

FRITHELSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Frithelstock Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 24th November 2021 at 7.00pm in The Village Hall, Frithelstock.

Present: Cllrs T Warrington (Chairman), E Hunkin, M Thomas and F Sluman.
Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock - Parish Clerk.

FP47 Apologies

Cllr A Hardwick and C Stevens.

FP48 Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Baker declared an interest in the grass cutting item.

FP49 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(NC)

FP50 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

FP51 Reports from Outside Bodies

a) Devon County Council - Cllr Saywell

Cllr Saywell submitted a written report, which is attached as Appendix 1.

b) Torridge District Council - Cllr Pennington

None received.

c) Police

The following report was received.



Crimes Recorded - 01/10/2021 to 31/10/2021 - CT2F

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/10/2021 to 31/10/2021	Recorded Crime 01/10/2020 to 31/10/2020	Recorded Crime % Difference
Violence without Injury	0	1	-100.0%
Stalking and Harassment	0	1	-100.0%
Arson	0	1	-100.0%
Criminal Damage	0	1	-100.0%
Total	0	4	-100.0%

FP52 Speeding in the Village

Cllr Warrington gave a brief update on the speeding and it was

RESOLVED: that a local resident who has experience in the matter be invited to the next meeting and a possible working party be set up to take the matter forward with Devon County Council.

(NC)

FP53

Historic Ruin

An email was received from a member of the public re: the historic ruin and the accessibility and welcoming of visitors to the monument but also that the trees by the churchyard are overgrown and need addressing.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cllr M Baker and Cllr Warrington visit the owners of the land to enquire about the accessibility and the Clerk follow this up in writing.
2. That the Clerk write to the Church Warden to enquire what the process would be with regards to cutting the trees.

(NC)

FP54

Insurance Renewal

RESOLVED: That the insurance renewal with Zurich for £549.48 be approved.

(NC)

FP55

Finance - Payments and Receipts

From 7th October - 24th November 2021

Payments

	NAME	AMOUNT	CHQ NO
1	Zurich Insurance	£549.48	BACS
2	DALC - Training	£15.00	BACS
		£564.48	

RESOLVED: That the above payments be accepted and actioned by the Clerk.

(NC)

FP56

Defibrillator Training

Cllr Warrington attended an event where an offer of defib training was muted for the village.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Warrington enquire whether the lady could undertake defib training in smaller groups and an event is planned for the New Year.

(NC)

FP57

Dog Fouling on Hele Lane

Cllr Hunkin had received a complaint from a member of the public regarding dog fouling on Hele Lane.

RESOLVED: That the Council place a short note in the Prior to remind people to pick up their dog faeces.

(NC)

FP58

Benches

The bench on the pavement on Hele Lane has a rotten piece of wood and a parishioner has suggested that he would be happy to replace this if the Council purchases the wood. The Clerk mentioned that the Council needs to ensure that the proper insurance and risk assessments are completed prior to any work taking place.

- FP59 Village Green - Notice Board**
Cllr Warrington gave an update and was unable to get any further discount therefore members agreed to continue as per previous quotation and the Clerk purchase this as soon as possible.
- FP60 Meeting Schedule for 2022**
RESOLVED: That the Meeting Schedule for 2022 be approved. (NC)
- FP61 Councillor Reports or items for a future Agenda**
Planters - Cllr Hunkin gave an update on potential costs for planters in the village, these vary up to £500 per planter. Surrounding Parishes have had wooden made however, maintenance and watering would require goodwill from parishioners but consideration needs to be given regarding potential insurance and risk assessment requirements.
- Signage** - Cllr Baker and Cllr Hardwick had had a look regarding the signage in the village and the replacement costing £319.20 each. The Clerk would send a message to Cllr Saywell to obtain whether permission needs to be sought.
- Christmas Tree** - Cllr Baker said that he would happily donate a Christmas Tree depending on the costs involved and Cllr Sluman will investigate whether a curtain of lights could be obtained.
- Dog Fouling/Countryside Code** - Cllr Hunkin mentioned that a reminder of the Countryside code would be beneficial as there has been an increase in dog fouling.
- QR/War Memorial** - The member of the public is still obtaining the relevant information to try and take the project forward.
- Parish Paths** - Cllr Thomas will investigate further whether the Parish Council could produce a map for the village to display.

