PUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parish Clerk: Suzanne Childs, Greenlea, Puddington, Tiverton, EX16 8LN

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**Minutes of the Puddington Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 4th March 2025.**

**In attendance:** Chairman Cllr. R Price (RP), Cllr. K Keatley (KK), Cllr. S Brick (SB), Cllr. S. Folland (SF), and 7 Members of Public.

1. **Public Session:** Nothing to report.
2. **Apologies: -** Cllr. Helen Tuffin, Cllr. Margaret Squires and Cllr. Mark Jenkins
3. **Appointment of Parish Clerk:** Members of the Parish Council agreed on the appointment of Mrs Suzanne Childs. Salary has been approved, and RP has drawn up the Contract of Employment in draft. RP & SC to meet to finalise contract.
4. **Declarations of Interest not declared in the Register of Interest:** - Cllrs. S Brick and R Price declared an interest in item 7.1, the Shipping Container.
5. **Minutes**: - The minutes were approved and adopted by all Councillors.
6. **Correspondence:** - Circulated electronically.
	1. Annual renewal of insurance due by 1st April 2025.

ACTION - SC to find out what it was last year and to compare quotes if significantly different from this year’s quote of £235.00

1. **Matters arising from previous minutes: -**
	1. Shipping Container: - No communication has been made by MDDC and no further information was available once again.
	2. Additional Grit Bin Request (Yowlestone): – Closed
	3. Puddington Cross Junction: - Ongoing.

 Considerable concern was expressed by all 7 members of the public present regarding the ongoing issue at the Village Cross junction due to poor signage and no white lines, which has now been ongoing for 2 years, and poses a considerable safety issue. No further communication has been forthcoming from DCC Highways. Although RP has written to Cllr. Squires, she has been unable to attend the meeting and has communicated that she is standing down as Councillor, therefore no-one currently available to chase on this matter. As there is approximately £500 left in the budget from the 20 is plenty campaign, there was discussion around whether we could use this money to purchase reflective signage ourselves.

ACTION - SC to look into what is available and the likely costs.

* 1. Grant Update - Wild About Devon - Community Wildlife Grant Scheme 2024- In progress
1. **Planning: -**

Planning Application ref. 25/00168. Tree House on land adjacent “Pendaric” at the western edge of Puddington Village.

Discussion around the planning application ref. 25/00168. All 7 members of the public present have submitted their objections to MDDC. Objections of concern are the safety issues around vehicular access, noise and light pollution which would have a significant impact on neighbouring properties. Unfortunately, due to the Parish Clerk not being informed of the Planning application, an extension of time was requested, and the deadline is now 20th March 2025. The members of the public have asked for the Parish Council to back them up with their objections and requested that we try to organise a face-to-face meeting with a Councillor for further discussion.

ACTION – RP to write to Cllr. Helen Tuffin and Cllr. Mark Jenkins asking for a meeting as a matter of urgency due to the impending deadline.

1. **Finger Posts: -**

Discussion around the state of the finger posts, particularly the one at Chapple Cross, as this is in a state of disrepair. It was felt that these posts are part of our village and provide markers for non-locals. As such, it was decided to undertake repairs as necessary on an ad hoc basis, but we need to keep the precept for this to a bare minimum.

1. **To receive the following reports: -**
	1. County – no report.
	2. District – no report.
	3. Parish – KK reported that all footpaths are clear and there had been an act of vandalism in the park.
2. **Current Business: -**

Current Financial Situation noted.

1. **Confirm Date of Next Meeting:-**
	1. Meeting date agreed for 6th May 2025 at 7.30pm.
	2. Agenda Items for consideration at next meeting – None.

Meeting Closed at 20.45hrs