

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Rackenford School**

Present: Cllrs Child, Phillips, Matthews, Parry and Hyland, K Ward (Clerk), W Sweet (new Clerk), 7 members of public.

**1819-86 Apologies:** Cllrs Lamb, Cox, NDDC and DCC Cllr Yabsley

**1819-87 Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Child declared an interest in planning application 66078. She remained in the meeting but took no part in discussions.

**1819-88 Public Forum:** No comments

**1819-89 Defibrillator**

Cllr Child introduced Dr R Fennell who then explained that, via the parish council, the village had acquired a defibrillator 4 years ago on contract from South West Ambulance Trust. The contract is due for renewal this summer. The previous defibrillator was paid for by fund raising and there are £1470 funds remaining. She recommended that the Council renew the contract on the same terms which includes training, replacement parts and support. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council contract with South West Ambulance Trust for a further 4 years at a cost of £1800.00 plus VAT. It was **AGREED** with Dr Fennell that the village funds would donate £1400.00 towards the contract, with the Council contributing £400.00 from its defibrillator reserve. The Council further **RESOLVED** to continue to set aside £200.00 per annum into its defibrillator reserve for future provision.

**1819-90 Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018**

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

**1819-91 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2018**

The Council approved an amendment to the minutes to formally record the review of the Code of Conduct which was approved at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 but omitted from the minutes of the meeting in error.

**1819-92 Clerk to the Council:**

Cllr Child introduced Ms W Sweet who had expressed an interest in the vacant Clerk's position. Ms Sweet, who is currently Clerk to Knowstone Parish Council, was interviewed by Cllrs Lamb, Child and the current Clerk and references taken up. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Ms Sweet as Clerk subject to the normal probation period.

**1819-93 Report from the District and County Councillor:** Deferred.

**1819-94 The Common**

- a. Regeneration project: The Clerk informed the Council that the completion report for phase 2-4 has been submitted to Devon Communities Foundation, and a grant application has been submitted for phase 5 scrub clearance work. A decision on this application is not expected until mid-February. Cllr Child said the final designs are still subject to agreement.
- b. Scrub clearance: It was **AGREED** to defer item to a special meeting pending receipt of the tender specification from Cllr Lamb. It was noted works need to be undertaken by end of March due to nesting season. Cllr Parry queried if there were still plans for volunteers to do scrub clearance. Cllr Child explained due to the insurance risk, it was better to appoint a contractor but that discussions could be had with the appointed contractor so that there may be an opportunity for community involvement.

- c. Common/Children's Play Area: Cllr Child recommended a working group be set up to consider the play area equipment, noting works on these are unlikely to occur until next year when scrub clearance and drainage works have been completed. It was **AGREED** Cllrs Warne, Hyland and Matthews form the working group. No urgent repair matters to report.
- d. Drainage: Cllr Parry enquired about drainage work specifications and whether this should be considered soon. Cllr Hyland questioned whether the Swan Paul drainage plans need to be reviewed as there will no longer be a pond in the design. Cllr Phillips said permission would be needed to use the highways drains. There was a discussion on the existing highway drainage and culverts and it was suggested that early discussions with Highways are needed so that a satisfactory long term solution is in place, possibly with a new larger drain under the road. It was **AGREED** to add drainage to the special meeting agenda.  
**Action:** Cllr Phillips to have initial discussion with to Highways

### 1819-95 Highways and Footpaths

- a. Highways: Cllr Phillips reported he met with the Local Highways Officer, but was told many pot holes were not big enough for repairs! He also reported 5 tonnes of salt had been delivered.
- b. Footpaths: Cllr Warne bids have been submitted for funds to improve the path near the Stag as well as replacing styles with gates on the path near Bulworthy.
- c. Street lights: Cllr Hyland reported a broken street light. Concern was raised about the bright light from East Nutcott shining into the road and dazzling drivers.  
**Action:** Clerk to report broken street light, draft letter re. lighting.

1819-96 Trinity Well: Nothing to report

1819-97 Noticeboard: Nothing to report, awaiting the new stand-alone noticeboard.