*** Cllr M Baker declared an interest and left the meeting and did not return. ***

- FP62 Parish Grass Cutting**
A Quotation for a two-year grass cutting contract was obtained from the current contractor. It was
RESOLVED: That £1,520.00 per annum (no VAT) be accepted from 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2024. (NC)

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: Dated:

Appendix 1

Cllr Andrew Saywell DCC Report for Frithelstock Parish Council

Dear Councillors,

I am sorry I cannot be with you tonight, I am attending the 'Torrington Together' community meeting in Torrington, and have 4 Parish Council meetings on all at the same time too! I hope those Parishes still not on 'hybrid' technology will be able to convert soon that that if these clashes happen again I'll be able to attend more meetings than what I can do physically tonight.

Main developments/updates from DCC:

Devon secures £9.3m for skills, training and jobs – DCC's bid to the Government's Community Renewal Fund has been successful and we've been awarded £9.3m by the Government for investment in innovation and employment projects. There will be 13 pilot projects across Devon, backed by the largest funding allocation to any local authority area in England. Project benefits will include retraining for 3,500 people.

Covid – Case rates in Devon (630 per 100K) and Torridge (1001 per 100K) are above the England average of 414 per 100,000. Rates are still rising across the whole of the country with hotspots generally being in areas which previously had lower infection rates during the summer.

We are seeing rates highest in young people/children with outbreaks in education settings being the driver of local infection rates including Torridge.

There was always an expectation that a couple of weeks after the half term we would see an increase in rates particularly amongst young people and then the parents of these individuals so the higher figures are not a surprise.

Hospital rates have increased gradually over the past few weeks with 168 inpatients within Devon. Currently 30 inpatients in North Devon, again a slight rise over the past couple of weeks.

BUT, Hospital cases are not increasing and are levelling, and the proportion in HDU/ICUs is lower. Currently have 114 people in hospital in total across Devon. In North Devon District Hospital it is 15, with 0 in HDU/ICU.

Anyone who is eligible for a booster jab, please book one now.

Funding for self-isolating residents – A reminder that with Covid rates being high, DCC have launched a new fund to help community organisations provide practical, social and emotional support to Devon residents self-isolating due to COVID-19.

- The grants of up to £5,000 for small projects and £20,000 for larger projects can be used to help those self-isolating with any caring responsibilities; accessing food and other supplies; practical tasks such as dog walking; and mental health and wellbeing support to address things like loneliness and boredom.
- More information available online - [The COVID-19 Outbreak Management Grant \(Self-Isolation\) - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-management-grant-self-isolation)

Free school meal vouchers - DCC will be doubling the value of supermarket vouchers for families with children on free school meals from £15 a week to £30 a week for the Christmas holidays. Families will receive a £60 voucher per child for the two-weeks to help with the additional financial pressure the festive period can bring. More information online here - [Free school meals holiday voucher scheme - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme)

Improving Rail Links – The Okehampton to Exeter line re-opened on the 20th November. In the Budget today an announcement was also made to take forward early stage proposals to re-open the Plymouth-Tavistock line. DCC are also looking at improving rural bus links to our rail connections (see below).

Bus Route Funding Bid – DCC has submitted a bid worth £34m to the Government to improve and introduce new rural bus services throughout Devon. Proposed routes include a new strategic service through Torrington, connecting people to the railway line at Umberleigh, possibly also to an express bus service to Tiverton Parkway. Reintroducing Sunday services also being looked at. Precise route details though subject to funding but this gives you an idea as to the direction of travel of this bid.

‘Node’ Enterprise Centre opens – A new enterprise centre at Roundswell has opened. Known as ‘Node’, the coworking and office space will support SMEs, start-ups, freelancers and local workers in North Devon and Torridge (and Torrington Rural!). The modern building boasts 37 small and medium offices, a coworking space for up to 50 people, a number of meeting rooms and an on-site coffee shop. It aims to facilitate the changing way people work, by providing flexible workspace for individuals.

DCC Buildings to get ‘green makeover’ – DCC is planning retrofit schemes for Council owned buildings to help cut carbon emissions and reduce energy use. Plans are to improve building insulation and install solar panels and air source heat pumps, along with mechanical ventilation that recovers heat and LED lighting.

Future workforce arrangements – One of the main issues I am working on as Cabinet Member for Workforce is how we manage the return to the Office. The Council will not return to the old model of everyone in the office ‘9-5’, but will introduce a more flexible working arrangements for staff and officers, depending on their role in the Council. Homeworking will continue but people will be encouraged to use office facilities for team meetings, ideas sharing etc.

I hope this update is useful, please let me know if there’s anything else you need me to look into.

Best wishes,
Andrew