

FRITHELSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Frithelstock Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 5th March 2020 at 8.00pm held in Frithelstock Village Hall.

Present: Cllr M Goldman (Chairman)
Cllrs M Poole, A Heard, L Hunkin, M Baker, T Warrington and M Thomas.
Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock - Parish Clerk, PCSO Melissa Baker and 4 members of the public.

FP41 Apologies

All members were present. Devon County Cllr Saywell gave his apologies.

FP42 Declarations of Interest

None received.

FP43 Minutes

RESOLVED: Subject to the words "for playing field equipment" being included at the end of FP39c, the minutes of the meeting of 9th January 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

(NC)

FP44 Public Participation

None.

FP45 Reports from outside bodies:

Police

PCSO Melissa Baker informed members that crimes were up from 2019, there had been 3 crimes over the past most - domestic related/an altercation between a friendship group and younger people sending inappropriate communication. She reported that in the neighbouring parishes of Torrington and Monkleigh there had been a successful warrant to tackle drugs and encouraged anyone that if you can smell anything untoward to let the Police know by phoning 101 in a non emergency situation or popping a note in the station letter box. PCSO Baker also gave an update on staffing levels saying they were slightly short staffed, but there is a new staff Sergeant covering Torrington and Holsworthy, who is hoping to get around all the parishes. It was also reported that the Police are currently looking at ways to try and make the public reports slightly more detailed or in context.

Devon County Councillor A Saywell

Cllr Saywell gave his apologies however submitted a report, which is attached as Appendix 1.

Torrridge District Councillor P Pennington

No report was received but thanks were given for his donation of £100 towards the defibrillator training device.

FP46 Planning

The following approved planning application decision notices were received:

1/1154/2019/FUL

Proposal: Erection of tractor and machinery storage building
Location: Clements Hill Farm, Frithelstockstone, Torrington, Devon

1/1187/2019/REM

Proposal: Reserved matters application for layout, scale, appearance, landscaping pursuant to 1/0470/2017/OUT

Location: Land To East Of , Church Lane, Frithelstockstone, EX38 8JL

RESOLVED: That the information be received and noted.

(NC)

FP47

Torrington 100 Small Grant Scheme - VE Day.

The Clerk reported that she had had a meeting with the Clerk administrating the Torrington 100 Small Grant Scheme and two trustees of The Poorlands Charity with regards to the application submitted for a VE Day celebration, with confirmation that £500 will be granted to the Parish Council. The scheme is to encourage community cohesion and in particular those that are socially isolated, the idea was to bring people together.

The Poorlands Charity are planning on giving gifts to parishioners (normally it is for those that are in poor health, over 90 years old and those that have lost a loved one). They are due to meet on 6th April to discuss. It was noted that they would need approximately £150 although all of this may not be spent.

Cllr Poole reported that he had contacted a local resident to complete an exhibition, and they were happy to do this, the subject would be farming. Members agreed to donate £100.00 for the resident to complete the exhibition.

A discussion on an event took place. It was noted that the WI were unable to take on the event this time as they have a large event in the week leading up to VE Day. Members felt a VE themed Vintage Afternoon tea would be an excellent way to celebrate and bring the village together. Cllrs agreed that they would be able to complete a letter drop of the village with an invitation.

RESOLVED:

1. That a VE themed Vintage Afternoon Tea is held on Friday, 8th May at 3.00pm in The Village Hall.
2. That the Clerk complete an invitation to be sent to residents to invite them to a celebration with an RSVP on two weeks before the event.
3. That £100.00 is available for the provision of an exhibition being produced by a local resident.
4. That Cllr Poole organise the refreshments for the day and £250.00 is available for this.
5. That the maximum number of attendees is limited to 100.

FP48

Electric bike on the Recreation Field

Further to the discussion at the last meeting, the resident informed members that they had checked their insurance and that the child would be covered for public liability of £2,000,000. Concerns were raised regarding setting a precedent and that others have bikes, including

scooters/petrol bikes and some members were worried that they may think it would be satisfactory to use them on the Recreation Field and it would be very difficult to police the area. It was noted that bicycles are not allowed in the playing field. Cllr Poole suggested that it was difficult for the Parish Council to agree and that he has a field and is happy for the child to use this adhoc.

