

CULMSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a remote meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th March 2021 at 7pm

In attendance: Cllrs. Miss L Jones (Chairman), Mrs J Zebedee, Mrs J Saunders, G Bass, M Plastow (present up until item 55), T Platel, E Box (present up until item 60), Mrs R Balchin, Mrs J Saunders, Mrs L Wyle, C Kay, MDDC Cllr. S Clist (present from item 48), one member of the public (up until item 60) and the Clerk. Another member of the public was present up until item 49.

- 41. Democratic Period: A member of the public raised concern about access to part of Hillmoor Common.
- 42. Apologies: DCC Cllr. R Radford.
- 43. Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Miss Jones declared a personal interest in agenda item 17 (as living adjacent to the site).
- 44. Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Agenda Item 17 – “Access to Hillmoor Common, to receive an update” - because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential/ commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted. It was further resolved to take this “Part 2” item at the end of the meeting, as the final item of business.
- 45. The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10/02/2021 were approved.
- 46. Matters Arising: None.
- 47. **Planning and Planning Correspondence/Information.**
- 47.1 Applications considered – there were no objections to the following applications:
 - 21/00138/HOUSE Erection of single storey extension to rear and extension to existing porch. 2 Hunters Way Culmstock. EX15 3HJ.
 - 21/00377/HOUSE Erection of single storey side extension. Fair View, Culmstock. EX15 3HU.
 - 21/00342/FULL Erection of stables. Western Counties Equine Hospital, Culmstock. EX15 3LA.
 - 20/01996/FULL Erection of a stable block. Land at NGR 309730 116974 (Lane End Cottage) Burlescombe.
 - 21/00370/MFUL Installation of a solar farm - Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 14/01984/MFUL by extending the time limiting restriction of the life of the solar farm. Land at NGR 308764 118163 (Redhill Farm) Burlescombe.
- 47.2 Results of applications from Mid Devon District Council.
 - 21/00143/PNAG Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building. Land at NGR 310622 114049 Blackwater Road, Culmstock.
 - 21/00181/CLP Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey extension. 11 Blackwater Road, Culmstock. EX15 3HF.
 - 20/02078/FULL Erection of an agricultural livestock shed. Land at NGR 310546 117151 (Upcott Farm), Nicholashayne. Approved.
- 47.3 Any other planning matters. (i) MDDC is launching its first New Build Homes Resident Survey which will occur annually. The survey will be sent to a sample of residents in new build major housing developments that have been completed in the latest monitoring year with a goal of finding out how successful a new build development is from a resident’s perspective. This will help to measure the outcome of planning permissions and will help inform an understanding of what works well and what can be improved. This year the survey will be sent to 315 households including some in Cullompton, Uffculme, Willand and Hemyock. Results will be published online late spring/early summer. (ii) Call for Sites 08/02 to 22/03/21 – MDDC has launched a Call for Sites process to inform a new Local Plan for Mid Devon.
- 48. **Access. (MDDC Cllr. Clist joined the meeting).**
- 48.1 Permissive Path – from Culmstock Cemetery to Fry’s Farm. Cllr. Miss Jones gave details on three suppliers that had submitted a price and it was agreed to accept an estimate from M Delamain for £4427.00. Cllr. Miss Jones will liaise with the supplier going forward.
- 48.2 Any other matters: (i) Cllr. Miss Jones reported on some concerns received about activities on Culmstock Beacon – this includes helicopters flying low and hovering which could have an effect on the wildlife. It was also reported that there are more visitors recently and disappointingly this has resulted in more litter. (ii) Cllr Bass is liaising with Uffculme Parish regarding the possibility of a circular path via Five Fords.

Access continued:

(iii) The Connecting the Culm Project will have an effect on the footpaths in relation to flooding with the introduction of beavers. (iv) There is more mud on the footpaths lately, Cllr. Bass will discuss the boardwalk on the beacon with the P3 co-ordinator.

49. Highways.

49.1 To consider a salt bin at Hunters Hill: Further enquiries will be made with DCC about the possibility of a grit bin.

49.2 Any other matters including upcoming road closures. (i) It was noted that the handrail is now in place at Hunters Hill. (ii) The railings at Prescott have still not been repaired.

50. Reports.

50.1 MDDC District Cllr. S Clist: There is a trial on waste and recycling collections with the possibility of a reduction to three weekly collections. Fly tipping is more of an issue. The Climate Change position in Cabinet has been replaced by the member responsible for the Environment Governance Review.

50.2 Cllr. Mrs Zebedee reported on a recent litter pick and thanks go to all involved.

50.3 A new dog bin has been installed in Silver Street and a larger bin has been installed at Culmstock Bridge.

51. Finance.

51.1 The bank balance was noted as £32, 074.31 as at 26/02/21 which includes one credit as received from HMRC on 22/02 - £3368.90 (VAT refund 2019/20).

51.2 Payments were approved:

-Chq 1544 £ 19.54 SMA Services Ltd. Payroll provider.
 -Chq 1545 £ 677.08 Clerk. Salary and expenses.
 -Chq 1546 £ 115.58 Parish warden. Salary and expenses.
 -Chq 1547 £ 26.87 P3 Co-ordinator. Expenses.
 -Chq 1548 £ 556.80 Certium Ltd. Parish Council laptop.
 -Chq 1549 £ 151.97 MDC Exports Ltd. Dog bags.

-As an expected payment, it was further agreed for cheque number 1550 for £241 for the Parish lengthsman to be raised following receipt of an invoice.

51.3 It was noted that cheque number 1543 for £150 has been made out to the Blackdown Hills Parishes Network and not cheque number 1536 as previously noted (payment approved on 13/01/21).

51.4 The Fixed Asset Register was reviewed.

51.5 Any other financial matters: The P3 finance forms have been submitted to DCC. Payment in respect of the HLS is expected later in the year.

52. Culmstock Cemetery.

52.1 Request for display of a Commonwealth War Graves Commission sign – it was agreed for a small sign to be fixed to the outer wall.

52.2 Any other matters: None.

53. Parish Playing Field.

53.1 Quotation for repairs to Pavilion roof: A quotation for £796 from Ridge Roofing Ltd., was agreed.

53.2 Easing of Covid-19 restrictions and use of pavilion and possible Portaloo hire: Following the planned easing of restrictions from 17/05/21 it was agreed for hire of a portable toilet from Eagle Plant to coincide with the date. The possibility of a more permanent solution for a toilet will be explored and discussed at a later date. It was agreed that users of the area should cease playing any music at 11pm.

53.3 Any other matters: The quarterly inspections as carried out by MDDC have commenced.

54. Letter received from The Upper Culm Valley Mission Community regarding the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and a possible celebration weekend: It was agreed that that the Parish Council would be willing to partner and to help contribute (amount to be agreed at a future meeting) towards a possible event. Due to the prevalence of the Covid-19 virus, it was agreed not to suggest any dates for the foreseeable future. *Cllr. Plastow left the meeting.*

55. Culmstock Parish Council Bench Policy: A policy was adopted to help with future requests.

- 56. Collier's bridge project: Nothing to report.
- 57. **Access to Hillmoor Common – to receive an update.** As agreed at Minute 44 this item was taken as the final item of business (see below).
- 58. **Consultations/Surveys.**
- 58.1 Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay: Noted.
- 59. Correspondence: None.
- 60. **Items for information, future agenda items, and future meetings.** 14/04/21 and 05/05/21 Annual Parish Council Meeting. *Cllr. Box left the meeting.*
- 61. **Access to Hillmoor Common.** Cllr. Miss Jones left the meeting and took no part in the discussion (*see declarations*). The Parish Council went into Part 2 for this item. An update was given by the Clerk and Cllr. Mrs Saunders following correspondence received and their liaison with the landowner. It was agreed for the Clerk to make further contact with the landowner and report at a future meeting.