

CULMSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a remote meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th January 2021 at 7pm

In attendance: Cllrs. Miss L Jones (Chairman), Mrs J Zebedee, Mrs J Saunders, G Bass, M Plastow, T Platel, E Box, Mrs R Balchin, MDDC Cllr. S Clist, one member of the public and the Clerk.

1. Democratic Period: A member of the public was present to ask the council to consider if a dog bin could be sited in Silver Street and if the existing bin near Culmstock bridge could be replaced with a larger bin. The matter will be placed on the next agenda.
2. Apologies: Cllrs: Mrs L Wyle, C Kay and DCC Cllr. R Radford.
3. Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Miss Jones (personal as living adjacent to the site) agenda item 7.1 Hillmoor Common. Cllr. Bass (DPI as the applicant) planning application 20/02092/LBC.
4. The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 09/12/2020 were approved.
5. Matters Arising: None.
6. **Planning and Planning Correspondence/Information.**
 - 6.1 Applications considered:
20/02078/FULL Erection of an agricultural livestock shed. Land at NGR 310546 117151 (Upcott Farm), Nicholashayne. No objections.
20/02092/LBC Listed Building Consent for the replacement of turnerised slate roof with natural slate, removal of chimney and replace existing uPVC double glazed windows in courtyard area with hardwood timber framed casement windows. Cadbury House, Fore Street, Culmstock. EX15 3JD. No objections. *See declarations. Cllr. Bass left the meeting for this item.*
20/02117/LBC AND 20/02114/HOUSE Listed Building Consent and permission for alterations to rear of dwelling and erection of a car port, log store and office. Woodgate Farm, Culmstock. EX15 3HW. No objections.
 - 6.2 Results of applications from Mid Devon District Council.
-20/01748/HOUSE Retention of garden shed. 5 Earland Rise, Culmstock. EX15 3FY. Approved.
-20/01794/FULL Erection of single storey rear extension. 7 Great Meadow, Culmstock, EX15 3FL. Approved.
20/01797/FULL & 20/01798/LBC - Listed Building Consent & permission for conversion of barn to teaching and office facilities. Land & Buildings at NGR 309080 114448 (Silver Street Farm) Prescott, Uffculme. Approved.
20/01860/CAT Notification of intention to fell 1 Cherry tree within the Conservation Area. 2 The Strand Culmstock. EX15 3JH. Approved.
20/01866/CAT Notification of intention to crown lift upper branches of 1 Goat Willow tree to give approximately 1m lateral clearance within the Conservation Area. Graveyard All Saints Church, Fore Street Culmstock. Approved.
-20/01701/CAT Notification of intention to dismantle 1 Grey Alder to hedge level and reduce the crown of 1 Silver Birch tree by 2.5m and 1 Hawthorn tree by 1m within the Conservation Area. 1 The Strand, Culmstock. EX15 3JH. Approved.
For information only to note that the following application has been withdrawn: -20/01640/FULL Siting of a residential caravan. Land at NGR 310236 115114 (Bartletts) Culmstock.
 - 6.3 Any other planning matters: (i) With reference to minute 113.3 and 127.3 - Permitted Rights at Earland Rise – an email from MDDC has been forwarded to the parishioner who made the initial enquiry.
7. **Access.**
 - 7.1 Hillmoor Common. *See declarations. Cllr. Miss Jones left the meeting for this item.* As reported at the last meeting (minute 128.1) an area of Hillmoor Common has been fenced off. Cllr. Platel has now made contact with DCC and it was agreed to canvas local opinion before deciding what action, if any, Culmstock Parish Council should (or can) take. An article will be placed in the Culmstock News asking parishioners to make contact with the Parish Council if they have been adversely affected or have strong feelings regarding the matter.
 - 7.2 Permissive Path – from Culmstock Cemetery to Fry's Farm: Quotations are awaited.
 - 7.3 Any other matters: None.

8. Highways.

- 8.1** Update on Culmstock Village sign – located near Rexmead. The sign has now been lowered to improve visibility for the residents.
- 8.2** Any other matters. (i) The Neighbourhood Highways Officer has been in contact with MDDC building control and the developer has been contacted with reference to the possibility of the installation of a handrail at Hunters Way. (ii) DCC is looking into the problem of road surface flooding on the B3391 at Tithe Barn Cross following communication received from a parishioner.
- 9. Reports – any reports may be taken here.**
- 9.1** Blackdown Hills Parishes Network Co-ordinator: The steering group met recently with the two MP's and the response to climate change was discussed along with broadband and transport issues. A full report will be approved and circulated.
- 9.2** Culmstock News: The first edition of the "new" Culmstock News went out in December. Thanks go to the newly appointed editor and treasurer. Invoices have been sent out to current advertisers.
- 9.3** MDDC Cllr. S Clist (*Cllr. Clist gave his report at the end of the meeting*): The Local Boundary Commission – the final recommendations for Mid Devon have been published. The proposal is for MDDC to have 42 councillors, and for the boundaries of all wards to change except for Silverton and Upper Culm. Information regarding Government grants is available via the MDDC website. A new relief road has just been approved for Cullompton together with the re-location of Cullompton Cricket Club.
- 9.4** DCC Cllr. R Radford: A report was circulated to all – [Devon County Council has launched its third round of COVID-19 Funding to help provide valuable funding to organisations working in communities that have been affected by the coronavirus outbreak](#). Grants of up to £700 are available. The new Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine is being given to the first people in Devon. Unlike the Pfizer vaccine, the first to be approved, the Oxford vaccine does not need to be stored at ultra-low temperatures and is much less complicated to move. Central government has put in place a number of grant funding streams to help support local authorities during the pandemic. The confirmed additional funding DCC is expecting to receive directly is £80.5 million. The funding for the Council's budget currently comes from a number of sources including council tax, business rates, government grants, fees and charges. The Government has also announced: Devon's share of national COVID funding for 2021/22 is £14.823 million. The continuation of the 75% Covid Sales Fees and Charges compensation scheme into the first quarter of 2021/22. The Fairer Funding Review, 75% Business Rate Retention and the Business Rates Reset have been delayed. A public sector pay freeze has been announced, except for those earning less than £24,000 per annum who will receive an increase of at least £250. The pay freeze does not apply to front-line NHS staff; and The National Living Wage will increase by 2.2% next year to £8.91 per hour.

