



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 8.00 p.m. in  
Bridgerule Village Hall**

**Present:** Chairman: Cllr. J Medland  
Councillors: Cllrs. C. Seymour-Smith, P. Haydon, K. James, J. Giles, K. Elliott, J. McDougall,  
B. Beadle, S. Cholwill, D. Hale,  
**In Attendance:** Parish Clerk. Cllr Parsons

**1611. TO ELECT THE CHAIRMAN FOR 2016/2017**

Cllr. McDougall proposed that Cllr. Medland be elected Chairman for the year 2016/2017. Cllr. Cholwill seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

**1612. THE CHAIRMAN WILL READ AND SIGN THE PRESCRIBED 'DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE'**

Cllr. Medland duly read and signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office.'

**1613. TO ELECT THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR 2016/2017**

Cllr. McDougall proposed that Cllr. James be elected Deputy Chairman for the year 2016/2017. Cllr. Beadle seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

**1614. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**1615. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

**1616. TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FOLLOWING OUTSIDE BODIES: i. PLAYGROUND AND OPEN SPACES ii. FOOTBALL CLUB iii. BRIDGERULE VILLAGE HALL LTD.**

Cllr. James proposed that himself and Cllr Giles be the Council's representative for the Playground and Open Spaces; Cllr. Giles be the representative for the Football Club. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

It was agreed that since Cllrs. Seymour-Smith, McDougall and Cholwill are Directors/Trustees of Bridgerule Village Hall Ltd. (registered at Companies House and a registered charity) it was not necessary to appoint another Cllr. as a representative of the Council.

**1617. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME**

No questions were asked.

**1618. POLICE REPORT**

Nothing to report.

**1619. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**Schools**

Significant under-funding of our Devon schools has been an issue for which the County Council has lobbied strongly to increase in recent times. So, it is to everyone's credit within education circles in Devon to see that Devon has some of the lowest figures in the country for the amount of children who are persistently absent from school. New Government figures show that Devon County Council is in the top 10 per cent of local authorities for its low absence. Of 150 local councils responsible for education in England, only 13 have better figures than Devon.

The amount of children who miss 15 per cent or more of school time stands at 2.9 per cent in Devon. In the South West and in England overall, the figure is 3.7 per cent. Devon County Council has also improved its record on overall attendance according to the Government's figures for the 2014/15 school

year. Devon primary, secondary and special schools had an overall absence rate of 4.4 per cent. That's lower than the national figure of 4.6 per cent and of neighbouring authorities in the South West where the average is 4.7 per cent. Only 28 of 150 local councils had better figures than Devon in 2014/15. Just two years ago there were 62 authorities with better figures than Devon.

On a personal level and in relation to education of our children I have to say that I am not in favour of ensuring that all schools achieve academy status over the next few years. I am **a great believer in local choice** and in the many things done so well by Devon County Council in its 'Learning Development' partnership with Babcock on which I sit as a board member. This relationship has worked for the benefit of many of our schools, staff and governors, and, more especially our children.

## Highways

Highways maintenance is a huge issue especially in rural areas and no-one is more aware of this feature than folks like us living in such a rural environment. The County Council fully endorses the Local Government Association (LGA) stance that, "Whitehall should invest '230 times' more to tackle potholes. The Government's proposed £50m investment into fixing potholes falls dramatically short of the required funding, say council chiefs." Whitehall announced it will release £50m from the £250m Pothole Action Fund to repair up to one million holes over the next 12 months with the money going to 100 English councils.

The **Local Government Association (LGA) warned, however, local authorities need much more to cover the billions it will cost to improve local infrastructure.**

An LGA Transport spokesman, said, '**councils need more than 230 times that amount to cover the £11.8bn cost** to bring our roads up to scratch.' It is a matter highlighted by me to our town and parishes as well as at County Hall regularly since becoming your County Councillor, and a matter upon which Devon County Council has been lobbying central government consistently through the LGA and others, especially our MP's.

The recent funding provided (c £2m for Devon) does very little to address the cumulative effect of decades of underfunding. Here in Devon, we have close to 8000 miles of road network. It costs around £200k to just resurface a road close to 2 miles in length. This doesn't leave much to the imagination!

I say, "**Forget HS2** and Super-fast Railways (for now), and **concentrate on looking after folk right around our country** (rather than merely and continually feeding into and out of London) by investing such money into our road network. Enable folks to get to schools and to the workplace more safely, and encourage local investment requiring of good transport networks, whilst ensuring that people get good access to medical facilities no matter where they live."

## Road Wardens

I encourage very strongly our rural parishes to try and enlist individuals to the Road Warden Scheme (finally up and running!). Here, minor pothole repairs are being carried out by some of Devon's Community Road Wardens in a number of pilot areas of the county.

