

Peter Tavy Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023, 7:30pm at the Chapel

Present: Cllr. W. Lane, Cllr. A. Barton, Cllr. E. Dodd, Cllr. K. Ball, Cllr. J. Jeffery, Chairman Cllr. D. Chanter

Others Present: The Clerk, Cllr. R. Oxborough (WDBC)

1: Apologies for absence

Cllr. R. Myott.

2: Declarations of interest

Cllr. J. Jeffery number 1 Church Cottages & setting of the Budget/finance.

3: Approval of previous Minutes & matters arising

The draft minutes of the part II extraordinary meeting held on Wednesday 08th November 2023 were deemed to be a true record and duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr. W. Lane, seconded Cllr. E. Dodd all in favour.

The draft minutes of the parish council meeting held Wednesday 08th November 2023 required the following amendments:

Item 5, paragraph 2 should read "Cllr. J. Jeffery said that he had received several comments" and not Cllr. E. Dodd.

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

Matters arising that will not be covered by the following agenda.

Cllrs. A. Barton & W. Lane recently attended a forum via Zoom (online) held by Devon County Council where questions could be put forward, however Mary Tavy Parish had already put forward the same complaints that Peter Tavy Parish Council were going to ask regarding Highways such as poor communication, lack of funding and poor standard of repairs by third party contractors.

Cllr. W. Lane suggested that the parliamentary petition for more funding for Devon County Highways be put up in the bus shelter for people to sign as nobody had been down to his office to sign it. Other copies had been placed in the Peter Tavy Inn also the caravan site. These have to be handed back in mid-January. The Clerk is going to ask if it can go into the Pit Stop.

4: Reports from outside bodies:

None.

5: Correspondence

Cllr. R. Oxborough (WDBC) said that during a Mary Tavy PC meeting it had come to light that a farmer had been prosecuted for an attack by cows on a male dog walker and that a precedent had now been set where farmers could be liable for cow attacks.

From Tamar Valley National Landscape - A request for information about invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and American Skunk Cabbage that may be present in our Parish had been received. The Clerk was asked to reply asking if they would help deal with such a problem if we found any.

Dartmoor National Park have adopted the 2023 Housing SPD.

Cllr. R. Oxborough (WDBC) needs questions from the Parish to put to Sir Geoffrey Cox QC MP at a meeting scheduled for 5th January 2023. It was agreed to ask about footpaths, highways issues and the stance of the Land Registry in offloading unregistered land. The Clerk will let Cllr. Oxborough have a list prior to the meeting.

Cllr. R. Oxborough (WDBC) does not now need comments for the Devon Carbon Plan until later in January so this will be discussed again at the January Parish Council meeting.

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. The Clerk will now approach the Devon Association of Local Councils to see if they can give a definitive answer.

7: Mill Pond

Currently the Mill Pond is now empty for the winter. The wildflower seed will be assessed to see how it is looking in the spring.

8: Playing Field

The Clerk is going to chase Wicksteed for a date of the playground equipment annual inspection. The bill for the new playground equipment can now be paid, subject to guarantee of the repair works to the chipped paint.

9: Highways

The Clerk was asked to keep a diary of works and reports to DCC Highways over the year so we have a record of what had been reported and more importantly what had been done by DCC Highways to remedy the problems.

At a recent Zoom meeting with J. Hart of DCC it was observed that most other parishes had concerns about the state of their highways, together with the quality of repairs carried out and that the Neighbourhood Highways Officer was difficult to get hold of and deal with. Devon County Council's response was to point out that several different companies now carry out repairs as sub-contractors. Cllr. J. Jeffery commented that surely these works were being overseen or checked by Devon County Council but it would appear that they are not.

The Chairman commented that we should act as a pressure group on a continual basis especially where there are problems with the roads that are a danger or a risk to people and if there was an accident would DCC Highways then be liable.

Cllr. R. Oxborough said that the Land Registry could be approached to see who owns the parapet and hedge at the Langsford Road and A386 junction.

Cllr. J. Jeffery reminded the Clerk to ask what the Neighbourhood Highways Officer is going to do regarding a gutter in the parish across the public highway and whether DCC would take responsibility for the liability associated with such gutter. The Clerk was asked to copy John Hart in on the email.

Cllr. J. Jeffery gave the example of a pipe blocked up at Headlands and the road is lifting with broken tarmac which will result in costly repair when a simple grid at the opening and end of the pipe would of prevented the blockage in the first place.

10: Planning

The Parish Councils comments regarding the new septic treatment plant at The Oaks which should of read "The Parish Council supports the application subject to the correct disposal of waste water" did not appear on the DNP website prior to their approval of the planning application. The Clerk will try and find out why.

11: Church Cottages

The Clerk is yet to find out if the cottages have internal stopcocks. She will make this a priority and report back at the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk was asked to set up a pre-planning meeting with DNP for January to discuss listed buildings consent

12: Procedure for publishing minutes

Cllr. W. Lane had received a complaint from a member of the public that approved sets of minutes are not published on the Parish Council's website and that only draft minutes are published. The Clerk was asked going forward if the approved minutes could be published instead of draft ones, once these had been approved at the next months meeting. Proposed Cllr. K. Ball, seconded Cllr. D. Chanter all in favour.

13: Clerk Salary award 2023

After discussion it was decided that the Clerk's salary should go up in line with guidelines sent from the National Association of Local Councils and stay at pay grade 8 until her next annual review in August. This will be backdated to April 2023 as also directed by the NALC.

