

Churchstow Parish Council

MINUTES

Of the meeting held on Thursday 14th March 2019

Held at Churchstow Church Hall @ 7:30m

Present: Cllrs Hind (Chair), Stewart, Woodley, Barrett-Burn, Williams, McLaney, Green, Cllr Rufus Gilbert (DCC), Cllr Ian Bramble (SHDC), Louisa Pepperell (Clerk).

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: None.

Minutes from the last meeting (13/02/19): These were approved. Signed by Cllr Hind.

Matters arising from last minutes: A parish resident had previously requested that the PC supply a sign deterring the public of anti-social behaviour in a layby adjacent to their property, this matter had been discussed last year and again at last months meeting, and subsequently between the Clerk, Cllr Gilbert and Highways. Aged emails were provided by the resident regarding this matter and brought to the attention of the PC by the Clerk. The matter was discussed, and the conclusion found that the PC are still not able to supply the signs as it is DDC owned land and therefore the PC have no authority to erect signage there.

The matter of whether to go ahead with obtaining grit bins to place in the village was discussed, the Clerk reported on her communication with Highways, that these would not be provided for by Highways Department and would need to be sourced and paid for by the PC. Cllr Hind recalled discussing this before and that the conclusion was that they were thought to be an eyesore. Cllr Green agreed and suggested that instead that PC could enquire with less able-bodied residents as to whether they need assistance in times of extreme weather. The PC will not be pursuing the purchase of grit bins.

It was agreed that a Churchstow Village sign is needed as you enter the village on Pump Lane from Elston Cross. Options for this were discussed with Cllr Gilbert suggesting some options to look in to. The Clerk is to contact Highways to gather more information on costs and options.

The Clerk reported that she had had communication from the previous Clerk with regard the return of the final PC items in her possession but had not yet received them. Cllr Hind is to contact the previous clerk.

The Clerk supplied Cllr Woodley with letters that he is to deliver within the village with regard residents ensuring public paths and highways are not restricted by foliage.

Cllr Gilbert provided the PC with his latest report. This included information on details on the increase in Council Tax, that it has been increased by the maximum allowed without a referendum and will result in an estimated £100 increase per annum for the benchmark Band D property. Cllr Gilbert also reported that the flooding of the road between Modbury and Flete Estate had been investigated and due to the condition of the subsurface it would require a complete road closure for approximately a week, this would obviously cause considerable issues due to the lack of diversion options so careful consideration is needed as to whether it would be the best course of action in relation to the amount of surface water that occurs. Cllr Gilbert showed concern over Flybe closures due to the amount of revenue they bring to the area, he also reported that there are to be more delays in the delivery of superfast broadband but confirmed that Aveton Gifford are due to have their connection completed on time.

Cllr Bramble gave his latest report. He reported that SHDC had done the same as DCC in increasing Council Tax the maximum possible without a referendum and this will result in approximately a £45 increase per annum for the benchmark property. He also informed the PC how the Council Tax fund received by SHDC is then divided up leaving SHDC with a small percentage of the funds. Cllr Bramble told the PC of a new team that has been set up to identify 4

sites for new housing projects that SHDC received and are borrowing fund for to provide affordable community housing. He concluded by saying the new waste service is due to commence at the beginning of April.

Cllr Hind asked Cllr Bramble for an update on the situation with the piece of land below Reeves Way, Cllr Bramble said the SHDC Solicitor is still not receiving any response from the liquidator to her communications, his understanding is that the liquidator has absolute authority on the issue so there is nothing more the solicitor can do at this point and that the SHDC are very confident in the validity of the Section 106 placed on the land despite the liquidator disputing as such. Cllr Green said that he is concerned for the safety of children who are now playing on the land and coming down in to Pump Lane. Cllr Hind and Cllr Stewart are to consider whether they approach the liquidator in person.

Clerk's Report: It was agreed that item number 1 on future agendas will be a 10 minute open forum for members of the public to address the PC.

