

WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL:
Minutes of the Parish Council ordinary meeting
held on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 7.30pm
in Winkleigh Community Centre

Cllrs Present: Cllrs; Phillips (Chair), Whitehead (Vice-Chair), Turner, Jacobs, Findlay, Bayley, Maddocks, Goldsworthy, Hodgson.
District Cllr Newton, County Cllr Saywell, and 13 members of the public were also in attendance.

The Chair informed the room that an audit audio recording was in progress to aid with the minutes and would be deleted once draft minutes were issued.

Public Session:

A) Members of the Public

- A member of the public raised the issue of the footpath on the proposed development sight on Townsend Hill being moved 7ft, instead of the approved 7m. The Chair responded that the contractors had been contacted and were aware that they had made an error and that this will be resolved, Cllr Maddocks supported the Chair's statement and noted that it is the contractor's responsibility to see this is completed in a reasonable time.
- A member of the public raised an issue with 22nd of December minutes and requested that the Reverend H. Blaine be approached by the Council for her minutes of the Public Participation during the Council meeting held on the 22nd of September 2021.
- A member of the public raised issue with the 22nd of December 2021 minutes and urged the Council to follow up on Cllr Saywell's suggestion that we include full minutes of the Public Participation from 22nd of September 2021 in the Council minutes.
- A member of the public raised an issue with the proposed development on Townsend Hill, being concerned with the compatibility of that development with the Neighbourhood Plan and approached Cllr Newton about it.
- Cllr Newton restated his support for the Neighbourhood Plan and restated that TDC also supports it, but urged the public to remember that it is not a statutory document.
- A member of the public asked what was the expenditure of council
- Several members of the public urged the Council to make 'fairness' their priority when considering any planning application, and requested that the Council consider local town developments and compare them with any proposed development in the Parish.

- A member of the public urged the Council to consider the sustainability of any new development, especially where arable land is concerned.

B) County Councillor Saywell's Report

- *See Appendix A*

C) District Councillor Newton's Report

- North Devon and TDC have sent up dedicated and set up a working group to produce a new local plan.
- Stated that TDC are in the process of setting a housing committee to compare and contrast new housing developments in other local councils. Acknowledged that TDC recognises a need for fair, sustainable, rental housing.
- Noted that business grants are now open for application, and that consult TDC website for them, asked Parishioners to note that to apply for this you must provide proof costs and losses.
- TDC is in the process of budget making and confirm that they almost broke even last year.
- Active Torridge is up and running, and due to take over from 1610 in running, council leisure centres in April. Cllr Newton to ask TDC for feedback on what leisure centres should require in the future.

AGENDA

1.1.22: Welcome

The Chair formally opened the Council meeting.

2.1.22: Apologies for Absence to be received and considered for approval (Chair)

No apologies received, all councillors present.

3.1.22: Declaration of Interests (Chair)

None raised at this time.

4.1.22: Minutes of Previous meetings (Chair)

Councillors considered minutes for meetings on 22/12/21, and 12/01/22 for approval with the corrections regarding the latter two as prompted by the member of the public. Cllr Turner proposed that following the minor amendments the minutes of the meetings held on the 22nd of December 2021, and the 12th of January 2022 be signed and approved as a true and accurate record, seconded Cllr Naylor. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR190/21*

5.1.22 Current & New Business:

a) Liaison with developers for Townsend Hill estate (Chair)

Liaison with the developers for Townsend Hill was reported to have been postponed, discussion was had about proposing a new date for a liaison and the 23rd of February 2022 was decided upon. Cllr Hodgson proposed that this offer be extended to the developers, seconded by Cllr Turner. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR191/21*. Cllr Findlay proposed an amendment be made to the letter proposing the new date to the developers, that the Council

be allowed to have up to three members of the Neighbourhood Plan authorship on hand at the liaison in an advisory role, seconded by Cllr Goldsworthy. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR192/21.*

b) Locum Clerks report on emails (Clerk)

