



MINUTES

Committee: Parish Council
Date: Tuesday, 6 February 2024
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Community Club

Present

Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright (Chairman)
Cllr Mike Warner (Vice Chairman)
Cllr John Farrand-Rogers
Cllr Rob Austin
Cllr David Bridger
Cllr Gordy Keep
Cllr Vivienne Hodges
Cllr Jan Evans
Cllr Chris Walden

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)
County Councillor Jerry Brook (arrived at 7.14pm)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

22/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hampton, Cllr Jeffery and Cllr Short.

23/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest were received. No requests for dispensation were received. *Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4)*

24/2024 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved** to **accept and sign** the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024 as a correct record. There were three abstentions. *LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1)*

25/2024 STANDING ITEM – CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY:

The Council noted the Declaration to embed the climate and ecology emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

26/2024 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillor Report

The District Councillor report is attached at appendix 1 on page 19. The Chairman thanked Cllr Farrand-Rogers for providing a written report.

27/2023 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted the Clerk has sent the letter to Teignbridge District Council (TDC) Parking Services agreed at min no. 12/2024, but it had not been acknowledged by TDC. The Chairman expressed disappointment at the lack of acknowledgement or reply.

It was noted the lengthsman contract has been advertised. The clerk noted that no tenders have been received yet; the deadline is Friday 9th February. The Chairman asked the council to share the tender with anyone who might be interested.

28/2024 CHAIRMANS DISCRETION

The Chairman noted that she had completed the formalities for the new payroll provider.

29/2024 OPEN SPACES REPORT

The Open Spaces monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted and is attached at appendix 2 on page 19. It was noted that the playpark annual inspection has been booked for March and Cllr Keep has been making the required repairs.

30/2024 CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

The Chairman noted that a meeting has been scheduled with Cllr Jackie Hook, Executive Member Climate Change, Flood and Coastal Risk Management, Trees for 1st March.

The environment workshop scheduled for 17th February has been postponed.

The Chairman invited ideas for next month's Green Tip.

31/2024 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Report

County Councillor Brook reported on the upcoming budget which Devon County Council (DCC) will hopefully decide on 15th February. Budget preparations started back in June 2023. The budget is going up around 6.3%. The largest increases will be in children and adult services; regrettably environment and highway network will remain static.

DCC will be asking for an increase of 4.99% in the council tax; 2% is ringfenced for adult care. County Councillor Brook is concerned for people who are already struggling because the increase will be approximately £1-£2 additional a week. DCC hopes to make savings through the year and as a result it will be losing a number of staff.

On a positive note, DCC has reallocated some funds to the locality budgets; in 2024/25 the budget will be £8,000. DCC want the money to support groups that help in the community.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Brook for his report. She asked if the agreed devolution deal brings any good news to the budget. Cllr Brook noted the devolution deal has been agreed but in the absence of Plymouth. It is a collaborative bid put to Government by DCC, Torbay and all the District Councils. The deal will mean additional funding for Devon, but the Government is strict on how the money is utilised, he thinks it will be capital money, not necessarily revenue money.

Cllr Walden noted that the Government has announced extra money for councils and asked if any of the money will be coming to Devon. Cllr Brook explained that the Government usually lets DCC know what the formula grant will be before Christmas. This year DCC has scrutinised the budgets not knowing how much it will receive. Cllr Brook also noted that DCC received £6/7 million for the road network. However, £160 million is required to bring the road network up to a reasonable standard.

Cllr Farrand-Rogers asked Cllr Brook if he was aware that there is considerable concern in Teignbridge that the devolution deal looks like a power grab by Devon and Torbay, and a lot of the

decisions about funding will be taken by a small group of Torbay and Devon councillors which will have a significant impact on Teignbridge projects. Cllr Brooks reiterated that to his knowledge the deal was a collaborative bid and should be administered collaboratively. Cllr Brook will ask the leader of the council, Cllr John Hart to clarify the situation and will report back to the clerk.

The Chairman informed Cllr Brook that the council had been successful in securing a grant from the UK Prosperity Fund to enhance the square area into a market area and is keen to work with DCC.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Brook for attending the meeting, Cllr Brook left the meeting.

32/2024 INTERNAL FINANCIAL REGULATOR REPORT

Cllr Bridger had checked the accounts for December.

33/2024 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Council considered its monthly schedule of payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Farrand-Rogers, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **resolved to approve** the schedule of payments at appendix 3 on page 20. There was one abstention. *LGA 1972 s150(5)*

34/2024 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Old Mill Payroll Services regarding the disengagement of appointment. The correspondence was noted.

2. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from TDC confirming the litter and dog bin emptying price for 2024-25.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Keep, and **resolved to accept** the charge that is going to be levied on us. There was one abstention. *Litter Act 1983 s5&6*

3. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Rt. Hon. Mel Stride MP updating the council on the Bowring Library. The correspondence was noted.

4. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) inviting the council to send a representative to the meeting aimed at fostering a stronger and more collaborative relationship between the district council and parish councils.

The Chairman noted the meeting clashes with the councils training. The clerk will send apologies.

5. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from TDC inviting the council to the Housing Stakeholders' event.

Cllr Short will be asked if he wishes to attend.

6. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from TDC notifying the council of receipt of nomination for Moretonhampstead Hospital. The correspondence was noted.

The Chairman noted that if the Hospital is classified as an asset of community value, the community will have a right to put in a bid to buy the asset for the good of the community if it is put up for sale.

35/2024 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Moreton Action on Plastics (MAPS).

Cllr Hodges volunteered to represent the council at MAPS meetings.

36/2024 BEATING THE BOUNDS

The beating the bounds report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Jeffery is happy to lead the walk. The council agreed to walk the route on Sunday, 14th April.

37/2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The council agreed to the same format as last year and to provide an update on the community consultation held in October. The clerk will invite successful grant applicants to attend.

38/2024 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The expression of interest form and offer letter had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chairman summarised the grant offer and noted the timescales are tight. The Highways working group are actively looking for a consultant to undertake the feasibility study in order to consult the community about the councils plans.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.01pm

TO DO ACTIONS

- CC&EWG to write an agenda or discussion points for the meeting with Jackie Hook
- Clerk to make payments
- Clerk to respond to correspondence in accordance with min no. 34/2024
- Clerk to arrange Beating the Bounds
- Clerk to arrange the Annual Parish Meeting
- Highways working group to accept/decline the TDC grant by Friday 9th

MPC Minutes 06.02.2024 Attachment no.1 – District Councillor Report

1. I was asked about the massive increases in councillors' allowances. In Teignbridge there has been no such increase, despite what one reads in the press. For the last ten years, these have been linked to the salaries of local government staff, so any increases have been determined by a national formula and have been minimal in Teignbridge.

2. The budget process is still under way. It is not expected that there will be any great shocks, since everybody is aware of the crisis facing all local authorities, following the enormous cut-back in support from central government.

3. The Peer Review Challenge, conducted by the LGA, has now been concluded. The official report is due in about a fortnight's time. Informal comments suggest that a key finding will be that there needs to be a very much closer relationship between the officers and the elected councillors, which will not come as a surprise to anybody. Once this has been received, the District Council has to produce an action plan to respond to its findings.

4. One welcome development is that the council officers have agreed to allow councillors into the building when there is not a formal meeting in process, and there is now a special room or councillors to meet up informally.

5. I understand that the parish council has not received a reply from Parking Services about local parking charges. Informal enquiries have not worked, and so I have tabled a question about this for the next TDC meeting at the end of February.

6. The SDA councillors have tabled a motion asking the district council to facilitate employment of those who are leaving social care. This has received widespread support from Lib Dem councillors too. However, I am tabling an amendment, asking the officers to flesh out the details of this policy and bring their proposals back to the next meeting of the Council.

MPC Minutes 06.02.2024 Attachment no.2 – Open Spaces Report

Inspection carried out by: S Parkin

Date: February 2024

Area	Comments	Action
The Sentry	Mole holes have appeared.	Contact pest control.
Churchyard	The Cross has blown over in the recent storm.	Open Spaces cttee to discuss replacing it.
The Play Area	Looks good.	None.
The Henge	Timber needs replacing on seats.	Cllr Jeffery to repair – someone to fit.
The Pound	Ok	None
Cross Tree	Looks good.	None.
Geneva Island/War Memorial	Looks good.	None.
Wheelwright's wheel	Looks good.	None.
Allotment	Looks good.	None.

Seats/benches/ Lamp posts	A few benches in need of painting.	Seek volunteers to rub down and repaint benches in spring/summer.
Gates and railings	Looks good.	None
Bus Shelter	Looks good.	None
Recycling bins	Looks good.	None

MPC Minutes 06.02.2024 Attachment no.3 – List of payments February 2024

Finance Report

To receive the Finance Report

On 31 January, the Accounts stood at:

Lloyds Current Account	£1,548.83
Lloyds Deposit Account	£65,929.92

Standing Orders

Moretonhampstead Development Trust Office Rent	£379.48	Date Cleared 01/02/2024
BT Telephone and Broadband	£41.83	15/01/2024

Direct Debit

Microsoft 365 subscription	£12.36	05/01/2024
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Mandatory Payments

Staffing payments (Salary, pension and quarterly HMRC)	£1,591.22	31/01/2024
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Card Payments

Income

Interment payments	£1,932.00	05/01/2024
Bank Interest	£68.03	09/01/2024
Churchyard maintenance	£100.00	09/01/2024

Invoices for payment – to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the Payment Schedule

Payment Method	Payee and reason	Budget	Power to spend	Net Payment	Payment inc VAT
Bank Transfer	Community Club <i>Hire of the Hall 09/01 & 16/01</i>	EX5	LGA 1972 s111	£30.00	£30.00
Bank Transfer	BNC Electrical Contractors <i>Install and take down lights</i>	XMAS	LGA 1972 s145	£517.00	£620.40
Bank Transfer	SLCC <i>Clerks' Microsoft Excel training</i>	EX11	LGA 1972 s111	£240.00	£288.00
Bank Transfer	Viking <i>Printer Ink</i>	EX4	LGA 1972 s111	£69.27	£83.12
Bank Transfer	M P Plumbing <i>2 x interment 11/01 & 25/01 1 x ashes interment 24/01</i>	EXCEM2	LGA 1972 s214	£1,155.00	£1,155.00

20. Signed.....

05 March 2024