



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 16th May 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

Present: Chairman: Cllr. J Medland
Councillors: Cllrs. J. McDougall, P. Haydon, S. Cholwill, K James, B. Beadle, D.Hale.

In Attendance: Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 3

Cllr. Parsons, Cllrs Giles, Elliott & Seymour-Smith, and the PCSO had sent apologies.

2037. Welcome by Cllr. Medland, Chairman
Cllr. Medland welcomed those present.

2038. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting Held on 18th May 2017
Cllr. Cholwill proposed that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2017 be approved. Cllr. Beadle seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

2039. Chairman's Report
Cllr Medland spoke to the meeting about how well all plans, and projects had gone in the village this past year, and the council were looking forward to how the Sports Hall and Playground projects would progress this next year.

2040. To Receive A Report a Representative of each the Following:

County Councillor

The clerk read out the following report from the county councillor.

Dear Members,

I want to express my sincere thanks to a number of people in regard to the impending re-opening of the hospital beds in Holsworthy. Over 12 months has passed since the 'temporary' closing of the beds. The journey since that time has not been an easy one. On 19 April 2018, at the public meeting held with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) around 200 people at each of the two gatherings that day were told that the **beds are to be re-opened**. This is a very real accomplishment.

Indeed, the Mayor of Holsworthy, Jon Hutchins, and I have been particularly instrumental in establishing a new conversation with the CCG. The kind of conversation held was reflected at the meeting of 19 April where openness and honesty featured above all else. I want to express thanks to the members of the CCG for adopting such an attitude and to the people of Holsworthy and its parishes for sharing so much of their most personal of information and feelings. I want, too, to thank my associate, Jon Hutchins along with the Town Council for their involvement in giving us hope for the fullest and most appropriate use of our hospital in these difficult times. We will now see how best we can move forward with the CCG and in the best interests of all in and around Holsworthy.

Some other really good news this month is that Devon leads the community energy revolution with more community energy organisations in Devon than any other county in the UK. There are 23 grass roots organisations which have installed 12.3 MW of capacity through 62 community owned renewable electricity generation projects. In a real drive to tackle fuel poverty community energy organisations in Devon have already raised £14.1 million of investment, including £5.5 million through community shares which generate a return for local people who have invested. They have also created 33 FTE jobs which is wonderful news.

Many of you will be aware of the issue that has arisen nationally in terms of Community Transport. Over the past few years, there has been a growing concern from a small number of commercial bus and coach operators at the national level, regarding the number of community operators undertaking contract work for local authorities. Their main contention is that this type of work puts the community transport sector in direct competition with them but also gives the CT sector an unfair advantage as the permit legislation which governs their operation is less stringent and less costly than it is for a commercial bus operator.

So, in brief, there has been a formal complaint to the European Commission. A public consultation about DfT's (Department for Transport) proposed changes to guidance alongside amendments to permit legislation was published on 8th February 2018 which runs until 4th May. One of such public consultations I attended at County Hall a couple of weeks ago along with Martin Prentice of Holsworthy Community Transport. I will keep all informed as matters progress.

Many of us, I know, are very concerned about issues related to our roads. I travel across our 555km road network with some regularity and have very significant first-hand experience of some of the difficulties people are experiencing. A recent national report (through ALARM, a nationally recognized organisation that deals with risk management) indicates that it is likely that 20% of our road network **across the country** will be virtually unusable in 5 years' time. This issue is not specific to Devon, indeed, Torridge.

I speak with regularity on this matter; and, indeed, am quizzed at all parish council meetings. But, I lobby regularly as many know at every opportunity to get the best for Holsworthy Rural. In fact, our ward has received as much in additional funds lately as any other of the 60 wards across Devon. It's no-where near enough, though. I have spoken not only to our most senior officers and members, to Cabinet, to the Local Government Association, the Local Enterprise Partnership, and others but need additional support through our MPs.

If one compares the amount of funding (nearly £60billion) going into the high-speed rail network (HS2) it is roughly 4 times that needed to make a massive difference to our roads. So, I am hoping that our South Western MP's will work together and insist on a much fairer funding allocation for rural areas, in particular.

Last week, at the Torridge Locality Committee with members and officers both of Torridge District and Devon County I proposed a letter to be sent to our MP which will now be sent by the Chairman of that committee on behalf of its members. I would encourage everyone to do the same. I hope our MPs will give the much-needed response to help not only folk getting around on our roads but enabling such as our emergency services to have considered access where needed.

