

CULMSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th March 2020 in Culmstock Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Miss L Jones (Chairman), Mrs J Zebedee, Mrs R Balchin, Mrs J Saunders, G Bass, M Plastow, T Platel, E Box, Miss B Davies the Clerk and one member of the public. MDDC Cllr. S Clist was present from item 37.3.

29. The Parish defibrillator was confirmed as in working order as at the meeting date.
30. Democratic Period: A member of the public was present due to having some interest in planning application 19/01962/FULL.
31. Apologies: DCC Cllr. R Radford.
32. Co-option of a Parish Councillor: There is one vacancy on the Parish Council.
33. Declarations of Interest: None.
34. The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12/02/20 were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
35. Matters Arising: Enquiries will be made regarding the replacement of the park bench above Amen Corner.
36. **Planning and Planning Correspondence/Information.**
- 36.1 Applications considered:
-19/01962/FULL Change of use of redundant building to a canine therapy centre. The Workshop, Culmstock, Devon. EX15 3HU. No objections.
- 36.2 It was noted that the following application has been withdrawn: 20/00197/CAT Notification of intention to fell 1 Hawthorn tree, 2 Alder trees, 1 Ash tree, 1 Oak tree and a group of Elders within the Conservation Area. Culm Valley Inn (Beer Garden), Culmstock. EX15 3JJ.
- 36.3 Results of applications from Mid Devon District Council: None.
- 36.4 Connecting the Culm Project – Councillors that are available, will attend the Connecting the Culm Project event in Hemyock Village Hall shortly.
- 36.5 CPRE Planning Workshop for Town and Parish Councils – due to take place on 30/04/20 in Kentisbeare Village Hall.
- 36.6 Public Consultations: (i) Cullompton Town Centre and Master Plan (deadline 15/04/20) - noted. (ii) Tiverton's Eastern Urban Extension - noted.
- 36.7 Any other planning matters: None.
37. **Finance.**
- 37.1 The bank balance was noted as £24,310.91 as at last statement. One credit of £850 received on 25/02/20 in respect of cemetery fees. The direct debit to Nest was taken on 12/02/20.
- 37.2 The following payments were resolved - *it was noted that cheque number 1447 on the agenda had been cancelled internally, and there was therefore a difference in the cheque numbers. 1447 was replaced with cheque number 1456, cheque number 1455 was made out to Hi-Spec Tress (not cheque number 1456 as per the agenda) and cheque number 1457 was made out to Blackdown Contractors Ltd. (not cheque number 1455 as per the agenda):*
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| -Chq 1445 | £ 120.00 | Eagle Plant. Toilet hire. |
| -Chq 1446 | £ 157.36 | Parish warden - salary & expenses. |
| -Chq 1447 | £ - | Spoilt cheque – 1456 used |
| -Chq 1448 | £ 13.80 | SMA Services Ltd. Payroll provider. |
| -Chq 1449 | £ 32.23 | P3 co-ordinator. P3/footpath expenses. |
| -Chq 1450 | £ 16.00 | Culmstock Village Hall. Room hire. |
| -Chq 1451 | £ 151.00 | N Page. P3/footpath work. |
| -Chq 1452 | £ 1361.25 | BC Metalwork. Repair and refurbishment of cemetery gates. |
| -Chq 1453 | £ 442.40 | AET Flood Defence Ltd. Aqua sacs. |
- It was noted that as an emergency measure, due to the threat of Storm Dennis in February, councillors approved the purchase of aqua sacs from AET Flood Defence Ltd.*
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| -Chq 1454 | £ 150.00 | Blackdown Hills Parishes Network. Annual subscription. |
| -Chq 1455 | £ 540.00 | Hi- Spec Trees. Cemetery work. |
| -Chq 1456 | £ 580.20 | Clerk - salary and expenses. |
| -Chq 1457 | £ 750.00 | Blackdown Contractors Ltd. Grass maintenance contract. MDDC Cllr. S Clist arrived. |

- 37.3** Review of Fixed Asset Register: The Fixed Asset Register was reviewed.
- 37.4** Dog Waste Station – information received and circulated.
- 37.5** Any other financial matters: The payment to Nest for February was reported (to be deducted in March).
- 38. Reports. To receive reports:**
- 38.1** MDDC: *Cllr. Simon Clist gave a report at the end of the meeting* – the governance review is ongoing. There is a seminar at MDDC regarding climate change. The Local Plan is being finalised, and it is hoped that it will be complete by the end of the year. The budget has been finalised. There are is an increase in frontline services and council tax.
- 38.2** The Clerk: (i) Details of membership to Devon Communities Together circulated. (ii) Following apologies, a report received at the end of February from DCC Cllr. R Radford was circulated to all.
- 38.3** The Chairman: None.
- 38.4** P3/Footpaths (P3 Co-ordinator Mr M Barrow): FP1A – a section of the boardwalk was replaced last month; some supports on the footpath on another section will be replaced later in the year. FP21 – leaves that are being washed from the lane on to the road drain are cleared regularly. FP 12 – low hanging branches have been removed from the rail track.
- 38.5** Access: An informal meeting will be arranged when Bridleway 16 can be discussed.
- 38.6** Highways: Information received and circulated regarding Vehicle Activated Signs. Potholes are an ongoing problem, due to the amount of wet weather over the winter period.
- 38.7** Culmstock Village Hall: The floor has been renovated. Funding is being looked into for refurbishment of the toilets.
- 38.8** Culmstock Playing Field: Rabbits have been digging in some areas of the field.
- 38.9** Blackdown Hills Parishes Network: (i) Cllr. Bass represented Culmstock at the general meeting in Broadhembury on 27/02/20, which was well attended. The co-ordinator has sent a brief report which will be circulated. The BHPN is developing a Rural Strategy to embrace all three existing work groups (Traffic, Transport & Highways; Communications especially Broadband; Housing & Planning) to encourage integrated action throughout the AONB area to address the Climate Emergency. (ii) Cllr. Bob Nelson (Chairman of Broadhembury Parish Council) will be asked to attend a meeting, as one of the two of the representatives from the BHPN who sit on the BHAONB Partnership Group, to give details of how they represent all of the parishes within the AONB.
- 38.10** Culmstock News: The editor will be stepping down in the autumn. The Parish Council is very grateful for the efforts of the editor over the last 12 years. It is hoped that a volunteer will take over the role.
- 38.11** Any other reports: The aqua sacs will be stored in the village hall, and this will be detailed in the Emergency Plan which will be updated shortly. Information has been received and circulated with reference to advice concerning the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.
- 39.** Collier’s bridge project: Enquiries will be made regarding the situation with the expiry of planning permission.
- 40.** Culmstock Cemetery: A note was made of the key holders of the bier house. The problem of the ivy has been dealt with. The rotten gate post will be dealt with shortly.
- 41.** Annual Parish Meeting 2020: In view of the uncertainties around the Coronavirus outbreak, it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting immediately prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which it was agreed to hold on May 13th 2020. *Cllr. Mrs Balchin left the meeting.*
- 42.** Update received from Devon Climate Emergency Team – Following recent information received, it was agreed to show support for Culmstock Parish Council to sign up online, to the Devon Climate Emergency Declaration.
- 43.** VE Day: Due to the uncertainties around the Coronavirus outbreak, it was agreed not to make any plans for a celebration.
- 44.** Correspondence: Clerks and Councils Direct. CPRE Annual Report and Newsletter.
- 45.** Items for information, future agenda items, and future meeting dates. 15/04/20. 13/05/20.

MDDC Cllr. Clist gave a report here (see minute 38.1).