*** Cllr M Poole left the meeting at 8.44pm. ***

FP49 Speed Watch

Cllr Warrington gave a general update on Highways and explained that they are planning investigatory works to drainage in April. He further reported that discussions had taken place on whether the Council ask for a SCARF report, which will collect data of road users, is then analysed as to whether additional speed limiting measures are needed. Concerns over whether the previous data could be obtained were raised, but unfortunately this data is likely to be unavailable. Cllr Goldman informed members that Speedwatch has not been operational for some time due to lack of volunteers.

*** Cllr M Poole returned to the meeting at 8.48pm. ***

Cllr Goldman mentioned that if anyone would like to become a member of the Speedwatch crew to contact him.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk request a Scarf report from Devon County Council.

(NC)

FP50 Great British Spring Clean

Information on the Great British Spring Clean was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council organise a litter pick of the village on Wednesday, 1st April 2020 at 6pm as part of the Great British Spring Clean. Anyone able to attend is to meet outside the Village Hall.
2. The Clerk design a poster for circulation and completes a Risk Assessment.

(NC)

FP51 The Plough Arts Centre

A letter from Great Torrington Town Council requesting financial support was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members felt that whilst they appreciate the situation, they felt that any support should be contributed individually and it was

RESOLVED: That no action is taken and that any support is given individually to The Plough.

(NC)

FP52 Fire Prevention Service

An email was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The correspondence informed the Council that the Fire service offers advice to parishioners on fire prevention. Members felt this would be helpful for residents and in particular the most vulnerable people in the parish.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk extend an invitation to the Fire Prevention Officer to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to give a brief report on services available.

(NC)

FP53 Climate Emergency

Members were circulated an email from Torridge District Council informing the Council of a Climate Emergency Workshop day on 21st March. No members wished to attend.

FP54 Emergency Plan

The Chairman updated members on the Emergency Plan. He said that it is aimed to be a communication document to enable people to know who to contact in the event of an Emergency, such as a serious crash on the main road/flooding etc. He further stated that it may not be the Council's responsibility to coordinate but it might be that the Council could help in an emergency. A strand that needs to be investigated, which has been flagged up by the Emergency Planning Framework is to try and identify people in need.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Goldman continue to investigate this matter.

(NC)

FP55 Finance

a) Payments and Receipts

Members were reported of the following:

Payments

	NAME	AMOUNT	CHQ NO
38	Salary (net)	£273.55	100471
39	HMRC	£68.40	100472
40	Clerk's expenses	£60.17	100471
	Total	£402.12	

Receipts

5	The Balsdon Trust	£1500.00
	Total	£1500.00

Balances on the accounts are as follows:

Current A/C £4270.04 (exc. Grant)

Reserve A/C £667.85

RESOLVED: That the Payments totalling £402.12 and receipts totalling £1500.00 be approved and actioned by the Clerk.

(NC)

b) The Balsdon Trust Grant

Members were reported that a grant of £1500 was received from The Balsdon Trust for provision of replacement equipment on the Playing Field. Cllr Hunkin presented 3 quotations for two new Lapsett's or similar.

Quote 1: £2190.00 + VAT

Quote 2: £1925.00 + VAT

Quote 3: £1840.00 + VAT

RESOLVED:

1. That quote 3 from TK Play be accepted for £1840.00 + VAT and actioned by the Clerk.
2. That the Clerk invoice the Playing Fields Committee for the remaining funds.

(NC)

c) Citizens Advice

A letter of thanks from The Citizens Advice Bureau was received.

RESOLVED: That the letter is received and noted.

(NC)

FP56

Welcome Pack

The Clerk reported she is in the process of completing the Welcome Pack and would like some recent photographs of the village and requested that anyone who could help with this could email the photographs for possible inclusion.

FP57

Councillor Reports or items for a future Agenda

The following issues were reported:

- Pot hole outside Meadowstone Close, Frithelstock.
- Raised man hole cover in the area of Meadowstone Close.
- Pot hole at Catsborough Cross.

Cllr Warrington reiterated to members that parishioners need to report these regularly through the online forum. He further asked for a Highways item to be included on the next Agenda.

- Dog mess is better in Hele Lane, although the signs have been damaged.
- Members were informed that the meeting scheduled for 7th May has been changed to 14th May as the Police Crime Commissioner Elections are due to take place in the Village Hall on the 7th.

Meeting ended at 9.32pm.