Devon County Council launched its Community Road Warden scheme – an initiative that enables a Road Warden to act as the highways "Champion", providing support in their local area in accessing highway information and in organising and carrying out minor work such as weed clearance, grass cutting, sign cleaning and small drainage work.

To ensure that they can work safely on the highway, the County Council has provided free training for around 60 volunteers nominated by Parish and Town Councils over the past year, with another 27 on the waiting list or booked for training. The training enables volunteers to sign up to the Road Warden scheme, which provides County Council third party liability cover for properly completed volunteer work and recommends communities to provide their own personal injury insurance cover for their volunteers.

I was with Mark Smale recently. Mark is Community Road Warden for Bradford and Cookbury and demonstrated how the scheme works. Mark says, "The motivation for me was that we only have unclassified roads for miles in all directions, and the road warden scheme sounded like a potential solution to the problem of potholes on our minor roads, when we don't have many options. Filling the potholes with the material isn't a problem. The training makes you aware of the hazards and you have to have a

common sense attitude and take sensible precautions.” I am hugely grateful to Mark for his interventions into what is, presently, a very difficult area for us all. If any member of our communities in and around Holsworthy Rural can follow Mark’s lead (by expressing their interest on the County Council website) this will certainly be in the best interests of our town and parishes.

Road wardens will be covered by Devon County Council’s third party public liability insurance and will be able to use tools provided by the County Council. They will act as their town or parish’s primary point of contact with the County Council’s local Neighbourhood Highway Officers.

### **Broadband**

The Council media posts that there is a “Big boost for Devon residents and businesses with slow internet connections. Connection vouchers worth up to £500 are now available to residents and businesses across Devon and Somerset. The vouchers will cover the cost of connecting to an improved broadband service to boost broadband speeds from 2Mbps, or under, to a minimum of 10Mbps. The scheme will provide a subsidy of up to £500, in the form of a voucher code, to fund the installation of a new broadband connection which will be available for at least the next twelve months. Eligible residents and businesses that are in receipt of a voucher code can choose to redeem the voucher with one of the suppliers listed on the Connecting Devon and Somerset website, with every solution guaranteeing a minimum of 10Mbps download speed.

To date, over 260 residents and businesses have applied for vouchers, with the number increasing every day. Seven broadband suppliers are currently registered on the CDS scheme offering a variety of technology solutions including fibre to the home, wireless and satellite. CDS are in discussions with other suppliers, so it’s possible that even more suppliers will eventually join the scheme offering residents and businesses even more choice. Residents and businesses in receipt of a voucher will still be entitled to a superfast broadband connection under phase 2 of the CDS programme – a procurement process for which is expected to launch in the summer.”

To apply for the voucher please visit the website: <http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-broadband-voucher-scheme/>

### **Moo Free Chocolates**

I was especially interested in an extract from the Plymouth Herald recently – a tremendous tribute for both company and place - which says that, “Devon may traditionally be one of the heartlands of Britain’s dairy industry, but it is now also home to one of the country’s most successful dairy free companies. Moo Free Chocolates – the creators of the world’s first dairy free chocolate Easter egg – established a factory in Holsworthy last year.

Since expanding its operations to Devon, the company has tripled its production capacity to help it branch out into the American and Chinese markets, and it has this week been announced that it has won a Queen’s Award for Enterprise for international trade.

The company, which is one of the latest firms to sign up to the Devon Delivers Ambassador programme, already exports over 50% of its products, selling them in over 30 countries around the world, from Europe to Australia.

Co-founder and sales and marketing director Mike Jessop said: “Our goal is to become the world leader in dairy free chocolate manufacturing and our facility in Devon is enabling us to move towards that goal by the sheer level of production we’re now able to achieve

... It was while looking for sites across the South West that Devon stood out as the natural choice for the future of Moo Free Chocolates.

Mr Jessop added: “We wanted to locate our second factory in an area with a workforce that already had experience in the food manufacturing sector.

“When we found the unit in Holsworthy it was exactly what we were looking for; it was the right size and layout and **even though it’s in a rural area it’s easily accessible, which was important as we need good connections.**

**“One of the major benefits of being located in Holsworthy, and Devon itself, is that people have that background in food production.”**

The Devon Delivers Ambassadors' programme, which is part of Devon County Council's inward investment programme, marked its first anniversary last year. Moo Free Chocolates is one of more than 30 local businesses to have signed up as an ambassador, championing Devon as a location that delivers for business."

... My Cabinet colleague, Councillor Andrew Leadbetter, said: "Moo Free is a perfect example of a growing business that has moved to Devon to continue its expansion. As one of the world leaders in its field, it is exactly the sort of company that we want to attract to Devon and I'm pleased to see that locating here has helped it build on its success.

