



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 19th August, 2015 at 8.00 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk. 11 Members of the public.

1450. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Giles, Cllr B Parsons

1451. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

1452. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

Members of the public raised concerns over the pre-application for a Solar Farm development in the Bridgerule Area.

1453. POLICE REPORT

Nothing to report

1454. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

(Inserted from report sent by Cllr Parsons)

I am pleased to report that South West schools are set to benefit from an additional £390 million in national funds next year, as MPs continue their campaign to secure a fairer funding deal for the region. Devon teachers and councillors have been united behind the education funding campaign. Members of the "f40" group called on ministers to address imbalances in the education funding formula, which leave counties like Devon up to £270 worse off per pupil than other parts of the country.

Devon County Council decision to close Pyworthy Primary School gives little comfort for small rural schools generally. There is not a great deal of research into the effects on the local community of small, rural school closures especially when such communities face impact in other service areas. I have asked Place Scrutiny Chairman, Andrew Moulding, to look at this as a priority given the number of threats to rural community services (e.g. Transport, Youth Services, Hospital beds ..) as this is especially important for Holsworthy Rural Ward.

The condition of our local Highways network is one of Devon County Council's highest priorities – and, one of mine in our area, especially. Living as we do in a very rural part of the county which often holds more insubstantial foundations for our roads coupled with inadequate funding leads to us having need to invest in very real, efficient innovation to patch up deficiencies. My conversations with the Head of Highways and Cabinet Member for Highways, as you know, have been many. I was keen for us to be one of the first to try new technology to improve our rural roads. Spray Injection Patching (which includes Jet Patching) is a good example of this approach and DCC is, currently, carrying out a programme of trial sites across the County to test the technique – much of which is in our area. To properly trial the technique, we need to carry out work on a number of sites with different characteristics and then monitor the performance of the repairs over the following winter to make sure that the repairs are robust. DCC has included sections of highway in the Holsworthy area in our programme of trials for spray injection patching. I have been insistent on ensuring that Holsworthy Rural is to be the first to receive what is, hopefully, significant benefit. Trials so far are encouraging, although, I understand that the repairs may be sensitive to weather condition at the time of the works and we do not know how repairs will stand up to winter conditions. Conventional hazardous pothole repairs will continue to be used on roads when needed.

For the past two years I have been in discussions regarding potential hospital bed closures in community hospitals. The Mayor of Holsworthy, John Allen, and I have worked together to try and ensure as far as possible that Holsworthy Hospital has full and proper consultation over this matter. Recent changes with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have enforced a change in approach by the CCG. I am pleased to report, too, that our (sometimes, new) District Councillors are playing their part in trying to support our communities as this process emerges.

Dr John Womersley (Chair of the Northern Locality Board - NEW Devon CCG) sat down with John Allen and myself a short while ago informing that it is the CCG's intention (along with Northern Devon Healthcare Trust (NDHT) which will take the lead) to invite and select up to 40 representatives from the area of Torridge and North Devon to select criteria upon which assessment can be made to best apportion community beds across the area.

According to Dr Womersley in relation to the group of 40 it is recognized that "Their nominations need to be balanced. The group will hold two meetings, no doubt with some correspondence in-between. The first is to draw up a list of criteria for deciding the location of the in-patient beds. The criteria will be chosen from the suggested list produced as a result of what we heard at our (CCG) public consultations last year. The second meeting will be to allocate weightings to each criteria. The criteria will be applied to each community hospital setting and the resultant scores will produce a list of options where the beds should be situated with scores going from highest (most appropriate) to lowest (least appropriate). That recommendation will then come to the Northern Locality Board for endorsement and that proposal will then be taken to the public consultation process."

On 22 July 2015 I attended the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting at Torridge District Council where a presentation was given by Alison Diamond (C/Ex Northern Devon Healthcare Trust) in relation to impending bed closures at Community Hospitals. I am very clear as I said to Alison and her colleagues at the meeting that it is vital for community-based services to be developed if the aspiration to treat people in their own homes is to be a real option. Part of the rationale for reducing hospital beds is that more people will be cared for in their own homes. But, there needs to be sufficient community-based health and care staff available, and with the ability to travel significant distances between people being looked after in their own homes especially in areas like Torridge. Any reduction of community hospital beds numbers must be linked with a corresponding build-up of community based staff.

It's along way from Holsworthy and its parishes to an A&E Hospital – I would question, "Who in Devon is further away from A&E?" I did, too, remind the NDHT of the recommendation of the Durrow Report in 2006 that the A&E Hospital at Barnstaple is the one which should be looked at again if we are serious about reducing costs. We need to be brave and to look at how best to support all communities in the long term.

1455. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Local Plan is being looked at and need amending, to be resubmitted in the spring 2016.

1456. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Cllr. McDougall proposed the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th July, 2015 be approved. Cllr. James seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1457. MATTERS ARISING

In-between meetings some of the play equipment in the park was reported as faulty. This has been rectified with the help of Mr Gary Abbott.