The report was heard and approved. Cllrs were in agreement that the policy on councillor email addresses should be revised as soon as possible.

c) Submission for Distinctly Winkleigh (Clerk)

The submission was approved, to be submitted by the Locum Clerk to the Editor of Distinctly Winkleigh, with minor adjustments.

d) Purchase of recording device and case (Chair)

Cllr Jacobs proposed that the purchase of a recording device and case for Council purposes be approved, seconded by Cllr Naylor. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR193/21*

e) Request for refreshments at Council meeting (Cllr Goldsworthy)

Struck from the agenda in favour of external organisation and implementation.

f) Formation of working groups for Planning Applications, and for Jubilee preparations (Chair/Cllr Findlay)

Cllr Goldsworthy proposed the Council approve the formation of a working group external to the Council pursuant to planning applications that are submitted to the Council for approval, Cllr Phillips proposed the formation of a group to prepare the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, with membership for both to be approved at the next ordinary Council meeting, both seconded by Cllr Turner. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR194/21*

g) Locum Clerk and Chairman training courses

Cllr Whitehead proposed that the Council approve payment of training courses for the Locum Clerk and Chairman to undertake, seconded by Cllr Phillips. All in Favour. *RESOLVED 195/21.*

6.1.22 Date for Annual Parish Meeting:

Cllr Turner proposed the Council approve the setting of the date of the 6th of April 2022 for the Annual Parish Meeting, with a guest speaker to be determined at a later date, seconded by Cllr Phillips. Nine in favour, one absent. *RESOLVED RR196/21.*

7.1.22 Financial Matters:

Financial matters were deferred to the extra-ordinary meeting of the 2nd of February 2022, at the discretion of the Chair.

8.1.22 Cllrs Verbal reports not requiring discussion or resolution and future agenda items:

Cllr Goldsworthy reported that the stonemasons contracted to inspect the graveyard had provided him with a list of memorials that needed attention, but that there were no real problems beyond that at this time. Cllr Naylor reported that he was going to inquire about possible new forms of technology being implemented in the village without the knowledge of the parishioners.

9.1.22: Next Meeting – Wednesday 23rd Feb 2022 7.30pm – Winkleigh Community Centre

The date for the next ordinary meeting of the Council was approved for the 23rd of February 2022, and so was a date for an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council on the 2nd of February 2022.

10.1.22: Confidential matters (PART II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2).

a) Resolution required to move the Council into Part II

Cllr Bayley proposed the Council move into PART II of the meeting, Cllr Turner seconded, All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR197/21.*

b) Cllrs to discuss Confidential Staffing Matters. (Chair) *contains sensitive information under employment law.*

c) Consideration of letter of regret (Cllr Findlay) *contains sensitive information relating to Inspection reports.*

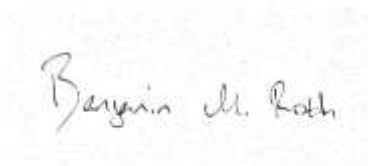
d) Chair to return the meeting to public session to hear resolutions

The Chair returned the meeting to public session.

Cllr Goldsworthy proposed that the Council extend the meeting by 15 minutes, seconded Cllr Naylor. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR198/21.*

Cllr Whitehead proposed that the Council approve a budget increase for any legal fees incurred in instructing our solicitors in the sending of letters by £350, to £1350 + VAT in total, Cllr Jacobs seconded. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR199/21.*

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.



Date Published: 14/02/2022

Appendix A: Report from County Cllr Saywell

“Dear Councillors,

If it is not too late can I wish everyone on the Parish Council a Happy New Year! Overall it was quiet over the Christmas period but it is busy again now as we have started setting the Budget for the next financial year. The main updates from DCC:

Covid update

Covid rates had been falling throughout Devon however they have started to increase again, mainly driven by a surge of infections in the 0-19 year olds – mostly school age children and we have seen several Covid outbreaks in primary schools.