10. Finance.

- 10.1** The bank balance as at 31/12/20 was noted as £36,659.84. One credit received on 09/12/20 from MDDC (£106 funds) for £3525. Direct debits to Nest: £80.24 on 03/12 & £81.98 on 23/12.
- 10.2** Payments approved:
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| -Chq 1523 | £ 21.60 | Vision ICT Ltd. Email address. |
| -Chq 1528 | £ 60.00 | D Richmond Computer Services. IT support. |
| -Chq 1529 | £ 39.70 | SMA Services Ltd. Payroll provider. |
| -Chq 1530 | £ 180.00 | Shiny Happy People Services Ltd. Fire Risk Assessment re: pavilion and BBQ huts. |
| -Chq 1531 | £ 347.90 | HMRC. Quarterly PAYE. |
| -Chq 1532 | £ 712.36 | Clerk. Salary and expenses. |
| -Chq 1533 | £ 143.08 | Parish warden. Salary and expenses. |
| -Chq 1534 | £ 297.60 | T K Play Ltd. Maintenance in playing field. |
| -Chq 1535 | £ 3882.00 | T K Play Ltd. Installation of new slide. |
| -Chq 1536 | £ 150.00 | Blackdown Hills Parish Network. Membership subscription. |
- 10.3** Parish Council website – a quotation for £300 from Vision ICT (the website provider) for an annual support contract was agreed.
- 10.4** Notification from MDDC regarding the DCC (via MDDC) Grass Cutting Charges 2021- 22: A final figure is awaited but it was noted that the estimated cost will be £950.62 for the current schedule and frequency of cuts.

- 10.5 Precept 2021/2022: Following an informal meeting of the financial advisory group and circulation to all of suggested figures to cover financial needs for the coming year, a report was given and it was resolved to set the precept for 2021/22 at £36,718. Funds include an annual grant towards the Christmas lights and the village hall, costs for the parish lengthsman, renovation of the Bier House and improvements to the Parish playing field. A contingency fund/ general reserve will be held as required, and a fund will continue to be built for the Collier's bridge project. Councillors were unanimous in their decision to set the precept at £36,718. As in previous years, MDDC will deduct the subscription for DALC from the precept.
- 10.6 Any other financial matters: None.
11. **Culmstock Cemetery:** The Clerk is arranging for quotations for renovation of the Bier House.
12. **Parish Playing Field:** Following the Fire Risk Assessment an FRA Policy & Procedures Document is required, and the inspector has quoted to draft one at an estimated cost of £50 which was agreed. The purpose of the bar at the top of the recently installed new slide will be queried. The Clerk will arrange for the fence running from down from the playing field to be inspected with a view to replacing it or repairing it. Improvements to the site will be placed on a future agenda – it was suggested that councillors view the skate ramp recently installed in Uffculme, as something similar or a BMX track may be considered following the necessary removal of the half pipe last year.
13. **Collier's bridge project:** People will be encouraged to step forward and help with the project.
14. **Request for memorial bench to be placed on Culmstock Beacon:** It was agreed not to permit a memorial bench close to the beacon on this occasion. The existing bench is in need of renovation.
15. **Culmstock Parish Council Advisory (working) groups.**
 - 15.1 Cllr. Kay has confirmed that he would like to join the Playing Field Advisory Group.
 - 15.2 Any other appointments/movement: None.
16. **Census 2021:** Details of the Census will be publicised via The Culmstock News. People are encouraged to look up the Census 2021 websites where possible.
17. **Review of Staff Salaries:** The council went into Part 2 for a review of staff salaries.
18. **Correspondence:** Clerks & Councils Direct. Letter of thanks from CAB and South West Ambulance Community First Responders.
19. **For information only - to note the following actions/info under Coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions:**
 - 19.1 A response indicating no objections has been submitted for the following under delegation to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman - & all Parish Councillors have been informed.
20/02055/LBC_Listed Building Consent to vault the ceiling in the master bedroom. Thornbank Farm, Fore Street, Culmstock. EX15 3JD.
20. **Items for information, future agenda items, and future meetings.** Possible relocation of salt bin currently positioned in Linhay Close. Possibility of a green space in the Hunters Way area being left uncut to attract wildlife etc., as per recent correspondence from a parishioner.
MDDC Cllr. Clist gave his report here (see 9.3).