Signed:..... Dated:

Report to Frithelstock Parish Council – March 2020

Coronavirus update

DCC has set up a dedicated Coronavirus page on its website
- <https://www.devon.gov.uk/document/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/>

Public Health England, Devon County Council, Torbay and Plymouth Councils and local and national NHS colleagues are working closely together to respond to this situation locally and plan for any further cases.

As of the time of writing (4 March 2020), the UK Chief Medical Officer has announced a total of 85 cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK, and you will probably be aware that cases have now been confirmed in South Devon (in the Torbay area). These individuals are getting all the necessary support from the relevant agencies that they need.

Public Health England has contacted anyone who may have had close contact with the confirmed cases. Close contacts have been given health advice about symptoms and emergency contact details to use if they become unwell in the 14 days after they had contact with the confirmed cases. This tried and tested method will ensure that any risk to them is minimised and the wider public is protected.

The County Council has contingency plans in place to ensure that vital front-line services are able to continue, and that our most vulnerable residents are kept well and safe. DCC are advising our staff to take the necessary hygienic precautions in line with PHE advice, providing extensive information and links to national guidance, both on our external and internal websites.

The Council is also in daily contact with colleagues across the NHS, Public Health, Police and other public services to ensure continuity of messaging, approach and response.

I have made enquiries about the procedure regarding school closures – currently a school will only be closed on the advice of Public Health England and PHE will liaise directly with the schools on any suspected cases.

If anyone suspects they are suffering from coronavirus symptoms please use the NHS 111 number. People are asked NOT to turn up at their GP surgery or other health services (e.g. hospital).

If people have trips planned, they should [follow the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice](#).

To stay in touch with the national situation and response and any advice PHE is giving, you can visit their [website](#).

Alternatively, you can follow the Department for Health and Social Care on Twitter
- [@DHSCgovuk](#)

I would encourage everybody to keep you up to date through the national information being made available, and on our [Devon County Council website](#).

The Plough

As you will have seen, The Plough Arts Centre is in some financial difficulty. It is essential that we keep this key facility going – it is more than just a local arts centre, it will be key to the health

and wellbeing agenda in the coming decade and I regard it as an asset for Devon, let alone Torrington Rural.

I am working with The Plough and DCC to see whether the Council can support their Crowdfunder initiative... hopeful we can but will involve some technical changes (the project has to become 'all or nothing' for it to be supported by DCC).

In the meantime if you want to donate please visit the link here
- <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/power-the-plough>

DCC Budget

DCC's Budget for 2020/21 was approved in February. It will not be a harsh budget. The overall revenue budget will increase from £498m to £541m. Of the three principle services, Adult Care and Health sees a £23.7m increase (10%), Children's Services £11.5m (8.5%) and Highways £2.8m (5%) increase, along with an extra million for drainage.

These increases take into account inflation pressures. The next financial year also sees in Children's Services the launch of the 'Edge of Care' service which is designed to stop children from being taken into care. Previous financial investments in the last few years have started to have an effect with children being able to come out of high cost placements which is good news – both for the children and also financially as high cost placements were the main drivers behind previous overspends.

On schools funding, the coming financial year will see a very large increase in the Schools Funding budget of £47.7m.

Council tax – DCC's share of the precept will go up by 3.99% - with 2% specifically for Adult Social Care. I would rather we did not increase the council tax but with the growth in demand for our services to Adults and Childrens – along with Highways – without increasing the precept we won't be able to fund the services adequately.

Highways - Potholes

There is a new feature on the 'Report It' website, when a pothole is reported it goes out to the Pothole Inspector to look at. If it meets the safety defect criteria it will then have a 'roadworks' sign placed on it which you can see on the website along with an estimated repair time.

Example below:

Potholes with Contractor for repair
Instruction Reference: D203505018
Created Date: 05 February 2020 10:22
Expected Repair Date: 04 March 2020 23:59
Detail: POTHOLE (Safety)

There is a still backlog at the moment so it is taking time for repairs to come through. Extra gangs have been put out on pothole repairs though recent inclement weather conditions will not have helped. I would say though if you have reported something and after a month nothing has happened then please tell me and I will investigate!

Reminder that the link to report potholes, blocked drains, fallen trees, etc. is here
- <http://devon.cc/report-it>

That's it for this month. Again any issues please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,
Andrew