

## **HOLCOMBE BURNELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Holcombe Burnell Parish Council held at Longdown Village Hall on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Charles Eden (Chairman)  
Cllr Louise Brind (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Marion Bulley  
Cllr Graham Flood  
Cllr Kate Morley  
Cllr Sir Henry Studholme

### **ABSENT**

Cllr Sharon Wood  
Cllr Chloe Bickley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr Andy Swain *[7:45 to 8:22pm]* & Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

### **1 Open Forum incl. AOB**

No members of the public.

### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bickley who is away. Council **RESOLVED** to accept this absence.

### **3 Declarations of Interests & Registers of Interests -**

None.

### **4 Minutes**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as true & correct record. The Chair duly signed them.

### **5 Matters Arising**

#### **5.1 Rumble Strips**

Postponed until results of speed data are known or it will be on the agenda for May.

### **6 Reports of County and District Councillors.**

#### **6.1 Cllr Swain reported on:**

- Changes to the voting system.

At elections in 2018 there were 8 allegations of people claiming a false identity at a polling station, seven were dismissed and one resolved locally. There were no convictions.

In 2019 the government ran trials requiring photo ID to vote. In just ten trial areas, 1,968 people were turned away for not having the correct ID and 740 did not return to vote. In some areas over 0.5% of the voters were prevented from voting, that's bigger than many majorities.

Despite the total lack of an actual problem, and the shocking numbers of people disenfranchised, the government is pressing ahead with voter ID. The Elections Act 2022 will apply to the Teignbridge local elections in May

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2023. All voters at polling stations must show identification documents. If you don't have a suitable ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate free of charge, or you can apply for a postal vote which will be sent to you in the two weeks before polling day.

Both these options need time to arrange, so don't leave it till nearer the time, do it now. There is more information about both these options at <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/electoral-services> or you can contact us for assistance. Please do not let them take away your vote. Cllr Swain personally believes this is voter suppression.

- Markham's Farm Development Site

Cllr Swain is aware of the widespread concern about this site but he had been unsuccessful with his opposition to it. There will be one more consultation.

- Devon Explorer Bus

Cllr Connett has been contacted about the Dartmoor Explorer bus which isn't very well used as it goes through this Parish. This service has no subsidy that Cllr Connett is aware of. Council feels the costs of the service would be better spent on bus routes people use.

## **7 Village Concerns**

**7.1 Fence at Sylvan** - Enforcement are in contact with the landowner and Cllr Swain will chase this.

### **7.2 Housing – Affordable Housing (AH)**

Central Government have changed the calculation of new housing numbers per District Council and a new formula isn't anticipated prior to the Local Elections. Council would like to help local people to stay in the Parish, although previous attempts in the Parish have been unacceptable. There is a difficulty with steep slopes near the main road and the desire to stay within the village envelope.

Dunsford have been discussing AH for 2 years. Having just come out of Covid and in a cost-of-living crisis it might be a bit much for the community to deal with. Cllr Swain confirmed that MDDC would happily build AH if communities have land to offer.

Council will investigate what needs to be done with Mr Wrigley at MDDC.

## **8 Traffic Calming Measures**

Clerk will check with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer the timetable and locations for the VAS signs which have now arrived.

## **9 Draft Letter to Teignbridge re Planning**

The Chairman had attended a meeting of Teignbridge Parish Councils at TVCH which expressed major concerns with the Planning Team at Teignbridge with many examples of problems individual Parishes had experienced. Whilst the Council had some sympathy with Teignbridge's problems with staffing etc., the Parishes felt they should be represented.

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to thank Jane Clark (Tedburn St Mary) for her help with the letter and Cllr Hole & Agnes at Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council for organising it.

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to write separately mentioning the fence at Sylvan.

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**10 Planning 22/02337/HOU** 1 Castle View – Replacement room, extension and insulation. Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application.

## **11 Reports**

### **11.1 Clerk's Report**

#### **11.1.1 Elections**

The clerk outlined the timetable and encouraged all current Cllrs to stand again. At the next meeting the clerk will

Provide nomination papers

Confirm opening times of Firde House

Bring the Electoral Register so voter numbers can be provided for proposers and seconders.

Check with the two absent Cllrs that they are aware of the process.

Mention in the Tedburn Times the need to fill the Cllr vacancies.

**11.1.2 s106** Council was disappointed to understand how many exclusions there are to CIL & s106 funds and will name any properties for which they would like further explanation.

#### **11.2 Footpath Warden's Report**

##### **Items dealt with in January**

1. Submitted Footpath Warden (P3) Annual Report and Annual bid for grant to Devon County Council (Public Rights of Way), County Hall.

2. Inspection of recent completed works: Staggered barrier at Chapel Hill end of footpath no.7, Water erosion rectification on footpath no.3 and Ditch work on footpath no.3. Recommend payment to contractor.

##### **Works Requiring Attention**

1. Water and Environmental problems on Bridleway no.8 (Ongoing investigations)

2. Replace stile and fieldgate on footpath no.1 (in hand)

Please report any Public Rights of Way matters to : Mike Long Tel 01392 811593  
Footpath Warden - P3 Coordinator.

Council **RESOLVED** to ask the clerk to write to PROW Officer at DCC advising that Bridleway 8 has ground to a halt. This has become too complex an issue to expect a volunteer warden to cope with and it now needs a lead from DCC.

**11.3 Defibrillator Report** – Cllr Bickley submitted the monthly report to Circuit, confirmed by their email of 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023. The Council thanked Cllr Bickley for sorting out the battery so swiftly.

**11.4 Play Area Report** The Village Hall have indicated that they will repair the gate spring when they take over responsibility shortly.

**11.5 Occasional Newsletter Report** – None this month.

## **12 Finance**

### **12.1 Current balance**

Council noted the current balance of £ 20,243.08.

**12.2 Bell Tower Donation** – Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to pay a £ 1,000 donation to this worthy cause from reserves, with a view to recouping this money over the next 3 years.

**12.3 Dog Bin Clearance for 2023-24** Council **RESOLVED** to stay with the current frequency of bin emptying.

### **12.4 Payments**

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Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

<b>12.4.1 Parish Online</b>	Annual subscription	£ 64.80
<b>12.4.2 Culver Sawmill</b>	Footpath repairs inv 0573,4 & 5	£ 3114.00
<b>12.4.3 J P Roberts</b>	clerk pay (Jan) £ 275.49	
+ reimbursements Pension Fund £ 94.03 Defib Battery £ 324.94		£ 694.96
<b>12.4.4 HMRC</b>	for clerk's PAYE Income Tax (Jan)	£ 68.80

### **13 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

**13.1 Urgent Item - Hedge in the Road** The hedge on the house on the corner outside Woodside (Wood Close, Perridge Lane) is a metre out into the highway. Pedestrians are forced out into the road and visibility is very poor. The clerk will have a quiet word.

**13.2 Urgent Item - Coronation Commemoration** Council is minded to commemorate the Coronation and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:22pm thanking everyone for their hard work.

Signed ..... Date .....  
Cllr C Eden, Chairman