

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th November 2024 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's Mrs A Taylor-Ross, M Balment, J Boundy, J Mock, R Webber, W Wood and Mrs A Wych.

In attendance: District Cllr C Adcock, Mr & Mrs Roberts, Footpath Wardens, and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe

44/11/24. To receive apologies. Apologies were received from County Cllr Chesterton and District Cllr R Gilmour.

45/11/24. Disclosure of interest in item on the agenda. No disclosures.

46/11/24. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

47/11/24. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda). No matters arising.

48/11/24. Public questions. No members of the public present.

49/11/24. Footpaths:

a) P3 Report. Mr & Mrs Roberts said it would be nice to have the footpaths cut in June rather than September. They would like to see something done about Footpath 2 at the top of the field above New Park. There are some wobbly gate posts here and there and a handrail is needed on Footpath 6. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross has spoken to Tania Weeks, DCC Definitive Map Officer, and she has said the middle of the second part of the path from Green Lane to Pitt is not owned and it could be opened up. It is not known when the path went to the field. Cllr Wood spoke about the legal issues of opening up the path and there were concerns about public liability if someone injured themselves using the path if it had been opened up by the Parish Council. This will be discussed again at the next meeting. A meeting with stakeholders was suggested and is a possibility. The landowner has agreed to a waymark sign being put on an existing post so Footpath 3 is marked as it leaves Ennerleigh. Stuart Howell, DCC Public Rights of Way Warden, has been asked for a waymark sign with a walking person logo on it. Mr & Mrs Roberts were thanked for their work.

b) Definitive Map Review: Loxbeare – Consultation on Proposal 2 – Diversion of Footpath No. 1, Loxbeare & Footpath No. 11, Washfield from across fields and the A361 to a route using the county road and Long Lane. Councillors had no objections and were in favour of the proposal.

c) Any other footpaths matters. No other footpath matters.

50/11/24. Planning

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

24/01652/FULL Erection of an agricultural building to provide covered yard (628 sq mts). Location: Stanterton Farm, Washfield. Comment: no objections.

24/01653/FULL Erection of an agricultural building to provide covered yard (911 sq mts). Location: Stanterton Farm, Washfield. Comment: no objections

24/01654/FULL Erection of an agricultural building to provide covered yard (206 sq mts). Location: Stanterton Farm, Washfield. Comment: no objections

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

24/01430/PNAG Prior Notification for the erection of replacement agricultural storage Building. Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 294555 114730 Cotleigh Farm Washfield. Decision: no objection – prior notification not required. Noted.

c) Any other planning matters. MDDC and Westcountry Land are hosting a consultation event relating to the Masterplanning of the final area (Area B) of the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension (EUE). The Tiverton EUE Masterplan SPD was adopted in 2014 and then updated 2018. Whilst it covered the whole of the EUE land, it was not able to consider all of the site to the same degree of detail. MDDC planning policy requires the whole area to be masterplanned prior to a development on it. The consultation takes place from 20th November 2024 to 10th January 2025.

51/11/24. Reports

a) County Cllr. No report. The Clerk will check whether Cllr Chesterton has circulated a written report to any of the other local parishes.

b) District Cllr. A written report for November from Cllr Adcock was circulated by email earlier in the month. Community Risk Register - MDDC is creating a register of risks to support its Resilience Strategy. District Councillors have been asked to identify what they see as the top three community risks across the direct to form an initial list. Flash flooding is identified as a risk. Extreme weather events were agreed to be a risk for Washfield. It was suggested that a generator could be purchased for the hall, to be used in the case of extended power cuts. Funding could be available because the parish has an emergency plan.

Oakford Parish Council are holding a defibrillator training session on Saturday 30th November at 10.00am at Oakford Village Hall. Anyone is welcome.

Cllr Gilmour and Cllr Adcock have invited Councillors and Clerks of parishes in their Clare and Shuttern Ward to a Christmas Social on 6th December.

Everyone was encouraged to complete the MDDC Residents Survey.

It was noted that the deadline for submitting applications to the Green Impact Fund managed by DCC was 29th November but applications have already closed because there have been so many applications.

52/11/24. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. It was noted that some work has been carried out. Cllr Boundy has reported a couple of drains that need jetting and they are being inspected. Cllr Balment reported a pothole. There were other potholes around it but the only one that was filled was the one he reported.

b) To agree a date to meet with Cllr Chesterton and Melanie Mckenna, DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer, to discuss highways issues in the parish.

Dates when Cllr Chesterton and Melanie Mckenna are available will be circulated.

c) Any other highways matters. It was noted that there is a small water leak just up from Cotleigh Cross.

Cllr Boundy will check whether any of the grit bins in the parish need refilling.

52/11/24. Finance:

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

Mrs J Larcombe - £107.24 Clerk's salary and back pay (Payment ref: 2425/10)

Councillors agreed the Clerk should receive the 2024-25 nationally awarded pay increase, backdated to 1st April 2024.

HM Revenue & Customs - £26.60 PAYE (Payment ref: 2425/11)

Bank fees of £23.40 have been paid.

b) To report any receipts and the bank balances. Bank interest of £10.70 has been received since the last meeting.

Unity Trust Bank Current Account balance is £1,294.97, Unity Trust Bank Instant

Access balance - £2,010.70, NatWest Current Account - £0.00 and Savings account - £293.10.

c) Bank reconciliations. Noted.

53/11/24. Report on meeting about reducing the carbon footprint in the village – Green Impact Fund. Cllr Wood reported it had been a good meeting with a good turnout.

There was discussion about healthy lifestyles and energy projects. A future meeting is planned. A business case needs to be put together so the Parish Council can apply for funding.

54/11/24. Update on the Parish Meeting. Cllr Mrs Taylor-Ross reported that she hasn't been able to get a date when all the speakers can attend. She will try to arrange to hold it on 15th January 2025.

55/11/24. Chair's Announcements and Correspondence. Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) contracted with broadband supplier Airband in late 2020 to deliver fibre broadband to communities across Devon & Somerset over the course of three years, concluding at the end of 2024. Washfield was to be covered by cluster E01. Unfortunately, Airband has faced a range of challenges over the intervening years which have delayed delivery of these contracts. Following a restructure Airband is not able to complete its contract. Options for the delivery of fibre broadband under other schemes are being considered.

56/11/24. Date of the next meeting. 15th January 2025.