

WIDECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 6 April 2017 in Church House, Widecombe

Present: Councillor Newbolt-Young (Chairman), Booty, Fenton, Lomax (from item 4114), Morley, Routley, Southcombe and Welby **Also present:** District Cllr Jeffery

Members of the Public: There were four members of the public present. **Clerk:** Suzanna Hughes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE County Cllr Gribble

4114 CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER Members received an application from Judy Lomax. It was agreed to co-opt her with immediate effect. Mrs Lomax signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

4115 OPEN FORUM Mike Smerdon sought permission from the Council to hold the Tug of War Championships on the green on Friday 3rd June. Permission was granted subject to the usual conditions namely that a risk assessment is carried out prior to the event and submitted to the clerk; that a copy of their insurance is sent to the clerk prior to the event; and that all damage to the green is repaired immediately after the event.

4116 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and to declare any disclosable interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they have in any items to be considered at this meeting. Unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a Councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting. Cllr Southcombe declared an interest in item 4122 (c)(i) Cllr Fenton declared an interest in item 4122 9c)(ii).

4117 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES (a) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.(b) The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4118 POLICE REPORT No report. 4

4119 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT No report

4120 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT No report.

4121 DELEGATE REPORTS Cllr Fenton reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Church House Committee as the Parish Council's representative. Cllr Southcombe reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the Education Foundation as the Parish Council's representative. Cllr Morley reported that he recent meeting of the Sports Group as the Parish Council's representative.

4122 MATTERS ARISING (a) **Defibrillator** Cllr Southcombe informed members that the defibrillator had been installed. She had advised the Ambulance Service and was now in the process of organising some training. She was also in the process of circulating the access code to local businesses. The clerk advised that a sign was being sent to be erected next to the defibrillator. It was agreed that other signs should also be erected around the village advising where the defibrillator is located. The Council's insurers also confirmed that cover for damage to the defibrillator and cabinet had been added to the Council's policy at no extra cost until the

expiry of the policy on 31 May. (b) **Christmas Market** Members received a request to use the green for a marquee on 9th December for the Christmas market. Cllr Fenton raised the point that the green is being used quite significantly for local events and whilst he had no objections to the erection of a marquee in this location, he expressed his concerns that the grass is not getting as much light in order to repair it due to the increasing tree cover on the green. Members noted his concerns. It was agreed to accept the request. (c) **Grant requests** Members received three applications for a small grant under s137 LGA 1972. The applications were received from Widecombe History Group for their Memorial Garden project, St Pancras to help with the cost of the maintenance of the churchyard and the Sports Group towards the cost of new lighting. After discussion, it was agreed that the small grant scheme should be advertised and applications from local groups and organisations invited for consideration in June's meeting. (d) **Widecombe Fair** Members received and noted the Fair Day balance sheet for 2016 showing a profit to the Council of £773. (e) **Welcome to Widecombe** Cllr Fenton advised that a meeting is being held on 12 April at 3pm in Church House inviting the public to comment on the draft signs.

4123 PLANNING (a) **New applications:** (i) 0125/17 – Erection of single storey extension at Jordan Barn, Widecombe-in-the-Moor Members agreed to support this application. (b) **Decisions:** (ii) 0039/17 – Construction of single storey side extension, roof extensions with balconies and front entrance porch canopy, Moorings, Widecombe-in-the-Moor Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission.

4124 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE (a) **Payments for approval:** The following payments were approved: § Cheque no 000944 – Clerk's salary and disbursements (April) – £254.85 § Cheque no 000945 – HMRC (PAYE) – £149.80 § Cheque no 000946 – Matt Storrs (Fencing in Parish Field) – £650 § Cheque no 000947 – Totally Wired (Installation of defibrillator) – £400 11.2 Members agreed to continue the Council's membership to DALC. It was noted that the subscription (£122.23) would be deducted from the instalment of the precept.

4125 HIGHWAYS There were no issues reported.

4126 CORRESPONDENCE (a) Members noted receipt of emails from Mr Charles Godfrey which had been forwarded to them by the clerk. The emails allege that Councillors breached their Code of Conduct when commenting on his recent planning applications. Members also noted the email from Cllr Fenton who, having researched the responsibilities and duties in commenting on planning applications, concluded that the comments of the Parish Council can be robustly defended which members supported. (b) Members received a letter from Dartmoor Commoners Council stating that it had progressed the issue of sheep grazing in the village of Widecombe as far as it could. However, to assist the Parish Council, should it wish to pursue the matter further, a copy of the Village Green Register (VG12) was enclosed confirming that there are no rights to graze over the village green. Also enclosed was a 'Note on Fencing'. A discussion ensued about the ownership of the little green and it was agreed to try and obtain a map to accompany the Register which may confirm this.

4127 MATTERS OF INFORMATION AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

There were no matters. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm. Signed Dated **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 4 May 2017 at 7.30pm**