

WIDECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council

held in Church House, Widecombe on Thursday 7 October 2021

Members present: Councillor Hassell (Chairman), Butcher, Clare, Edwards, Elliott, Fenton, Jones, Partridge and Whiteside

Members of the Public: Two

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

4727 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- District Cllr Parker-Khan
- District Cllr Nutley
- District Cllr Cox
- County Cllr Gribble

4728 OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from members of the public.

4729 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and invited to state whether they have any interest in the items to be discussed during this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

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.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

4730 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 September 2021 which were approved as a true and correct record.

4731 REPORTS

(a) County Councillor

No report.

(b) District Councillors

No report.

(c) DNPA Representative

No report.

(d) Police

No report.

(e) Delegate Reports

None.

4732 PROJECTS

(Lead Councillors: Cllrs Partridge & Fenton)

(a) Parish Field Open Day

Members received a report from the Projects team. It was noted that it was a really successful day which attracted around 250 local people. Visitors were asked to complete a questionnaire to give them an opportunity for them to share their thoughts for the future use of the field.

Various suggestions were received including: orchard, wildflower meadow, grazing, pond for wildlife, sports and other village events and a pump track/skills route for bikes.

Cllr Fenton advised that he is happy to start gathering a group of volunteers from the community with a Parish Council representative to form a small 'Friends of the Parish Field Committee'. It was also agreed that it was sensible to draw up some Terms of Reference so that the Committee knows what their remit is.

It was proposed that there is a conversation with the people who have indicated that they might be interested in being part of such a group and some terms of reference drawn up. It was agreed that the Committee should have a delegate from the council.

It was also agreed that the sheep grazing will go out to tender from April next year. In the interim, having helped the Parish Council in the summer to graze the field, it was agreed to ask Tom Havill if he wishes to continue to graze his sheep in the field until Christmas. Cllr Fenton will chase the signed agreement.

There was a brief discussion about water supply and it was agreed that it will be looked into as a separate issue.

4733 ESTATES

(Lead Councillors: Cllrs Edwards & Elliott)

It was noted that the soil amelioration around the horse chestnut on the green has been delayed until 11 October. The bench will need to be removed before this work is undertaken.

4734 PLANNING/LOCAL LIAISON

(Lead Councillors: Cllrs Clare & Elliott)

(a) New planning applications/appeals

(i) 0524/21 – Newbridge Hill Cottage, Poundsgate

Replacement of outbuilding for use as ancillary accommodation

It was agreed to make no comment.

(ii) 0483/21 & 0484/21 – Stone, Widecombe-in-the-Moor

Replacement of existing garage/workshop

It was agreed to make no comment.

(b) Planning Decisions/Withdrawals

(i) 0406/21 – Stone, Widecombe-in-the-Moor

Improvements to below-ground drainage to the exterior of principal Listed Building and repairs to the main elevation (re-pointing)

Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional listed building consent.

(ii) 0397/21 – Southcombe Meadow, Widecombe-in-the-Moor

Erection of equestrian/agricultural building (12.7 x 7.6m)

Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning consent.

(iii) 0431/21 – Old Post Office, Poundsgate

Erection of two rear single storey extensions

Members noted that DNPA has refused to grant planning consent.

(iv) 0417/21 – Newbridge Hill Cottage, Poundsgate

Change of use land to domestic curtilage

Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning consent.

(c) Public Consultation on Revising Dartmoor's Byelaws

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the proposals. The discussion began regarding the proposal that dogs should be on leads from March-July. Members expressed differing opinions and after an exchange of views, it was agreed that members should make their own individual responses to the consultation.

4735 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

(Lead Councillors: Cllrs Butcher & Whiteside)

(a) Payments

Members received and approved the following payments:

- Cheque no 001085 – Clerk's salary and disbursements – £241.57
- Cheque no 001086 – HMRC (PAYE) – £162.20

4736 HIGHWAYS

Members were urged to report any new issues on line (details below).

Cllr Elliott advised that she is forwarding any highways notices received by the Parish Council to the school as road closures and diversions affect parents dropping off/collecting from the school and the school buses.

Potholes and other highways maintenance issues can be reported direct to DCC:

Online: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Telephone: 0345 155 1004

Email: customer@devon.gov.uk

4737 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Members noted that the Dartmoor Devil 2021 cycle ride will be passing through the parish on 31 October 2021.

4738 MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR GENERAL DISCUSSION, FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

Members are reminded that they have not received the statutory notice of this business to be transacted and should therefore recognise that any decision made may be taken to be unlawful if challenged in the future

Cllr Partridge questioned the health of the small sycamore tree on the green. The contents of the tree report were noted advising that it was in poor physiological condition and that it should be inspected again within the recommended time frame.

4739 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in Church House on 4 November 2021 at 7.30pm in Church House.

Signed Dated