If you are aware of any issues related to our roads, please contact and encourage others to contact directly through the website address:

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

Finally, I am pleased to see, hopefully, the back of winter this past week or so. It has been a difficult period for many, I know, with numbers of individuals who have not been at all well. Let's hope the finer weather will bring more cheer and good health.

District Councillor

Cllr. James, as District Councillor informed the meeting that new projects top deal with dog fouling were being looked at in the Torridge area. One project was the provision of street lights powered by dog waste. This trial has been successful in other areas in significantly reducing waste on the streets,

On another note, the fine for dog fouling has been increased to £150.

There is also a big promotion on litter picking in the Torridge area. Cllr James will be looking At Ways to bring this initiative to Bridgerule.

Police Community Support Officer

PCSO had sent apologies. All crime information for the past year is below in the Neighbourhood Watch report.

Bridgerule Village Hall Limited

Mr C Hitchings, as Chairman, provided a report on behalf of the Hall Committee.

IMPROVEMENTS

Since April last year, we have managed to replace the hall floor with vinyl tiles, which are water resistant, easy to keep clean, and have a 15-year guarantee. The rear kitchen has been completely replaced with new units, two ovens, a new water heater, two wash basins and a new slip proof floor. The rear toilet has been replaced. The storage cabinets in the kitchen have been retained, but with new doors. All new electrics have been fitted together with floor mounted heaters.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Replace the hall roof with box section insulated roof sheets, rebuild and reroof the entrance porch, and refurbish the old theatre storage area.

FINANCES

We have received £23220 in grants and donations, and just received a further grant from Trusthouse Charitable Foundation of £5400, which will enable us to start the refurbishment of the theatre store.

We applied to the lottery (Building Communities) for £55000 to replace the main roof and rebuild the front porch. We have been successful in getting through to stage 2. We are in the middle of applying for that and will possibly be doing a village questionnaire on the use of the hall to bolster the application. Financially we are in quite a healthy position, but a lot of the money we have obtained is ringfenced for particular projects.

ACTIVITIES

The lunches that started last October have been a tremendous success, with numbers growing each month. Coffee Club is very successful. Short Mat Bowls are full, and so is Table Tennis Club. The dog obedience now runs twice each week. The Art & Craft section is very popular. Beat Bounce, who meet on a Monday, have three sessions. The defibrillator has been taken out four times and used once. The pads have since been replaced.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Part of the application to the Lottery involves ensuring the hall is used by all age groups. We are having two free sessions of Hip Hop & Street Dance for children from age 3 – over 9 years. It has also been arranged that there will be exercise sessions for the older age groups to help keep people fit.

The Lottery have asked us to do a consultation and evaluation exercise and we have approached all the regular hirers, private users, people that have given us donations, and other interested partners for their comments. We have had many replies saying how much the hall has improved and would like to thank the council for their response.

GENERAL

I would like to record our thanks to the parish council for the support that you have once again given us over the last year. It is very much appreciated. When we do eventually get the roof done, we would like your permission to put scaffolding up, and to store building materials in the grounds outside whilst the work is in progress.

Since we started in April 2013, we have spent £124,886 on refurbishment.

Football Club/Playing Field

Cllr Giles had sent apologies, so no report was available.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. McDougall, as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, gave the following report:

‘Unfortunately, I committed the events concerning the parish to my phone, so when it went wrong, I lost the reports.

There had been a few ‘walk-ins’ but nothing stolen. One resident was said to have suffered financially due to a scam.

The latest report was of a school child having a tantrum and chucking things about.

Keep things to pen & paper – just don’t lose it!!

Thank you

John McDougall, Area Co-ordinator Bridgerule 01288 381237

Parochial Church Council

Mr Harris sent his apologies, they have no report to issue, but would like to thank the parish council for their grant this past year.

Revel Committee, Chapel and the Buzz Newsletter

Cllr. Cholwill, as organiser of the Revel Week, informed the Meeting that one meeting has already taken place for the 2018 Revel Week, and a young lady has put her name forward to be Queen.

The marching band, road closure and the refreshment van for Carnival Night has been organised.

We now have a gentleman on our small committee which is good, and another possible coming on board. We are also hopeful that a business will sponsor our annual Dog Show this year.

The weather for last years carnival was abysmal, but it happened, so we had to get on with it.

We would urge each committee, group or business not to be deterred and to put a float in please. Let's show other villages we can do it.

We are also hopeful that a steel band will be playing in the village this year on carnival day.

This is an important week for our village, and I know not a cheap week for families, but we hope everyone will support it.

Cllr. Cholwill, as editor of The Buzz, gave the following report.