Mike and his team have clearly discovered what sets our county apart from other areas and it's encouraging to see that they have already expanded their Devon base."

Mr Jessop added: **"There's a lot of growth and money being injected in this area – it's a thriving place with a skilled workforce. Our broadband and phone connections are much faster and better** here than in our head office in Reading.

"There's been so much investment here that all the latest technology and infrastructure is being put in place." "

Sometimes, as locals, we don't always appreciate the perception of others from outside our area. We are, indeed, very fortunate to be living in such a wonderful place and the Moo Free Chocolates story is a powerful reminder to us all of what we are achieving and - as one with every aspiration for this ward - fully intend continuing to do so.

### **The Clinical Commissioning Group has asked that all Members at DCC be informed of the "Success Regime - Case for Change".**

I have taken an extract from this which reads: "The CCG is one of the organisations in Northern, Eastern and Western (NEW) Devon which has been placed into the Success Regime, a programme which aims to transform services so they can meet local needs into the future, taking into account issues such as the ageing population and the rising tide of long-term conditions, including diabetes and obesity...

The Success Regime is a whole system intervention to sustainably improve health and care services to patients in response to the financial challenges that the local health and care system faces.

The programme will see local health and care organisations working more closely together as a 'system', and united in a common purpose, approach and set of ambitions. This approach will enhance our chances of success as, like many areas across the country, such challenges cannot be addressed by individual organisations alone.

While the programme is overseen jointly by NHS England, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority, local leadership is key and the Programme Board members include the CCG, the acute hospital trusts, community providers and providers of mental health services, the local authorities (Devon County Council and Plymouth City Council) and Healthwatch, which helps to provide the patient perspective."

### **South West Charter for Member Development**

Devon County Council has recently been reassessed for the South West Charter for Member Development at Charter Plus level. The accreditation is awarded by South West Councils, this has been its third accreditation process and we are one of only four authorities in the South West to have achieved the higher Charter plus standard.

As Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group at Devon County Council I am pleased to see the seriousness with which members approach this issue. It is of huge importance for members to represent their communities in an open, fair, and professional manner which is exactly what this process is designed to deliver.

#### **1620. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

ONS Internal are looking at Torridge spending. Assets are being looked at from 'inside'. Looking at what can be sold and ways of saving money. Also details are yet to be decided on how to allocate District Councillors money.

**1621. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Cllr. McDougall proposed the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 be approved. Cllr. James seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstention).

**1622. MATTERS ARISING**

Waiting on details from Solar Park, re Parsonage Wood.  
Highways – Hedge is being cut.

**1623. TO RATIFY THE INSURANCE FOR 2016/2017**

The clerk distributed the Insurance Documents for perusal, and went through the cover figures with this year's premium. Proposal to accept the quotation by Cllr James, Seconded by Cllr Beadle. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstention)

**1624. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVISONS AS INTERNAL AUDITORS FOR 2016/2017.**

The clerk informed the meeting that the service Davison's provide on the internal audit was a good one, at a very reasonable price. Proposed to accept Davison's as Internal Auditors for 2016/2017 by Cllr James, Seconded by Cllr Hale. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstention).

**1625. TO RECEIVE AND AGREE THE INTERNAL ACCOUNTS, THE ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN AND THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/2016.**

Cllr. James proposed that the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 be approved and signed. Cllr. Haydon seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). Cllr. Medland, Chairman, and the RFO duly signed the Annual Audit Return.

**1626.** Copies of the Accounts, Annual Audit Return and Annual Governance Statement for the financial year were circulated at the meeting. The PC gave explanations where necessary. After discussion, Cllr. James proposed the Internal Accounts and Annual Audit Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 be approved and signed. Cllr. Haydon seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). Cllr. Medland, Chairman, and the PC/RFO duly signed the accounts.

**1627. TO APPROVE THE RISK ASSESSMENTS AND ASSET REGISTER FOR 2016/2017**

The Asset Register and Risk Assessments were distributed at the meeting. The clerk had updated. There were no further amendments and Cllr James proposed they were accepted, which was seconded by Cllr Elliott. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstention).

**1628. GRANT FOR COFFEE MORNING**

A £200 grant was proposed to support gifts for the Coffee Morning being given on the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Cllr James proposed, seconded by Cllr Hale. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstention).

**1629. FOOTBALL FIELD UPDATE**

Waiting on solicitors to do their bit. A better mower will be needed to mow the field.