### 1819-98 Planning

- a. Consideration of planning applications: Application 66078 Formation of new access off the public highway and together with blocking off of existing at Toll House Farm, Rackenford. After brief discussion, it was **AGREED** to defer the item until the special meeting.
- b. It was **NOTED** the following applications are awaiting NDDC decision:
- 18/01711/FULL: formation of an open clamp (4630m<sup>2</sup>) for the storage of silage and alteration to existing access, Gibbet Moor Farm (Stoodleigh Parish). Comments submitted on traffic concerns and size of proposal.
  - 65648 Erection of building to provide stables and store at Blindwell Farm, Rackenford - No objections submitted
  - 65623: Extension to hay/straw barn and extension to livestock barn at West Backstone, Rackenford - No objections submitted
  - 65978: Erection of one general purpose agricultural building at Tidderson Lodge, higher Tidderson, Rackenford – Objection submitted
  - 65939: Extension to rear of dwelling, extension to side of dwelling to form annexe & change of use of land to form extension to garden at Rosedale, Rackenford
- c. The following decisions from NDDC were **NOTED**:
- 65484: Prior notification application for proposed development by telecommunications code system operators in respect of erection of one 15m monopole with radio equipment attached, erection of one metal storage cabinet and erection of compound boundary fencing at land at Higher Thorne, Rackenford – Permitted
  - 65714 Prior approval for change of use from one agricultural building to one dwelling house class Q AB, Blindwell Farm, Rackenford – Approved

- d. NDDC planning enforcement action: Cllr Child reported the Council was aware of 2 complaints from members of the public which were being investigated by NDDC.

With reference to application 65978 the applicant, as member of the public, asked for further explanation as to the Council's objection to the planning application. In particular the reference to comments about "previous issues on the site" and that this was not discussed in a public meeting. Cllr Child responded that it was not clear from the application what agricultural activities were taking place, that the Council is aware of previous applications made but did not have details to hand, and explained the delegated process for responding to planning applications in between meetings to comply with NDDC's 21 day consultancy period. The applicant said the building is for housing agricultural vehicles. It was suggested the applicant address any further comments on his application directly to NDDC as planning authority.

#### **1819-99 Finance 2018/19**

- a. Financial report: The Clerk gave an update on the current year finances as set out in the budget monitoring statement. Cllr Phillips queried the payment to AP Building Construction for re-instating the war memorial. It was explained that the invoice is due to the Council as it instructed the works and it is the council's asset, but that the Council would seek re-imburement from a third party to cover the costs.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:
- K Ward / HMRC clerks wages £285.85
  - K Ward expenses £37.01
  - Swan Paul Partnership 2<sup>nd</sup> stage payment £660.00 (£550.00+VAT)
  - AP Building Construction transport and re-instatement of damaged war memorial £864.00 (£720.00 + VAT)
  - Richard Grant Memorials war memorial cleaning £2260.80 (£1884.00 + VAT)
- Confirmation of payment previously approved in principle
- Swan Paul Partnership 1st stage payment £3905.28 (£3254.40+VAT)

#### **1819-100 Budget 2019/20**

Following discussions on the draft budget at the November meeting the Clerk presented a recommended budget for approval and set out the options for the Council Tax and precept. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to keep the Band D Council Tax at £43.69, to approve the precept of £5952 and to approve the Budget 2019/20 as set out in the agenda.

#### **1819-101 Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm**

Cllr Child said a response had been received from NDDC to the Council's letter, but that there was nothing new to report and matters seem to be at an impasse between NDDC and objectors.

**1819-102 Shop/School:** Nothing to report

**1819-103 Correspondence:** Surgery dates for the local MP have been received.

#### **1819-104 Matters of Urgency for noting only**

Concern was raised about barrier over the river failing. Cllr Phillips to refer to Highways.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

**Next Meeting:** Special meeting for Common/Planning TBA, then Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 7.30pm

**Signed as a correct record:**

**Date:**

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