

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th May 2017 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's Mrs A Trout (Chair), R Arnold, M Balment, J Boundy, P Crease, J Mock, and R Webber.

In attendance: District Cllr R Stanley, County Cllr Mrs P Colthorpe, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

01/05/17. Election of Officers:

- a) Chairman.** Cllr Mrs A Trout was proposed by Cllr R Arnold and seconded by Cllr M Balment. There were no other nominations and Cllr Mrs Trout was unanimously elected as Chairman and she accepted the office. She told the Council she was only willing to be Chairman for one year.
- b) Vice-chairman.** Cllr M Balment was proposed by Cllr P Crease and seconded by Cllr J Boundy. There were no other nominations and Cllr Balment was unanimously elected as Vice-chair.

02/05/17. To receive apologies. There were no apologies.

03/05/17. Disclosure of interest in item on the Agenda. There were no disclosures.

04/05/17. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2017 as a true record of the Meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

05/05/17. Matters arising from the minutes. The action for Cllr Balment to make signs asking people to pick up after their dog/s was carried forward. Cllr Balment reported he has been filling in a hole on the Village Green which has been caused by an animal digging where the roots of two former Chestnut trees have rotted away.

06/05/17. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting. There were no applications.

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

17/00194/Full Variation of condition (3) of planning permission 94/00817/Full to allow temporary use of annexe as a dwelling for a period of 4 years. Spindles, Spilliford, Lower Washfield. Decision: conditional approval granted.

17/00260/LBC Listed Building Consent for the installation of 6 replacement windows and 1 replacement door. 3 The Weeches, Washfield.

Decision: conditional approval granted.

Catherine Marlow, Conservation Officer MDDC, has provided an explanation for refusing the previous application and her report was circulated.

c) Any other planning matters. Cllr Moore has followed up the planning enforcement issue at Cotleigh but the area has still not been tarmaced and the situation is getting worse. There was a lot of water run-off from the lane into the road during a period of rainfall today. Cllr Stanley said MDDC was two Enforcement

Officers short.

07/07/17. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. There was a complaint that contractors working on the Rackenford Meadows housing development are parking their work vehicles too close to the junction with Rackenford Road and were blocking visibility. There was concern that there will be a lot of cars parked in the way when the houses are lived in.

Highways have informed the Clerk that the junction from Washfield Lane into Rackenford Meadows will be subject to a stage 3 safety audit which will hopefully reinforce the observations the Parish Council has made. The developers have been asked to look into the issues, particularly visibility and mud on the highway. The fence that was blocking visibility when turning right onto Rackenford Road has been lowered but not enough to resolve the issue.

Roads have been marked for repairs but the markings are wearing off.

b) Stoodleigh Drive- to discuss a letter received concerning highways issues in the section in Washfield parish. The Council had received a letter from Mrs Pennington expressing her concerns about the state of Stoodleigh Drive. Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mrs Pennington to speak. She told Councillors she was speaking as a member of the public and not as a Councillor from Stoodleigh Parish Council. She explained when trees in Stoodleigh Copse were felled the side of the road became very exposed and it left a steep drop. Where the road is exposed she would like to see reflector posts or post and rail fencing and asked the Parish Council for their support in pressing the matter with highways and this was agreed. Stoodleigh Drive is used as a rat run to the North Devon Link Road which increases the amount of traffic using it. She also said the drain on the road from Washfield to Cove, between Brambles and Emmerford Cross, used to be looked after by the lengthsman but has not received any attention for several years now. When timber was taken off adjoining land, mud was pushed into the drain and blocked it. Water is now eroding the road. This has been discussed by Stoodleigh Parish Council but this piece of road is in Washfield parish. Cllr Mock has looked at the drain and said he wouldn't be able to clear it by rodding it. He said it had been an issue for a long time and water used to run into Brambles. Cllr Mrs Colthorpe told Councillors they could decide to pay someone to clean out the drain if necessary and could precept to pay for the work if the road has been unadopted. It is believed the lengthsman scheme has finished.

Mrs Pennington said the owner of Shillhay Copse only cuts his hedges if someone makes a big issue of it and they were last cut three years ago. It was noted that hedges can only be cut between September and 28th February. The Clerk will write to Highways and ask them to take action to get the hedges cut later in the year.

Standing Orders were resumed and the member of the public left the meeting.

c) Any other highways matters. Large agricultural vehicles have been knocking stones out the hedges, into the road on Long Lane, between Lurley Cross and Warren Cross. It was noted it is a farmer's responsibility to clean up the road if they put mud on it. Large lorries and machinery are a problem on narrow roads but a width restriction couldn't be policed. There was concern about a finger post sign

which is now leaning onto the hedge. Cllr Mrs Colthorpe said the Parish Council could fund its repair and she could help by giving a grant from her locality budget. Cllr Boundy will have a look at the sign. While he is doing so he will take all necessary safety precautions.

08/07/17. Finance:

a) To approve any payments. It was resolved to make the following payment: Mrs J Larcombe - £75.40 Clerk's salary (Chq no 490)

b) To approve the Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement was approved. Proposed by Cllr P Crease and seconded by Cllr R Arnold.

c) To approve the Annual Accounts Year ended 31.03.17. The Annual Accounts were approved. Proposed by Cllr R Arnold and seconded by Cllr Boundy.

09/07/17. County & District Cllr Reports. Cllr Mrs Colthorpe said there was not much to report following the elections on May 4th. Cllr John Hart has been elected Leader by the Conservative Group but still has to be approved as Leader of the Council at the Annual Meeting. Since the election he has re-aligned the Cabinet. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee has been amalgamated with Adult Services to form the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Stanley reported Andrew Pritchard has been appointed as the new Operations Director with responsibility for streetscene, housing and waste. Nick Sanderson has been moved to become Managing Director of Three Rivers Development. Cllr Stanley is one of the appointed Directors. The first area for development is the site Tiverton Town Hall. The tender process for the Premier Inn development beside Phoenix House has started and the 84 room hotel is expected to be completed by late summer 2018. Premier Inn will use the multi storey car park which will then open 24 hours a day. 74 car parking spaces will be lost as a result of the development. MDDC has sold the land to Premier Inns and the hotel is expected to bring a lot of people into the town that will then use the shops and restaurants. Extra car park income will also be generated.

Cllr Arnold asked how Three Rivers Development was funded. MDDC has borrowed the money and the company will pay additional interest back to MDDC. Cllr Crease asked if being a director was connected to being a councillor and it was explained he was a director as a portfolio holder.

Cllr Mrs Trout asked if the public conveniences were going to be open more often. Cllr Stanley said toilets in Tiverton need upgrading but people could use toilets in Phoenix House and the market.

Cllr Stanley was asked about the property MDDC has purchased. They now own Market Walk. The properties either side of the entrance to the market in Fore Street and the former Job Centre building. The Job Centre has moved into Phoenix House. Staff numbers have gone down and there was space available.

10/05/17. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence. There were no Chairman's announcements and no further correspondence.

11/05/17. Public Questions. There were no questions.

12/05/17. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th July 2017.