

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 9th May 2019, Rackenford School

Present: Cllrs Child, Cox, Lamb, Parry, Warne

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

1920-01 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council

Cllr Child and Cllr Warne proposed and seconded Cllr Lamb as Chairman, all agreed.

Cllr Lamb and Cllr Parry proposed and seconded Cllr Child as Vice-Chairman, all agreed

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lamb and Cllr Child will be Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2019/20, and the declaration of acceptance of office forms were signed.

1920-02 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Hyland, Mathews and Phillips, C/D/Cllr Yabsley

1920-03 Declaration of Interests (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

1920-04 Open Forum Mr Saupe said that dog fouling is now a real problem in the village with several people letting their dogs run loose and not picking up their mess. Dog fouling is a particular problem near the shop and car park and on the common. He had offered a poo bag to someone whose dog he had seen fouling but it had been refused. The Dog Warden will take up this matter if there are witnesses who report it. In the absence of named individuals to whom the Council can write it was **RESOLVED** to produce a leaflet to be delivered to all households within the village informing residents what they should do if they see a dog fouling and the owner not picking up and reminding dog owners of their legal responsibilities relating to their dogs.

Mr Saupe has offered to pick up the posts from the old water tower and remove the concrete so they can be used in the future on the common. He has recovered the Christmas sleigh and reindeer.

1920-05 Approve Minutes It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2019.

1920-06 External bodies: It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Child would be representative for the school (Helen Hyland to be asked to attend in Cllr Child's absence), Batsworthy Cross and shop (Cllr Lamb to deputise where necessary).

1920-07 Councillor responsibilities: It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following roles:

Snow & Tree warden – Cllr Phillips

Footpaths & play area – Cllr Warne

Highways – Cllr Phillips

Planning – Cllr Parry

1920-08 Annual Review of Governance and Accounts

a) After reviewing the Statement of Internal Controls, it was **RESOLVED** to approve it.

b) It was **RESOLVED** to complete and send off the Certificate of Exemption regarding the External Audit for 18/19.

c) It was **RESOLVED** to agree and sign Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.

d) It was **RESOLVED** to agree and sign Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Accounting Statements 2018/19.

(e) It was **RESOLVED** to implement the recommendations from the Internal Audit report – a summary of which had been previously circulated. Overall the Council had received a positive report from the Internal Auditor with just a few minor recommendations which the Clerk briefly outlined.

1920-09 Report from District and County Councillor – not present

1920-10 The Common

- a. **Regeneration project** – Update and agree next steps: Cllr Child had previously circulated a report summarising stages for the immediate future, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Cllr Lamb said that the main water problem is when it comes off the back road onto the common missing the gullies. The Council can either go down the route of trying to rectify the problem but with no help from Highways or live with it. The area is wet and boggy in winter and dries out in the summer. Drainage of the football pitch can be dealt with using a low tech contractor but will have to make sure the pitch is not left uneven. A specification will need to be drawn up and quotes sought. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Lamb will contact South Molton Rugby club as they have had their pitch drained relatively recently to see who had done their work. He will also contact local contractors (eg Robin Webber near Tiverton) for a ballpark figure for drainage work and the building up of the play area, as well as the Land Drainage Contractors Association who may be able to give the Council advice. It was agreed to take road drainage out of the common project as it was felt too big an issue to include.

With reference to the play area Cllr Warne said it would be a good idea to fence the whole area, which will be raised, with galvanised good quality fencing that would keep out dogs, last for a long time and not need a lot of maintenance. Where the play area is currently situated is a good place for it and the current L shape could be increased and made into a rectangular area. It would be better to go for as much space as possible, as items need to have certain distances between them. In the older children's adventure play area the plan is to have a zip wire which insurance companies can be wary of. The Clerk will ask the Council's insurers their view on this. The Working Group has not yet met but will do so as soon as possible to obtain ballpark figures for what is wanted. Some play equipment suppliers will get involved in the whole project at a cost. Cllr Warne will look through play equipment brochures and invite a couple of reps to make a site visit.

It was suggested that one hard path is laid and not to have any soft paths and then see what happens.

The Batsworthy fund has asked the Council to supply them with ballpark figures for the rest of the project prior to submitting its next application. The next deadline for applications is early June. It was **RESOLVED** to get each item listed in Cllr Child's report roughly costed with the view to undertaking them over the next 12 months. It was **AGREED** to apply to Batsworthy for the next stage of the work by the end of this month.

- b. **Children's Play Area** – To consider any urgent repairs and maintenance. The recent ROSPA report listed so many minor repairs that it is not viable to renew it in its existing form. It was agreed that replacement as planned under the Common Regeneration is the best way forward. The equipment is decaying but still acceptable to use. Cllr Warne will keep an eye on everything but if anything gets broken the playground may have to be closed and the equipment removed. Prior to the regeneration work involving the play areas, residents will have to be made aware that they will be without a playground for a number of months. Cllr Warne said he had heard of a cheaper alternative company to ROSPA who could undertake the annual inspection; more information will be sought prior to next year's inspection.
- c. To note felling of tree opposite the church on 11.03.19 for safety reasons. Cllr Lamb reported that the bottom of the trunk that had narrowly missed hitting the mini bus was completely decayed. It had fallen during high winds and more winds were forecast. He had decided it was too much of a risk to leave. As tree surgeons were working on the common clearance at the time Cllr Lamb had asked them to look at and deal with the tree; they had found all three trunks to be rotted internally and had taken off the higher branches on the first day and the rest on the following day. The cost will come out of the budget for the common clearance.
- d. Review idea of Common as a potential landing site for Devon Air Ambulance. Cllr Lamb said that DAA are still keen to use the common as a landing site. Cllr Child suggested and it was **AGREED**

that this is postponed until after the Council has completed the first round of work on the common project. In an emergency the helicopter can land there.

- e. Discuss email from parishioner in Meadow View re. overhanging tree Cllr Lamb said that the council has a duty of care to make sure the tree did not pose a danger. It was RESOLVED to have it inspected by an independent and qualified person. Cllr Lamb will contact Mr Nicholson at Blackdown Environmental. It was suggested that all trees have to be checked every 12 months under the Council's insurance policy. The Clerk will check the council's insurance policy and will also inform the residents of 1 Meadow View that council will initially have the tree inspected and discuss results of the inspection.

1920-11 Highways & Footpaths:

- (a) Highways – Cllr Lamb reported that at Cllr Phillips' recent meeting with Richard Sables no progress had been made in relation to problems with drainage.
- (b) Footpaths – Nothing to report. Cllr Lamb said that thank-you's from two rambling groups who had recently used the footpaths had been received.

1920-12 War Memorial Cllr Lamb reported that some recompense was still being chased. It was noted that the grant received from WMT had been reduced by 25% due to non-compliance with the grant conditions.

1920-13 Trinity Well: Cllr Lamb reported that Mike has put in a new bucket.

1920-14 Planning

- a. Applications for consultation: None
- b. Applications awaiting NDDC decision
- **66418** Prior Approval for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to One Dwellinghouse (use Class Q(a)(b) at Central Barn, North Grendon Farm, Rackenford. It was pointed out by Cllr Lamb that this property is in the Parish of Witheridge not Rackenford. The Clerk will contact the Planning Department to let them know.
 - **18/01711/FULL:** formation of an open clamp (4630m2) for the storage of silage and alteration to existing access, Gibbet Moor Farm (Stoodleigh Parish, MDC). Comments submitted on traffic concerns and size of proposal.
- c. The following notifications / decisions from NDDC were **NOTED:**
- **66078** Formation of new access off the public highway together with blocking off of existing at Toll House Farm, Rackenford – permission granted
 - **66162** Variation of Condition 3 (occupancy restriction) attached to planning permission 54230 (erection of dwelling for forestry worker) to change wording of the condition at the Cabin at Hensons Wood, Rackenford – permission granted
 - **66276** Removal of Condition 3 attached to planning permission 26119 to allow for residential letting at Higher Tidderson Farm, Tidderson Lane, Rackenford – withdrawn.
- d. **Update on any NDDC planning enforcement action**
- (i) An email had been received from a resident regarding the possible breach of planning at Cob Castle. This had been reported at the end of last year and an enforcement raised on it. There is a training centre being run there apparently in breach of its agricultural use. Cllr Lamb has spoken to the enforcement officer and it is still ongoing. It is likely to be a retrospective planning issue.
- (ii) An enforcement had been raised some time ago re. Hedgelands regarding a flue on an external boiler. Cllr Lamb said he will follow up to see what is happening.

1920-15 Finance

- a. Financial report: The accounts for 18/19 and budget monitoring statement previously circulated were reviewed. There were a couple of queries which the clerk will look into and report back to the Council: clarifying: the amount donated for the fireworks, the breakdown of the costs relating to the War

RACKENFORD AND CREACOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes 2019/20 Page 4

- b. Memorial, the £200 received from DCC. With reference to the current financial year, the Clerk reported that as at 30.04.19 the balance in the bank was £25,628.81. 50% of the precept and grants has been received - £3279.89.
- c. The following receipts were NOTED:
- 8.03.19 – DCC (possible part payment for use of hard court) £200.00
 - 21.03.19 – WMT grant towards war memorial cleaning £1,070.00
 - 25.03.19 – DCF grant for work on the Common £5,822.00
 - 15.04.19 – DCC Locality Funding grant £1,000.00
- d. It was **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:
- W Sweet clerks wages (25/02 – 27/04/19) £226.60
 - W Sweet expenses £25.58
 - Cllr G Lamb reimbursement of leaving gift for K Ward £110.00
 - Devon Association of Local Council subscription £86.21 (£74.91 + VAT)
 - Knowstone Parish Council, 50% of cost of election seminar £15.00
 - FA Phillips snow clearance and salting £813.00 (£677.50 + VAT)
 - Rackenford Parochial Church Council grass cutting grant £200.00 (see min 1718-125)
 - BHIB Insurance renewal £580.27
 - Blackdown Environmental £8430.00 (£7025.00 + VAT)
 - Alison Marshall internal audit £100.00
- e. It was **RESOLVED** to ratify payment to: ROSPA Playsafety Ltd £99.00 (£82.50 + VAT)

1920-16 Problem of dog fouling etc in the Village – covered until item 1920-04.

1920-17 Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm: Cllr Child reported that there was no change from last time. There had been a NCC meeting which objectors had attended. ND Council is now paying for the extra noise measurement.

1920-18 Shop/School: Cllr Child reported that the shop's turnover for the past year was exactly the same as for the previous year. Work has been done internally in the shop which looks very smart and it is hoped it will bring in extra customers.

1920-19 Correspondence The following had been received:

- Annual report from CPRE had been received
- Email from Mr Newton offering his assistance with traffic management if needed as suitably qualified;
- Thank you card from Karen Ward.

1920-20 Matters of Urgency for noting only Cllr Child reminded the Council that after the last firework display it had been reported that a replacement marquee was needed. It will need to be a more industrial pop-up one, approximately 6m x 3m, likely cost £500.

1920-21 Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 21.15

Signed as a correct record _____ Date _____

Draft to be approved at the scheduled meeting