot of things and was told the group is looking at what could be done and what other parishes do. Funding is in the pipeline to do a green audit. Companies, including not for profit companies, are looking to work with communities that are engaged. If information can be provided to people in their own homes it will help them save money.

Cllr Boundy reported that Airband are not mentioning Washfield in their plans for fibre to the premise superfast broadband.

**33/07/22. Update on plans for the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting.** This meeting will now be held at the end of October. Energy efficiency, highways and South West Water were all suggested as topics. Availability will be checked.

**34/07/22. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence.** The following

correspondence was noted:

Devon Association of Parish Councils – the benefits of membership. It was agreed to join DALC.

Changing to online banking will be discussed at the next meeting.

The cutting back of some vegetation on the Village Green will also be discussed.

**35/07/22. Date of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on 21st September 2022.  
(This was later changed to 28<sup>th</sup> September)

Signed:  
Chair

Date: