

HITTISLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th March 2025 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Darrell Chidley, Chris Dack, Madeleine MacDonald, Andrew Shervington, Mike Tootell, Beryl Watson; Cathy Wetherden; MDDCllr Sandy Chenore

1. Public discussion time – no members of the public present.
2. Apologies – Cllrs; Ruth Curtis (clerk); MDDCllr Martin Binks; DCCLlr Frank Letch
3. Declarations of interest – Cllr Wetherden and Cllr Shervington declared an interest as neighbours to item 7.4 and Cllr Chidley declared an interest in 7.1 as owner and Cllr Watson as neighbour.
4. The minutes of the meeting of the parish council meeting 21st January 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record.
5. Matters Arising
 - 5.1 Swift boxes – Cllr Watson confirmed Hittisleigh has been added to list of churches and a survey will be completed in due course. A new ‘incentivisation’ to the scheme means priority will be given to those churches/parishes who can part fund the project. Councillors are minded to support the project subject to final costs.
 - 5.2 Emergency plan update – Cllr Dack confirmed we now have the draft survey. Councillors to review and agree any changes before finalising the online and paper copy version.
 - 5.3 Highways matters – the road warden will be booked on to the next refresher course but there has been difficulty finding out exactly when that is. MDDCllr Chenore will put Cllr Watson in touch with the MDDC Parish Council liaison officer to progress and also to set up councillors with parish council email addresses.
 - 5.4 Dennis Down signpost – Cllr Dack reported on the successful completion of the signpost repair. All agreed on an excellent job well done and councillors extended their thanks to John Painter for all his hard work.
 - 5.5 Social media Parish Council communications – it was agreed that all parish council information should be included on the hub including agenda, minutes and planning applications with the exception of PNAG applications – prior notification for permitted development, although this might be of interest to parishioners for information.
6. District and County Councillor reports – DCCLlr Letch’s report had been circulated. MDDCllr Chenore reported on the latest MDDC discussions regarding the proposed Combined County Authority (Devon County and Torbay) where the idea of two combined authorities (East, Mid, North Devon, Torridge and Exeter in one authority and South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon and Torbay in another) is being put forward. Plymouth are wanting to be separate. It is felt that everything is being quite rushed with little time for consultation and a combined authority approach may work less well in rural areas. It is understood that DCC elections are still going ahead.
7. Planning and Enforcement matters
 - 7.1 24/01763/FULL | Use of existing caravan on site as a temporary agricultural worker's caravan | Sanctuary Ranch – waiting decision
 - 7.2 25/00194/PNAG Prior notification for the erection of an extension to an agricultural storage barn, Swallow Tree Farm – permitted
 - 7.3 25/00005/LBC Listed Building Consent for replacement chimney liner and increase to the height of chimney to 1.8m above the ridge, Mill Hill House – permitted

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- 7.4 25/00247/CLU Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a building as a dwelling in breach of Condition 3 (for agricultural purposes) of Planning Permission 06/01946/FULL in excess of 10 years, Wood Park Farm – response by 21st March. Given the building has been in situ in excess of 10 years and class Q could apply, councillors felt any comment at this stage would be inconsequential.

8. Payments

- Dennis Down signpost materials - £267.41 – all in agreement

9. Correspondence

9.1 For response – no comments

9.2 For information - no comments

9.3 New correspondence

- The continued flytipping at Spreyton Wood Water is an ongoing concern particularly where rubbish is thrown into the river. Depending which side of the road, responsibility for removal is West Devon (Spreyton parish) or Mid Devon (Hittisleigh).
- Water leak was noted at the site of The Bungalow but it has now been remedied.
- Daily lorry movements to Swallow Tree farm (possible earthworks tippings) with huge tractors were queried and concerns were also expressed about the environmental impact from slurry spreading. MDDC is contact re: tipping of earthworks and Environment Agency for any environmental/pollution concerns. A parish council visit to be arranged.

Date of next meeting Wednesday May 21st – Annual Parish meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting