

CULMSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 6th February 2019 in Culmstock Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Miss L Jones (Chairman), M Plastow, E Box, Mrs J Saunders, Mrs J Zebedee and the Clerk. Two members of the public were present for the democratic period, and two members of the public were present for the entire meeting

18. The Parish defibrillator was confirmed as in working order as at the meeting date.
19. **Democratic Period:** (i) Two members of the public were present to give details of their planning application 18/01974/FULL, change of use of agricultural land to natural burial ground. Land at NGR 310172 112097. Road from Harringay Cross to Hackpen Cross, Culmstock (within the Parish of Uffculme). The applicants reported that there is a shortage of suitable 'natural' burial plots in Mid Devon. As the landowners, the applicants will undertake the care and respectful maintenance of the site and graves which will not be visibly marked and will continue to form part of the meadow used for grazing and hay making. There will be minimal development, which will include low impact arrangements for off-road parking and safe traffic flow. (ii) Following details received regarding the imminent closure of the Methodist Hall, a parishioner made a suggestion that perhaps the building could be kept for Parish activities.
20. **Apologies.** Cllrs: G Bass, Mrs E Artus, County Cllr. R Radford and District Cllr. G Hughes.
21. **Co-option of Parish Councillors:** Due to the end of the current term approaching, it was agreed that co-option be deferred until after the election period - if co-option is then required.
22. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Box (DPI as personal payment) cheque number 1316, and (personal as known to the applicants) planning application 19/00069/HOUSE.
23. **Approval of Minutes** – the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 09/01/19 were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
24. **Matters Arising:** (i) The Parish Council is most grateful to the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership for the recent installation of a new interpretation board by the bridge alongside the River Culm; the Clerk will thank the BHAONB – thanks also go to the landowner for allowing permission. (ii) Following communication from a parishioner about an area which has been subject to dog fouling, the Clerk has directed the parishioner to the district council for further advice on reporting the issue.
25. **Planning and Planning Correspondence/Information.**
- 25.1 **Applications considered by the Parish Council:**
 - 19/00099/HOUSE Erection of two storey extension. Ford House, Nicholashayne, TA21 9QY. No objections.
 - 19/00069/HOUSE Erection of first floor extension. Fir Cone, Culmstock. EX15 3JX. See declarations. No objections.
- 25.2 **Results of applications from Mid Devon District Council.**
 - 18/01981/HOUSE Erection of single storey side and rear extensions. Lower Walnut Cottage, Culmstock, EX15 3JU. Approved.
 - 19/00041/CAT Notification of intention to prune 1 cherry tree by 5.5 metres within a Conservation Area. Ponderosa, Hemyock Road, Culmstock, EX15 3JB. Approved.
 - 18/01972/CLU Certificate of lawfulness for the existing dwelling built not in accordance with the terms of Planning Permission EN.4213/26417 (Agricultural Tie) for a period in excess of 4 years. Rexmead, Culmstock. EX15 3JX.
- 25.3 **Update on planning application 18/01634/MFUL-** Erection of 19 dwellings (6 affordable). Land at NGR 310020 113953, Linhay Close, Culmstock. (i) The application has been "called in" and District Cllr. Hughes will represent the Parish Council at a meeting of the MDDC Planning Committee. (ii) The Chairman has made contact with the village primary school regarding S106 funds in respect of the application being reserved (subject to planning permission being approved), towards a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the meadow area of Culmstock Primary School sports field. Evidence will be required that the school will make the space available to the community, and will work with the Parish Council to develop the idea into a project.

(iii) The Chairman has contacted DCC regarding concerns about the capacity of the primary school, and the fact that it is not currently being considered as qualifying for S106 school funds in respect of the planning application – the Chairman also questioned the PAN number which has been used for the calculation.

- 25.4** Following a report from the applicants in the democratic period, it was noted that the following planning application has now been submitted (in a neighbouring Parish): -18/01974/FULL Change of use of agricultural land to natural burial ground. Land at NGR 310172 112097. Road from Harringay Cross to Hackpen Cross, Culmstock.
- 25.5** Culm Garden Village Consultation: It was noted that MDDC are consulting on the Culm Garden Village proposal to the east of Cullompton.
- 25.6** Any other planning matters: Cllr. Bass had forwarded details of a Campaign to Protect Rural England analysis of new Government data published with details of the social housing crisis within the countryside – social housing waiting lists continue to rise, with in excess of £173,000 families on the waiting list for social housing.

26. Maintenance Contracts.

- 26.1** Parish Grounds Maintenance Contract: Details will be given at the March meeting of tenders received, and a decision will be made for a new contract to start from 01/04/19.
- 26.2** MDDC verges maintenance provision 2019-20, update on amendments to the schedule: The Clerk confirmed that the price reported last month of £895.14 includes all amendments to the schedule.

27. Finance.

- 27.1** The bank balance was reported as £29,020.05 as at 31/01/19.
- 27.2** The following payments were approved:
- Chq 1313 £ 72.00 S Marrison. Salary.
 - Chq 1314 £ 558.26 M Shore-Quinain. Salary.
 - Chq 1315 £ 13.80 SMA Services Ltd. Payroll provider.
 - Chq 1316 £ 300.00 Ed Box. Repairs required at the playing field. See declarations.
 - Chq 1317 £ 175.63 South West Water. Cemetery water.
 - Chq 1318 £ 150.00 Blackdown Hills Parishes Network. Annual subscription.
 - Chq 1319 £ 35.55 Mike Barrow. P3/footpath expenses.
 - Chq 1320 £ 12.00 Culmstock Village Hall. Room hire.
 - Chq 1321 £ 68.40 Mid Devon District Council. Annual play area inspection.
(cheque made payable to Post Office Ltd).
 - Chq 1322 £ 109.86 Computerlink Ltd. Printer cartridges.
- 27.3** Renewal of Data Protection fee with Information Commissioner's Office: A direct debit form was agreed for signature, which entitles the subscriber to a £5 reduction making the current fee £35.
- 27.4** The monthly payment to Nest was reported.
- 27.5** Culmstock Playing Field - a quotation from MNR Projects Ltd. to supply and fit a flat swing seat of £90 was agreed.
- 27.6** Any other financial matters: A quotation will be sought for the Parish Council to purchase a new noticeboard outside of the village hall. The Culmstock News will make a contribution to the cost.

28. Reports. To receive reports.

- 28.1** MDDC Cllr. G Hughes: None.
- 28.2** DCC Cllr. R Radford: Following apologies, a report will be circulated to all. The budget will be confirmed on 21/02/19.
- 28.3** The Clerk: Enquiries will be made regarding use of the Methodist Hall on 15/05/19 for the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 28.4** The Chairman: (i) Following contact from Culmstock Cricket Club, a letter of support has been written for help with the club to apply for grant funding.
- 28.5** P3/Footpaths (P3 Co-ordinator Mr M Barrow): Via Cllr. Plastow – the annual survey has been completed. A new kissing gate is to be installed on FP10. The possibility of two kissing gates to replace the two stiles on FP4 will be explored. The padlock at Blackwater Gate is missing. Arrangements will be made for a "no through road sign" to be placed at the entrance of the restricted byway, off Blackwater Road.

- 28.6** Access: A meeting has recently taken place with Natural England, where the Chairman and the landowner were present, regarding renewal of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- 28.7** Highways: None.
- 28.8** Culmstock News (Catherine Bass): There are now around 70 advertisers; invoices will be sent out shortly.
- 28.9** Blackdown Hills Parish Network (Catherine Bass): There will be a general meeting in June/July. The steering group is to meet shortly.
- 28.10** Culmstock Playing Field: Following minor works to the pavilion an invoice will follow.
- 28.11** Collier's bridge: An advisory group will be formed when a new council is formed in May 2019.
- 28.12** Any other reports: Cllr. Mrs Zebedee reported that the recent pantomime raised around £3000; it is hoped that some funds will be put towards the village.
- 28.13** Culmstock Village Hall: Works are complete in respect of provision of the new lighting bar.
- 28.14** Any other matters: None.
- 29. Culmstock Cemetery:** The wooden gate post will need replacing at some point in the future following signs of rot.
- 30. District and Town/Parish Council Elections:** The Clerk gave details of the date for submission of nomination papers, together with the means of acquiring and submitting a nomination pack. Details have been publicised in The Culmstock News.
- 31. Correspondence.**
Letter received from Culmstock Methodist Church – due to a change in financial circumstances, a decision has been taken that the final service will be on 21/04/19; the service will be followed by a cream tea and all are welcome.
- 32. Items for information and future agenda items:** Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- 33. Dates of future meetings:** 13/03/19, 03/04/19, 08/05/19, 12/06/19 and 17/07/19.