

**Peter Tavy Parish Council
APPROVED
Minutes of the meeting
held on Wednesday 08th November 2023, 7:30pm at the Chapel**

Present: Cllr. W. Lane, Cllr. A. Barton, Cllr. E. Dodd, Cllr. K. Ball, Cllr. J. Jeffery, Cllr. R. Myott

Others Present: The Clerk, Cllr. R. Oxborough (WDBC), Mr. J. Hunt & Mr. V. Nail

Acting Chairman Cllr. J. Jeffery opened the meeting at 7:32pm

Members of the Public speaking time 15 minutes:- Mr. V. Nail asked if item 6 could be brought forward in the Agenda but was told that a statement/summary would not be agreed this evening due to no advice being received from the WDBC Solicitor who had been asked if such statement/summary could be made public. Mr. Nail read out a statement (copy statement please see attachment 1 to these minutes). Acting Chairman Cllr. J. Jeffery thanked Mr. Nail for his statement but added that nothing on a Parish Council happens quickly. Cllr. E. Dodd said that the original letter from Mr. Nail's Solicitor contained fabrications in the opinion of several members of the Parish Council and these needed to be discussed in private, no reply was sent because the Parish Council was waiting for advice on its legal position and was not in a position itself to reply at that time. The Clerk assured Mr. Nail that his copy of his statement would be published alongside the draft minutes for this meeting.

The meeting of the Parish Council now followed

1: Apologies for absence

Cllr. D. Chanter.

2: Declarations of interest

Cllr. J. Jeffery number 1 Church Cottages & setting of the Budget - Cllr R. Myott item 6.

3: Approval of previous Minutes & matters arising

The draft minutes of the parish council meeting held Wednesday 25th October 2023 required the following amendments:
Item 6, paragraph 7 should read "Parishioners need to be assured that the council with its knowledge of history will do our utmost to preserve the freedom of access, or rights of way over unregistered land."

Item 11, paragraph 1 should read "A part II meeting will be held after the next Parish Council meeting to decide on the rent rise for Church Cottages. Cllr. W. Lane stated the maximum cap allowed for social housing is at 7%. The Clerk was asked to bring a table of rises at 2% - 7% and what that came to in real terms to the part II meeting.

Once amended the draft minutes were deemed to be a true and accurate record it was proposed that these should be signed by the Cllr. W. Lane, seconded by Cllr. K. Ball all in favour. The draft minutes were then signed by the acting Chairman Cllr. J. Jeffery.

Matters arising: None that will not be covered by the following agenda.

4: Reports from outside bodies:

None.

5: Correspondence

Information about the Carbon Plan was forwarded to Councillors who will let Cllr. R. Oxborough know their thoughts at the November meeting. A printed copy will be circulated to give each Councillor time to make notes for the next meeting.

A copy of the local housing survey results were given to all Councillors. Facilities & sustainability were seen to be criteria when considering housing schemes. The Parish Council had no comments to add to the results.

Cllr. J. Hart is holding a meeting about Devon County Council's priorities and budget and this will be attended by Cllr. W. Lane and Cllr. A. Barton. The Parish Council would like to ask the question:

"Some Parishes employ privately a Lengthsman who is employed to do work DCC are not doing. This was initially backed by a grant but this has now reduced by 50% on last year putting pressure on Parishes. The state of our roads is declining year on year. There has been a distinct lack of communication from Highways and the Parish Council, lots of works had been promised but none have been forthcoming. Can DCC confirm that these works will be completed."

A parliamentary petition has been received from our MP The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Cox KC, regarding extra funding for DCC towards the state of the road network in Torridge and West Devon. The Petition will be available for parishioners to sign at Cllr. W. Lanes office and the Clerk will put a poster on the notice board and also on the website so people know where they can go to sign the petition.

6: Application for adverse possession land adjacent to Lower Mill

The Clerk has written to the Solicitor for WDBC asking if a summary of part II meetings and decisions from those meetings can be put into a statement for public publication. As yet she has not had a reply, so a statement can not be discussed or voted on at this meeting. Until legal advice is received the publication of any statement will have to be postponed.

Cllr. J. Jeffrey said that he had received several comments from Parishioners thanking the Parish Council for their stance in this matter and even a few asking if Crowd Funding the legal case could be an option. In a local historian's opinion the land never belonged to Lower Mill and was owned by the Lord of the Manor originally and was simply missed and not picked up by highways over the years. He went on to thank the Chairman Cllr. D. Chanter for being thrown into this case. He also thanked the Parish Council for addressing the matter to the best of their ability considering no body on the Parish Council comes from a legal background. Cllr. R. Myott reiterated that she had not attended any part II meetings relating to Lower Mill and had no sway on matters with other Councillors, so the suggestion that the Council were taking sides with her household was ridiculous.

7: Mill Pond

Currently the Mill Pond is still full and will be emptied out in the near future.

8: Playing Field

The new equipment has had some paint damaged during installation and the Clerk has sent photographs to Sutcliffe Play who are going to come out and assess any repairs.

It was proposed that Wicksteed are asked to come and do an annual playing field inspection by Cllr. J. Jeffrey, seconded by Cllr. A. Barton all in favour.

Cllr. A. Barton has ordered free trees from the Woodland Trust which should be here in the spring. There should be approximately 130 stems to start the hedging where the current boundary netting is.

9: Highways

The Clerk had not received a reply to a complaint sent regarding works in the Parish. If no reply is received by the next scheduled meeting then she will forward the email to Cllr. J. Hart DCC.

There has been one pot hole patched on the approach to Langsford Road but the one at the top of Langsford Road near to the junction seems to be the responsibility of South West Water. The Clerk will report the sunken manhole cover to them.

The Clerk was asked to request the leaf sweeper.

10: Planning.

Regarding the new septic treatment plant at The Oaks the Parish Council have the following comment to submit:

The Parish Council supports the application subject to the correct disposal of waste water.

11: Church Cottages.

The Clerk was asked to contact the tenants of each Cottage to see if they had internal stopcocks which could be turned off in the case of emergency.

12: Finance to include draft budget for 2024.

Amendments were made to the draft budget which will be further discussed at the next meeting when final draft precept figures will be agreed.

The outgoings from the Precept Account to be approved are: -

The Clerk Salary May	345.00
Use of Home Office	26.00
Minues PAYE	- 12.00
	<u>£359.00</u>
PFK Littlejohn external auditors	£252.00

The Outgoings from the Church Cottages Account to be agreed are: -

Admin fee to precept account June £26.66

It was agreed to pay the outgoings proposed Cllr. K. Ball, seconded Cllr. A. Barton all in favour.

The Clerk reported that the bank balances as of the 1st October 2023 were as follows:-

Church Cottages account = £30,811.57

Precept account = £31,637.25

The external auditors final certificate had been received and published on the Parish Council website. There was one comment from them that the VAT should not have been included in the final figures for the AGAR return and this will be rectified in next years AGAR submission. The clerk reported being pleased that the audit went well.

The Clerks Salary review from the National Association of Local Councils was in and will be submitted for approval at the next meeting. This will be backdated to April.

12. Any Other Business

The notice board doors need attention.

Cllr. R. Oxborough informed the Parish Council that there is now a thermal heat loss detection device available for rent through WDBC, it might help with Church Cottages or other properties in the Parish.

No further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed 08:50hrs

SIGNED

DATED.....