The Clerk presented invoices to the PC for payment.

It was agreed that payment for the Church Hall hire for the monthly meetings would be invoiced 6 monthly to coincide with the financial year.

Additional Matters: Cllr Hind reported that he had meet with a few of the Councillors to collate the results of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire results. Churchstow received 96 completed questionnaires which was considered a good result. After collating the results the main considerations seem to be: Speeding in the village. Lack of footpath to Kingsbridge. Need for a car park. To maintain the quiet rural nature of the village. To maintain the village shop and Post Office. To retain the bus service and regularity of it. Maintain the lack of light pollution. The industrial estate and potato farm are large enough development for the village. To protect the AONB and rural aspect of the village. To maintain a good village pub. The need for communal outdoor space. To retain the character of the village and protect the environment.

Cllr Hind and Williams are to attend the next Neighbourhood Plan meeting on focus groups and report back to the PC and ask who of the Councillors would therein attend what focus group to ensure that we have an input.

Cllr Green had visited a village resident after they approached the PC regarding a small piece of land on the boundary of his property as the resident wishes to erect a fence but some plants are in the way. The matter was discussed and it was concluded that the land is owned by DCC as it is adjacent to a highway so the PC are unable to advise on exact action to be taken by the resident. Cllr Bramble suggested the resident report the obstruction of the plant to DCC and also consults the Planning Portal as to the nature of what he wishes to erect in order to gain further information about the best course of action. Cllr Green is to visit the resident again pass on this information.

Cllr Stewart reported to the PC of the issues with the Solagen speed sign batteries. There have been ongoing issues and the current situation of having to rotate 2 sets of batteries frequently to maintain charge is proving high maintenance and requires an additional cost for another set of batteries. Cllr Stewart had discussed the situation with Solagen and they suggested the PC consider purchasing a solar power adaption kit instead of the additional batteries, this would therefore mean the sign is self sufficient and would negate the issue of needing to purchase replacement batteries in future. The PC agreed this would be the best course of action but Cllr Stewart is to confirm that the sign would still be movable with the adaption kit installed.

Cllr McLaney put forward again the idea that it would be nice for Churchstow to be included in the Gazette's Village Voice section. It was agreed that this would be good to do and it was proposed that Cllr McLaney would approach a resident who had previously shown an interest in writing about village news. Cllr Barrett-Burn passed on the contact details for the resident to Cllr McLaney.

Cllr Hind is to contact HSBC bank to check the procedure for the adding a third signatory to the bank account to ease the signing of cheques in the absence of one of the existing two signatories.

The clerk reported back on her communication with the defibrillator manufacturers, it is not possible to leave the case permanently unlocked due to the latch mechanism so it was agreed that the Clerk is to produce a sign to attach

to the case clearly showing the code needed to access the defibrillator. The Clerk is also to purchase 3 defibrillator location signs to place in the village shop, the bus stop and on the fence by the Church hall.

Any Other Business: Cllr Williams asked for opinions as to whether it was appropriate for Councillors personal information be present on the village website, it was agreed that it was not necessary and that the Clerk was the first point of contact so her details should be the ones available.

Cllr Woodley reported that a significant number of rats had been seen on Pump Lane opposite the notice board, he was to investigate further what may be bringing a noticeable number to that area and to monitor the situation.

Planning Application for Stentiford Hill – Ref. 0679/19/FUL was discussed and it was agreed that no objection would be entered by the PC. It was noted that although the location falls within Churchstow Parish it would be more pertinent for Kingsbridge's Council's consideration and it is understood that they will also receive a request to comment on the application as a 'neighbouring parish'.

Elections for the Parish Council are open with a closing date of 4pm on the 3rd April, the Clerk is to ensure the required notice be placed in the notice board.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Next meeting to be held in the church hall at 7:30pm on Thursday 11th April 2019.