

Peter Tavy Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024, 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, Cllr. R. Myott

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

1: Apologies for absence

None.

2: Declarations of interest

Cllr. J. Jeffery number 1 Church Cottages & setting of the precept for Lengthsman.

3: Approval of previous Minutes & matters arising

The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 13th December 2023 had the following amendments:-

Matters arising: Cllrs A. Barton & W. Lane recently attended a form (via Zoom) held by Devon County Council.

Item 9 Highways: the NHO need to be written in full "Neighbourhood Highways Officer".

Item 15 Any Other Business: The Thursdon review should have been spelt "the Furzdon review".

Once amended the draft minutes were deemed to be a true and accurate record proposed Cllr. K. Ball, seconded Cllr. A. Barton 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.

None.

4: Reports from outside bodies

Cllr. W. Lane gave a report that the Parochial Church Council received a letter from the Exeter diocese stating a shortfall in this year's monies and are asking all parishes to contribute way above what they are paying at present. Peter Tavy Church is being asked to pay £8,100.00 when for the last 6 years they have not had a Vicar and no support but have paid a significant sum each year. Many Churches will not be able to pay these extra charges. Some Churches have reserves of funds.

Cllr. W. Lane represents Peter Tavy Church in the Tavistock Deanary Synod. Exeter Cathedral has had extensive works in recent years.

The Churchyard maintenance liability of the Parish Council is to be put on next month's agenda as an item for discussion.

Cllr. R. Oxborough (WDBC) added that most Churches are listed buildings with expensive repairs. No VAT at present can be reclaimed making these repairs unaffordable and Sir. G. Cox QC MP had brought this up with historic buildings now being brought into ruin.

5: Correspondence

The Clerk was asked to respond to a letter about a project for Twist Farm and Little Firework Croft asking the sender to contact the Landowners direct if they wish to purchase or lease land for their particular project.

Information about a mobile signal boost scheme will be posted onto the website.

6: Application for adverse possession land adjacent to Lower Mill

The Clerk has not heard back from 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 cannot 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 has now approached 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.

8: Playing Field

The Clerk is waiting for confirmation of a date in March when the playground inspection will take place.

9: Highways

The Parish Council have received a communication regarding community self-delivery - meaning that Parishes might in the future be expected to fix things like their own potholes with funding support from Devon County Council.

The discussion of this was that there are problems with funding now so the Parish Council may have to look at building this into the precept planning in the future. Insurance costs would be huge. Adverse weather events are only going to get more frequent.

The Clerk was asked to report potholes on the road into Radge and beyond to Mount House. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer did not even know it was a public highway when discussed with the Lengthsman.

Bags of Salt have been put out for parishioners use during the icy weather.

10: Planning

Planning application for Midhurst replacement windows should not have been commented on by only 2 Councillors. This comment was as a result not sent in to the Dartmoor National Park Planning department. To be quorate it must be 3 Councillors who discuss the comments to go back to Dartmoor National Park, and they should go to look at the application property. It should be a matter of courtesy to contact the Householder first. Cllr. K. Ball had not even been consulted as to his availability for a planning meeting. It was stated that Councillors cannot do this off their own backs and must be at least 3 Councillors present. Cllr. W. Lane resigned from his position as lead on the planning sub-committee. Cllr. A. Barton will take on this position in the future.

It was agreed to support the application but to state the Parish Council's disappointment that double glazing had not been applied for this time as in the original application, as we are in a climate change environment. Proposed Cllr. J. Jeffery, Seconded Cllr. E. Dodd all in favour

Cllr. A. Barton declared an interest in the following and did not comment - The planning application at Middle Wapsworthy for solar panels will require 3 Councillors to attend and have a meeting to discuss the Parish Council's comments. Chairman Cllr. D. Chanter, Cllr. K. Ball and Cllr. J. Jeffery will arrange a meeting soon to go and look at this application.

11: Church Cottages

There is no internal stopcock at number 2 Church Cottages, so the Clerk was asked to book in the plumber to investigate fitting one in each Cottage.

Cllr. A. Barton had spoken to DNP regarding replacing windows. Moving forwards there will need to be 3 quotes and drawings that we could submit to DNP for new windows for both cottages. (one fixed and one opener) Claire Vint the Listed Buildings conservation advisor might be able to assist with consultation on the windows project.