1458. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN JULY 2015

COUNCIL EXPENDITURE

Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
18.08.15	R Perry	602	£181.81	£181.81	£0.00	Wages
18.08.15	Penpont Ecology	603	£383.00	£383.00	£0.00	Football Field

TOTAL

£564.81	£564.81	£0.00
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Bank Accounts

Current Account

Balance at 1st July	£5,582.14	
		£5,582.14
593		£192.50
596		£1,000.00
598		£100.00
Balance at 1st August 2015		£4,289.64

Reserve Account

£7,315.10	Balance at 19 th May
£0.26	interest June
£0.40	interest July
£15,000.00	Suned
£22315.76	Balance at 16th August

Playing Field Project Bonus Saver Account

At 30th May 2015	£5,061.95
interest June	£0.18
interest July	£0.17
Balance at 31st July 2015	£5,062.30

Cllr. McDougall proposed the accounts be approved for payment. Cllr.Elliott seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1459. PLAYING FIELD PROJECT UPDATE

To be postponed until the September Meeting.

1460. PLANNING

1/0563/2015/FUL Relocation of a Football Pitch

The council fully support the application.

All Councillors declared a personal interest in the proposal.

Cllr Hale declared a personal and pecuniary interest and abstained from the discussion.

1461. HIGHWAYS

Hedges along the Road at Furze Cross

Dux Lane – Subsidence

Large Potholes – Norton Lane

1462. PARISH HALL

Building will start on the new store room delayed until the end of September

1463. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE
The clerk highlighted the new transparency guidelines.

Correspondence 16/07/2015 – 18/08/2015

Received

1. Wayne Slade – Annual Return
2. Cllr Smith – Minutes
3. Dean Rigden – Bridgerule Coal Yard
4. Alec Johnston – School Sign
5. Valerie Harris – Grant Application
6. Jonathan Hutchins – Road Closure
7. Angela Jenkinson (4) – Devon Home Choice Newsletter
8. Thomas Carrick (4) – NHW Updates
9. Jamie Hollis – Transparency Guidelines
10. Jamie Hollis – Legal Briefing
11. John Allen (3) – MCTI Meeting
12. Toni Treloar – North Devon Foodbank
13. Joanna Laurenson – Solar Park - FWD
14. Cllr Cholwill – Hall Booking
15. Valerie Pyle – Dog Fouling
16. Planning Support – Planning Appeal
17. Mark Sanders – Fire Service Community Engagement
18. Emily Marshall – SunEd Payment
19. Karen Wilson – Devon Records
20. Tom Butt – Rural Enterprise
21. Cllr Medland – Various Correspondence
22. Chris Dobbs – Public Consultation
23. Ross Plain (2) – Annual Return
24. Cllr James – Various Correspondence
25. Alison Boyd – MCTI Meeting
26. Cllr McDougall – Solar Park
27. Maureen Fenner – Minutes
28. Sue Pennington – Weekly List
29. Lorraine Inch – Holsworthy Area Advisory Group
30. Piper Architecture – General Correspondence
31. Sue Priest – Electoral Roll Information
32. Devon Communities Together – Newsletter
33. Ian Fry – Planning Information
34. Piper Architecture – Penpont Ecology Invoice
35. Healthwatch Devon – E-News
36. Susan Squire – Localities Events
37. Michelle Shadrick – Grant Application
38. Planning Support – Decisions Notifications
39. Emma Tomlinson (4) – Weekly List
40. Planning Support – Consultation Request

41. Cllrs Medland, McDougall and James – Climbing Frame
42. Gary Abbott – Climbing Frame
43. Jeremy Bladon (2) – Southfields Land
44. Elaine Lester – Parish Emergency Plan
45. Devon Highways – Briefing
46. Cllr McDougall – Minutes
47. Sandra Willets – Community Hospital – FWD
48. Cllr Cholwill – Community Hospital

Sent

1. All Cllrs – Emails as above
2. Wayne Slade – Accounts queries
3. Ross Plain – Audit queries
4. PCSO James – Agenda
5. Cllr Parsons – Agenda and Dates for all meetings
6. Piper Architecture – Planning
7. Torridge – Planning Response
8. Natwest – Statements
9. Grant Applications

1464. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Coal Yard development was approved at the appeal hearing.

1465. CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk is looking at an ‘Emergency Plan’ for the village, if councillors have anything they feel should be included, to please send through the information.

1466. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Readvertise the Snow Warden in the Buzz, and to ask for volunteers to grit their own stretches of road if grit bins were provided.

Redo the Councillor Contact Sheet

Broadband – to write and clarify which areas are being covered.

Vodafone are putting in two boxes next week.

The Hedge by Villa Lodge/Bridgepark on the cut through needs trimming- contact Westcountry Housing.

1467. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.

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