

Minutes of Churchstow Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 10th May 2017 – 19.30

In the Churchhouse Inn, Churchstow

Present

Roger Hind - Chairman

Geoff Stewart

Paul Williams

Yanine Tarr

Rufus Gilbert - DCC

Ian Bramble – SHDC

Jody Fendick – Clerk

Lucy Barrett-Burn – Trainee Councillor

Apologies

Eddie McLaney

John Woodley

1. **WELCOME, APOLOGIES** Cllr Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs McLaney and Woodley. Cllr Hind also welcomed Lucy Barrett-Burn to the meeting. She will be our newest Parish Councillor, bringing our total to seven.
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.** The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and signed by Cllr Hind.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES.** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
4. **CLERKS REPORT.** The Vas Sign is due to arrive this week and hopefully it will be installed soon after, still trying to source a contractor to concrete the posts in. We have had a number of (justifiable) complaints about the state of the grass in the village. We have terminated our contact with our current grounds maintenance company and have been looking at other gardeners in the area. After much discussion, we decided that the cost was too high and instead we are going to ask our local community to spare a few hours every few weeks and do it ourselves. Our first 'Community Gardening Day' is this Sunday (May 14th) We have advertised this on Facebook and our website and contacted the locals that are on our mailing list. People are been asked to turn up with lawnmowers

and/or strimmers and help us to tackle the grass. We have decided to apply for a Highways Maintenance grant to fund some gardening equipment. There is to be a meeting on Thursday 25th of May between the Developers behind the recent planning proposals in Churchstow and our locals. Following the community meeting in April, many of those that attended asked that we set this meeting up for them, as they still have questions and concerns, particular about the entrance. The meeting is to take place at the Church hall and all are welcome to attend.

The Parish Council is extremely keen to point out that in arranging this meeting they are in no way supportive of the proposals at this stage. The reason this meeting has been arranged is directly in response to requests from villagers and is to simply provide them with as much information as possible.

5. **REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL – RUFUS GILBERT** – The PC congratulated Cllr Gilbert on his successful re-election. Cllr Gilbert is anticipating a busy year. There are still financial issues which need to be resolved. Much discussion is taking place about how to generate additional income. Currently the savings within the council are running at 3.9million per year. There are ongoing improvements to the roads and potholes are still high priority. There is an increase in the disposable waste that is being used to provide renewable energy rather than going to landfill.

6. **REPORT FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL – IAN BRAMBLE.** Cllr Bramble focused on the increasing importance of the PC putting together their Neighbourhood plan. The PC have agreed to get this started and form a sub-committee to oversee it. Our new Councillor Lucy Barrett-Burn is to help with this.

7. ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Potato Plant Compensation We are still no further along with this and Cllr Stewart asked whether the PC felt it was still worth pursuing? If the PC agree not to take any further action, this will be obviously disappointing, but so far SHDC have failed to engage in any real dialogue with us about this matter and are refusing to acknowledge any responsibility.

Community Benefit Land – This matter is still in progress. The developer has made an offer to purchase the land but nothing has been finalised yet.

Planning Issues – There are no current planning issues.

Day/Date of meeting change – We are considering changing our meeting day as Cllr Gilbert cannot guarantee he can attend our current one, as he already has two other PC meetings on the same evening. We may change this to the 3rd Tuesday in the month - If it's convenient for all.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Following a meeting with Kingsbridge TC to look at the possibility of some locally funded properties in the area, the PC agreed to enter into further discussions with Kingsbridge TC about this matter. This will be a future agenda item so the PC can document the progress of the scheme.

The PC are to announce the date for their AGM in the next week or two.

Finances. Cllr Stewart informed the PC that our bank account balance currently stands at £24,000. These figures will be available to view on our website and our Parish Council notice board.

Meeting ended at 21.09

