



MEETING OF SWIMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2024 at 7.30 PM SWIMBRIDGE JUBILEE HALL

MINUTES

Public Session

Guest Speakers

Cllr Lane reported that Council has agreed a 2.99% rise in Council Tax – however this may rise to 5%.

Cllr Lane also reported that he has investigated the car park ownership at Ste Honorine Du Fay Close, as the Housing Association considers they all belong to them.

Cllr Haworth-Booth reported that NDC is taking over one of the vacant units in Green Lanes for use as a walk-in centre. This will be open every day. He also reported that there are changes to the Planning system in the pipeline, and that S106 agreements will now become part of the planning application process.

Cllr Henderson reported that night closures of the link road are continuing. There will be no work over Easter and Griffiths are still predicting a Summer 2024 finish. The bridge at Umberleigh is being repaired and this will necessitate the closure of the road for 5 weeks. North Devon Council budgets are under stress but when Devon and Torbay become a unitary authority hopefully a little more funding will come this way.

2024.12 Apologies and attendance – no apologies - all councillors in attendance

2024.13 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Haworth-Booth declared an interest in Planning Application 78202.

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2024.14 Minutes of previous meeting - these were agreed and signed.

2024.15 Correspondence

Election information – forwarded

Notice of Play area inspection – this will take place during March.

2024.16 Speed consultation/Community Speedwatch – As 2 members of the Swimbridge group are on holiday speedwatch has concentrated on the Landkey area. There are 2 new sites at Vicarage Road and Valley View.

2024.17 Telephone Box – Cllr Wadsworth has had a quote for the refurbishment, he will now meet with the printing company to discuss the history boards, and will check if it will be possible to install some sort of lighting. He will then investigate what grants are available. Cllr Henderson offered £1000.

2024.18 Shed/Container for Field – Grants have been received from Cllr Lane (£367) and Cllr Henderson (£400). LW/Cllr Knill will continue to check out prices.

2024.19 Tender for Grass Cutting - this should be advertised.

2024.20 **Mirror on Hannaford Lane junction** – This would be against DCC policy so it will not be possible to have this installed.

2024.21 **Committee Reports**

1. **Planning** – Cllr Haworth-Booth has received a request from Goodleigh Parish Council for Swimbridge PC to support them in their objection to the latest application at Tree Beech. This was discussed, and it was decided that as there would be no increase in traffic as the number of units has been reduced from 8 to 2, the development would not affect Swimbridge.
2. **78202 - Higher Hearson** – Cllr Haworth-Booth declared an interest in this application. This is a barn conversion. The planning committee visited and can see no reason to object. All agreed. The following comment will be submitted: This application should be welcomed as it will transform a disused barn of no aesthetic merit into an attractively designed family residence. The aim is that the dwelling will be sustainably powered by renewable energy. While the design of the house does not match the stone dwellings nearby, it does acknowledge the structure's origins as a barn. It would be a useful addition to the local housing stock

3. **Finance** – The clerk reported the Bank Balances are :

Current account £3902.23
Reserve account £12070.58
Glebe Field a/c £1.29

The reserve account contains earmarked funding of £1500 for capital depreciation of the play equipment. It was decided that in future £1000 per year will be added to the earmarked fund. All agreed.

4. **Community Engagement/Glebe Field/Green Team**

Lots of work recently on the Glebe Field – Cllr Knill has re-surfaced and extended the perimeter path, finished the pétanque court and the car park. This work was funded by grants and an anonymous donation of £10000.

The latest safety check received from NDC highlighted several priority maintenance issues. The Parklands committee had discussed this at the last meeting and agreed that the Parish Council should discuss the report and decide if any action needed to be taken.

The following corresponds to the numbers on the attached report :

1. This will be treated
2. This will be treated
3. The PC does not wish to picnic benches to be fixed down.
4. Cllr Knill will look into possible solutions by changing the hinges.
5. This fence belongs to the school – Cllr Wadsworth will report this to the school.
6. The clerk will contact Andrew Moulton to see if there is a contractor he can recommend to carry out this work.
7. As 6.above
8. As 6 above.
9. The Parish Council has already contacted Touchwood concerning this and they have replied that they do not recommend bolt covers to enable inspection and reduce rusting,
10. Noted – when 40% worn is identified this will be addressed.
11. As 10. above.
12. As 9. Above.

There has been a meeting held at the school with the DfE and Diocese and it has been confirmed that the re-build will definitely be going ahead with the likelihood of work commencing sometime 18-24 months time. Discussions will need to take place with regard to access and recommend this be from the main road rather than Liverton Drive.

4. Media. – The Facebook page has had a lot of adverts posted – these have been taken down. Discussion was held about adding agendas to the page. It was agreed that this would happen from March.

2024.10

Payments for approval

Clerks Salary	£321.60
Ian Rowsell	£60.00
EDF Energy	£173.88
Zurich Insurance	£1028.35
NDC	£376.20

Agreed that all payments should be made.

2024.11

Items for discussion at next meeting

Ducks on the stream.

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