12: Meeting with Sir Geoffrey Cox QC MP

A meeting was held with Sir Geoffrey Cox QC MP at the coronation hall, Mary Tavy on Friday 5th January together with Parish representatives from Mary Tavy, Peter Tavy and Brentor. The meeting went on longer than was scheduled and Sir Geoffrey gave one hour forty-five minutes of his time to take questions about concerns in the Parishes.

The main topics discussed were: -

- a) Broadband – The copper cable infrastructure will not now be switched off and a roll out of 5G across Dartmoor National Park is in the planning stages. Devon and Somerset connect will be working closely with Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council to try and get better connectivity to outlying properties within our Parishes. A lot of information had already been gathered regarding requirements in Peter Tavy by ex-Councillor Peter Randall and this information had already been passed to the broadband champion at West Devon Borough Council.
- b) Highways – All three Parishes have been treated the same by Devon County Highways department and have had poor communication with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, with the reason for no works/repairs being given as budget constraints. Sir Geoffrey was not happy with this at all and has an upcoming meeting with the Highways department. The Clerk was asked to compile a diary/list of works required and things reported to Highways from now on.
- c) Land Registry stance on unregistered land – Sir Geoffrey was not aware of the issues that Peter Tavy have had with recent dealings with the Land Registry. This was the first time it had been raised to him and it was stated that Land Registry are an independent body not controlled by government. Sir Geoffrey was going to investigate Land Registry policies.

13: Finance to include draft budget and setting the precept for 2024**The outgoings from the Precept Account to be approved are: -**

The Clerk Salary Decmember	385.20
Use of Home Office	26.00
Minues PAYE	- 20.20
	<u>£391.00</u>

Tavy Signs – playingfield sign £ 54.00

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. A. Barton, seconded Cllr. K. Ball all in favour.

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

Church Cottages account = £31,355.17

Precept account = £32,607.23

The Budget agreed for upcoming financial year 2024/2025 for the purpose of setting the precept is as follows:-

Expenditure	24/25 Propsed Budget Expenditure
Clerk's Salary inc PAYE	£4,700.00
Office Costs	£500.00
Clerk's Home as Office	£312.00
Clerk's Expenses/travel	£0.00
S137 Payments	£500.00
Burial Grant	£100.00
Audit Fees	£600.00
Subscriptions	£284.00
Mill Pond Rent	£30.00
Mill Pond Repairs	£500.00
Playground Inspection	£200.00
Playground Maintenance	£500.00
Playground new equipment (Ringfenced above)	£1,000.00
Playground grass cutting	£1,205.00
Dog Bin Contract	£200.00
Room Hire	£250.00
Contingency	£800.00
Grants	£200.00
Public Liability Insurance	£820.00
Clerk's Training	£0.00
Parish Election Payment	£250.00
Lengthsman	£2,400.00
Lengthsman Parish work	£600.00
Web Hosting	£150.00
Piper Publication	£400.00

Minutes 2024 - 46

Bus Shelter	
Maintenance	£1,000.00
Advertising	£50.00
Safe Custody of Deeds	£15.00
Poppy Wreath	£20.00
War Memorial	£0.00
Seats Maintenance	£30.00
Jubilee	£0.00
Beating the Bounds	£0.00
Professional advice	£1,500.00 (Ringfenced)
	£19,116.00

It was proposed by Cllr. W. Lane that a precept be set at £14,000.00 there was no seconder so the proposal was not voted on. It was proposed by Chairman Cllr. D. Chanter that the precept be set at £19,000.00, seconded by Cllr. J. Jeffery six for and 1 against. Motion carried to set the annual precept at £19,000.00.

14. Any Other Business

Cllr. K. Ball said that new sandbags were needed at the back of the village hall in case of heavy rain. The Clerk will order some more and put them with the sand.

Cllr. W. Lane said that regarding the A386 junction a meeting with Highways was held some years ago, Highways said that they were responsible for the wall and that landowners have responsibility for the hedge. Just after the parapet wall is where you sit to turn into Peter Tavy coming from Tavistock, if that was taken down to a more sensible level cars could see other cars waiting to turn in.

No further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed 21.20hrs

SIGNED

DATED.....