Rates are now going up in all Districts including Torridge (868 per 100,000) which is just below the England average (988). Cases still highest in younger age groups (primary and secondary schools) and going up in this age group and working adults 20-59 years.

Hospital rates overall within Devon have gone up to 257 patients, although North Devon remains fairly static at 10 patients, and across all of Devon just 3 people are in Intensive Care Units (ICU), none in North Devon, which is good news and seems to bare out the findings that the ‘Omicron variant’ is more mild.

The key public health messages remain the same; **get vaccinated**, lateral flow test regularly, hands face space.

The good news is that the booster jab roll out has gone well in Devon. **Around 85% of eligible people in Devon have had a booster. And 93% of people aged 12 and above have had at least one dose.**

Regarding testing, there is now a change in policy if you have no symptoms and test positive via a lateral flow test, you need to isolate, you do not get a PCR anymore. If you test negative on day 6 and day 7 you no longer need to isolate.

If you do have symptoms, then you need to isolate and get a PCR test.

Non Covid Matters

Budget Preparations – Budget setting has begun at DCC. There will be an uplift in overall funding for Children’s and Adult Social Care services, along with a small increase for Highways, but it is likely to be a tight budget overall. Draft Budgets are now being presented to the Council’s Scrutiny Committees, before final approval by Full Council in February.

Free school meal vouchers doubled for Christmas - DCC doubled the value of supermarket vouchers for families with children on free school meals from £15 a week to £30 a week for the Christmas holidays. Families received £60 voucher per child for the two-weeks to help with the additional financial pressures the festive period can bring.

Appreciative Inquiry into Adult Social Care and support for staff – DCC held a unique event celebrating the Adult Social Care sector when it held a conference that brought together leading national and local figures with care workers and providers to discuss adult social care. The Inquiry is being held to celebrate the incredible work being done by the 30,000 care workers in Devon who

support vulnerable people and promote their independence on a daily basis. But it also aims to raise awareness of the acute challenges now faced by the industry, and identify recommendations that will help secure and improve its future, and realise its full potential. I look forward to reading the Inquiry's findings in due course.

Also on Adult Social Care, over Christmas there was further support given by DCC to staff and carers working in Adult Social Care, with £3m for domiciliary care staff and £5.3m to help support independent sector residential and nursing care workers. The funding comes from the Government, and NHS Devon has also contributed to the one-off funding package.

Launch of Devon's £9.3m Community Renewal Fund programme – As previously reported, DCC was successful in securing this funding from the Government, with the funding supporting 13 innovative projects over the next 6 months including a range of employment and training, environmental and community investment across Devon through to mid-2022.

Projects supported include:

- £1.35m awarded to the Biosphere Foundation to take forward a mixed programme of economic and environmental development activity, seeking to build upon opportunities across Northern Devon's unique marine and rural environment to generate sustainable jobs, industries and investment.
- £1m awarded to PETROC College for two programmes of activity; promoting business innovation and development through new digital technologies; and taking forward additional youth and community activity across Northern Devon, with a focus on working with those harder to reach in rural and coastal communities.
- £2.76m awarded to Devon County Council for four projects, including grant activity to support diversification in the agricultural sector, support for the development of digital skills among harder to reach communities, a delegated grant programme to support business innovation among small businesses in Devon, and additional support to assist those with a disability to access employment.

Open Up to Skills initiative launched – A new initiative is being launched to provide training opportunities for people working in Devon's catering, hospitality, leisure, retail and tourism sectors. The "Open Up To Skills" project will support 700 additional training places to improve workforce skills and will also benefit businesses within these sectors as part of Devon County Council's economic recovery response to the coronavirus pandemic. More information online here - ["Open Up To Skills" initiative launched - News \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/2020/12/15/open-up-to-skills-initiative-launched)

I hope this update is useful. As ever, if there is anything you need me to look into locally please get in touch."