The Buzz continues to be a popular little bi-monthly magazine for our little village and community. It hopefully keeps our residents aware of everything that is going on in the village, interesting topics to read, and a lot of residents say they keep The Buzz by the telephone to make use of the business adverts that sponsor it.

I am grateful to those businesses that regularly advertise. I always said I do not want the Buzz to just be an advertising tool, but it seems that businesses in the area, want to be in it as I am being contacted on a regular basis about advertising. At the end of the day the revenue helps pay the £250 costs each time, as this is what it costs to print. It is the first price increase to advertise in it since 2009. I am also grateful to those residents who sponsor it too. To date this is the only revenue received in order for the newsletter to pay for itself.

Rose has so aptly painted the covers of the Buzz since its first print, and I am very grateful to her. It is delivered by volunteers to almost 400 homes now. I am grateful to Phil Tucker for printing it to a very high standard.

Cllr Cholwill gave the following report on the Chapel.

The Tamarside Singers are still an important part of our chapel.

We have entertained regularly each month for the last year and sometimes at various other chapels, halls, residential homes and a memory café.

We now have Alex, a local 17-year-old who conducts our choir each week and is very pleasing to us.

This is something that we needed, but to have a conductor so young and so talented that wants to lead a group of people who are all much older than him is brilliant.

Since the forming of the singers, the weekly congregations have increased slightly but the chapel members have a more positive attitude. We have been able to carry out some urgent maintenance through grants which I have been able to get, but there is far more to do.

Those that regular attend the chapel are conscious too that the building where we practice weekly and worship regularly needs to be kept in a sound order. To function and find the running costs to keep on an even keel is easy as is with most charities and clubs, but we don't plan on shutting our doors yet. I was plonked on the organ seat when I was 14 by Mrs Violet Allin of Sanctuary. Most of you know roughly how old I am, so you know how long I have regularly played, and I can't see anyone wanting to take over.

Primary School

The Clerk read the following Statement from Lisa Paton, Primary Lead at Bridgerule Church of England Primary School.

I am sorry I cannot attend tonight but unfortunately, we have a Holsworthy Cluster Governors meeting at the same time! Please find below an update regarding Bridgerule School.

I started full time in September 2017 having been seconded from The Dartmoor Federation. I lead not only Bridgerule but also Bradford and Black Torrington Primary Schools in the Holsworthy Cluster and spend time in each school across the week. On January 1st, 2018 we joined the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. The MAT is one of the largest ever formed in the South West and is responsible for over 5,000 pupils and 750 staff in fifteen school sites. The MAT has been organised into five geographical clusters to ensure that local governance and accountability remain strong- each cluster with its own governing board and as Primary Lead I serve as a governor for The Holsworthy Cluster. Being part of this group of schools gives us a range of opportunities as well as valuable support. All the schools share

a common ethos and principle and we all believe that by working closely together in partnership we can provide our young people with the best possible education.

Another important aspect of the DMAT is the recognition that each school has its own identity and at Bridgerule I believe we continue to foster and grow that unique feeling of a village school for the community. At present we have 64 children on roll who continue to be taught in three classes. In addition to myself as the Primary lead, Mrs. Bunning works as our SENDCO and together we provide leadership for the 3 schools. There are 6 teachers who work across the week as well as 5 teaching assistants. Bridgerule achieved a 'good' OFSTED inspection judgement in January 2017 and a 'good' SIAMS (church inspection) in June 2017 so we are building on the strengths identified as well as working on areas for improvement. I monitor teaching and learning very closely and spent time in lessons observing learning and looking at books. We have aspirational targets for the children and expect them to work as hard as they can to reach their potential. I am also keen to balance the academic subjects with plenty of curriculum enrichment and opportunities for the children to be creative and experience awe and wonder. This year we have had many exciting experiences including trips to the theatre, Rosemoor Gardens, science show, outdoor adventure (archery, orienteering) and a local farm as well as many fantastic visitors such as a zoological experience and a specialist dance teacher. Soon our Year 5 children will be going on a residential trip to Okehampton and in June Year 6 will be travelling to Bristol for their residential.

We continue to work closely with Holsworthy Community College, collaborating and sharing good practice. We have also been delighted to welcome Mother Elizabeth to school and enjoy her visits to work with the children. We also continue to hold or attend regular events open to the community such as services at the chapel and our FOBs (Friends of Bridgerule School) events such as the recent Easter event in the village hall. We are looking forward to seeing how the new sports hall shapes up and hope to join the rest of the community in using the new facility.

2041. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 19.51 p.m.

Signature **Date**