

MEETING OF SWIMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2022 at 7.30 PM SWIMBRIDGE JUBILEE HALL

MINUTES

Public Session

Several members of the public attended the meeting to discuss the parking situation in Church Lane. This is a common problem in narrow lanes where householders have more than one car to park. Cllr Wadsworth stated that although the Parish Council doesn't have much power to solve these issues, we are very happy to provide a platform for discussion. Rumours had been circulating that there were plans to install double yellow lines - Cllr Henderson confirmed that this was definitely not the case. The householders present discussed issues around parking, wheelie bins and recycling, Hopefully the situation will be eased through these discussions.

Guest Speakers

Cllr Henderson reported on the difficult position Devon County Council's budget is in. Children's Services and Adult Social Care is way over budget and facing a huge shortfall with no relief anticipated from Government. Spending cuts will have to be made, including cuts to the planned improvements on the link road.

The clerk had emailed Cllr Henderson to ask about reduction of speed limits through the village, Cllr Henderson reported that the Speed Monitoring van was now based in South Molton and could be asked to attend to monitor speeds through Swimbridge. If we are intending to go ahead with an application to reduce the speed limit we should start consultation as soon as possible. It would also be a good time to consider the speed limit between Swimbridge and Landkey. The clerk will check the Jubilee Hall bookings for available dates in January for a consultation day.

ACTION LW

Cllr Lane reported that he has had sight of an email from Griffiths which seemed to suggest that they are only going to supply the planings for the path in the park, and not carry out any of the work. The clerk will ask Julie Whitton to follow up on this.

ACTION LW

2022.56	Apologies and attendance – no apologies received all in attendance
2022.57	Declarations of Interest – Cllr Wadsworth declared a pecuniary interest in Item 2022.61(2) Clerks salary Clerk LW also declared an interest in this item as it will discuss her salary.
2022.58	Minutes of previous meeting – these were agreed and signed
2022.59	Brought forward from previous meetings: Play equipment checks. Cllr Knill has received an email from Andrew Moulton who will check to see if he would be allowed to carry out the routine checks in the park, and if he is not he will recommend a local company. Cllr Dennis will pass the folder back to Cllr Wadsworth. Cllrs Wadsworth and Knill have

carried out visual checks and will note this in the file. He reported that the Zipwire seat will need adjusting for smaller children, as it was designed for the

older age bracket, but this would be expensive. The clerk will try to download some new check sheets from Touchwood website.

ACTION BD/DK/LW

2022.60 Correspondence

Request for an additional dog bin at Dennington Hill – This was discussed but it was felt that at the moment the extra expense of emptying could not be justified as there were already 4 bins in the village.

Planning Support – Joint local list - curculated

David Tomlinson – probation service unpaid work. There was discussion about the phone box and would this be a suitable project for them to undertake. The clerk will email to enquire.

ACTION LW

2022.61 Committee Reports

1. **Planning** – Certificate of Lawfulness at Ducklake, Riverton. Nothing has been heard about this, but Cllr Lane thinks it has been issued.

2. Finance

To review and approve the budget and precept for 2023/24. The Finance Committee presented the budget to Cllrs. Some of the cost lines have not been fully spent particularly on grass cutting and hedge works, but this was mainly due to the very hot dry summer. It was agreed that a proportion of these unspent monies will be carried forward to next year. Most lines were increased by 2-5%, but with the reduction in Glebe Field costs there should be no increase in the precept.

It was proposed and agreed to accept the budget as presented.

Cllr Wadsworth and LW left the room for this discussion

To review the Clerks salary (see document attached)
The clerk has been employed for many years by the Parish Council
without a NALC approved contract and not using the NALC Salary Scale.
It was agreed that Swimbridge Parish Clerks position should be placed at
LC2 Scale point 20, and that the hours should be increased from 15 to 20.

- 3. Community Engagement/Glebe Field Cllrs Wadsworth and Knill reported that 7 trees have been planted under the Queens Green Canopy Scheme with a further 100 saplings still to be planted. The Final plan for the siting of the toddlers play equipment has been received Room should be left to install the extra see-saw which will be provided by Sam and Emily Whitton who are fundraising for this project. Cllr Lane reported that he has some funds he could contribute if requested.
- **4. Media Committee** Cllr Wright reported that the new website would be ready soon. Councillors will be given opportunity to see it before it goes live.

ACTION JW

2022.62 Payments for approval:

Clerks Salary £198.97

Payments agreed

2022.63 Matters for further discussion

Cllr Knill reported that the rent was due for the lock up in the quarry (storage of salt spreader and marquee/trailer) He will ask the landlord to invoice the PC direct. There was discussion about where the key should be stored – possibly in a key safe at the Jubilee Hall.