**1630 ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT**

<b>BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES APRIL 2016</b>						
<b>COUNCIL EXPENDITURE</b>						
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
18.05.16	R Perry	629	£169.42	£169.42	£0.00	Wages
18.05.16	B Beadle	630	£90.00	£90.00	£0.00	Grass Cutting
18.05.16	Zurich Insurance	631	£285.93	£285.93	£0.00	Insurance
18.05.16	DALC	632	£161.44	£106.04	£21.21	Membership
18.05.16	Coodes Solicitors	633	£11,812.50	?	?	Field Purchase and Legal Fees
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£12,519.29</b>	<b>£651.39</b>	<b>£21.21</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>						
<u>Current Account</u>				<u>Reserve Account</u>		
Balance at 1st April 2016		£12,795.66		£11,320.78	Balance at 19th April	
TDCAP		£4,148.00			£0.45 Interest April	
			£16,943.66			
622			£375.00			
625			£169.42			
628			£90.00			
<b>Balance at 1st April 2016</b>			<b>£16,309.24</b>		<b>£11,321.23</b>	Balance at 5th May 2016
<b>Playing Field Project Bonus Saver Account</b>						
Balance at 30th October 2015			£5,062.80			
Interest Nov/Dec			£0.34			
Interest Jan			£0.16			
<b>Balance at 29th January 2016</b>			<b>£5,063.30</b>			

Cllr. James proposed the accounts be approved for payment. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions). Cllr James asked the clerk to check her wages against the new living wage for next meeting.

**1631. PLANNING  
1/0242/2016/FUL**

Cllr Giles declared an interest as a neighbour and abstained from discussions and the vote.  
Not supported. The site is too small, the position of the mains sewer is not shown on the plans, and there is no provision for a retaining wall on boundaries.  
Unanimous Vote. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstentions)

**1632. HIGHWAYS**

Woodapark Hill – Pothole on the corner by manhole  
Jewells Cross – Large pothole  
Reservoir – Potholes.

**1633. PARISH HALL**

New Chairs have arrived. The hall committee would like permission to build a concrete path between fire exit and the gate. Approx 4ft wide. Proposed Cllr James Seconded Cllr Giles. Vote Unanimous.

The big kitchen is the next project to do, and also looking a works on the roof.

**1634. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence 20/04/16 – 17/05/16**

Received

1. Public Sector Executive (13) – News Updates
2. Thomas Carrick (4) – NHW Updates
3. Cllr Parsons – Apologies and Updates
4. Chris Dobbs – Torridge Strategic Planning (sent to all Cllrs)
5. **Caroline Gatrell – Map Review**
6. Exchequer @ Torridge – Remittance Advice
7. Planning Support – Decisions
8. Sue Pennington (4) – Weekly List
9. Planning Support – Acknowledgement of Submissions
10. Broxap (4) – Sales Email
11. Elaine Lester – Community Resilience Planning
12. Laura Forsey (4) – Torridge Newsletter
13. Diane Thompson – Engagement Sessions
14. **Harry Roper – Better Broadband (sent to all Cllrs.)**
15. Planning Support – Consultation Request
16. **Emma Tomkies – Rural Crime Update**
17. Laura Taylor – Electoral Review of Devon
18. **Rospa – Report**
19. Devon Community Directory – Review of records
20. Flood Risk Management – Update
21. Online Playgrounds – Sales
22. Ann Rabey (2) – Bridgerule Audit Davisons
23. Jessica Emery – Insurance Renewal
24. Healthwatch Devon – Newsletter
25. John Allen- MCTI Meeting
26. Komplan – Sales Email
27. Aoife Grimes – Tackling Radicalisation Conference
28. Diane Thompson – How to engage with planning process
29. B Beadle – Grass Cutting Invoice
30. Cllr McDougall – Minutes
31. Angela Jenkinson – Devon Homechoice Newsletter

Sent

1. PCSO Tomkies & Cllr Parsons - Agendas
2. Cllr Medland – Various Correspondence
3. Steve Brockman – Highways Issues
4. Cllr Parsons – Highways Issues
5. Planning Support – Consultee Comments

6. Cllr McDougall – Minutes
7. Davisons – Audit Information
8. All Councillors – Email Highlighted above

**1635. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Cllr. Medland informed the Meeting that the clerk was on holiday for the next meeting, so it was decided to reschedule for a week later on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016.

**1636. CLERK’S REPORT**

The clerk reported the findings of the RoSPA inspection, Cllr Medland will have a look at the report and action all necessary works with Short & Abbott. Proposed Cllr Medland. Seconded Cllr James. Vite Unanimous.

**1637. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Football Club has a Charity Match on Saturday – Old Boys. All support would be welcomed. NDDH will possibly be closed. No further details at present. Southfields open area – could it be turned into something else, as no one uses it at present. Agenda for next meeting.

**1638. CLOSE**

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

Signature ..... Date .....