

PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Baxter Hall
on Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: M Busby (Chair), I Fisher (Vice), J Richards, J Harris, J Brasier, A Hunkin and M Thompson

In attendance: CClr A Saywell, Parish Clerk - F Lowe

Public Question Time Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100.

No public were present, virtually or in person. County Councillor Andrew Saywell provided a report as follows:

It has been a busy summer and Cllr Saywell has a cabinet role.

Covid is still prevalent. Over the summer, DCC has received enhanced support, with the number of infections in the younger age group. The rate then fell and was believed to be an artificial spike. The enhanced support provided more testing and vaccinations with a mobile rollout. The Torridge District take up is high and infections have fallen. Hospital admissions are still high and expected to rise as schools and universities return.

There have been a few bumpy months for NHS and Social Care and this is the consequence of lockdowns. It is hoped there will be no further lockdowns.

DCC is experiencing a shortage of Child Social Workers and has offered an enhanced package to entice these to the SW. It is now been rolled out for Adult Social Workers.

Over the summer, DCC have put in a devolution bid; among other items this would mean more power over housing for keyworkers and affordable housing. It would invest in training and skills. It will take 2 years if accepted.

Q. What do you attribute the shortage of workers to? A. Brexit has had a small effect but there is a global shortage. Covid-19 has also had an effect. Q. Why are the levels of Covid-19 high in younger age group? A. Shebfest is responsible for many, with inside venues and poor hygiene.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Andrew Saywell for his report and input, it was much appreciated.

County Councillor Andrew Saywell gave his apologies and left the meeting at this point.

28. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record to be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Parish Clerk as it is usual for the grounds upon which apologies are tendered also to be recorded. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are accepted. **Resolved:** none given, all in attendance.

Initials of chair

29. **Declarations of interest, members to declare any interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the relevant authorities** (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulation 2012 (SI 2012/1464) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)
Resolved: none given

30. **Statement from Clerk.** The Clerk apologised for incorrectly advising that the Council should exclude the public during the discussion of the “Certified Location” of a caravan site at the last meeting. As the PC had not been consulted, the item should not have been on the agenda, but had been included for information only. At the arrival of so many parishioners wanting to discuss it, it was included. The Clerk requested funding for training to improve her knowledge which was approved.

Cllr Busby had consulted TDC and was advised that he was within his rights to exclude the public as the subject was very emotive. He has full confidence in the Clerk.

31. **Approval of Minutes.** To receive and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20th July 2021 and the Planning Meeting held on the 17th August 2021 (Previously circulated) LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1). **Resolved:** that they were a true record of the meetings decisions.

32. **Planning**

- a. **Application:** Ref: 1/0946/2021/FUL, dated: 25th August 2021 for the proposal: Timber outbuilding/garden studio at 7 Oaklands, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon.
Comments to be sent to Planning : No objections
- b. **Application:** This application was received after the agenda was published. Ref: 1/0950/2021/REM dated: 21st September 2021 for the proposal: Approval of reserved matters for layout, scale, appearance, landscaping and for the discharge of condition 5. (land contamination) and 8. (construction traffic management plan) pursuant to Planning Application 1/0246/2020/OUT at Land South Of Rectory Rise, Petrockstowe, Devon. Following a discussion, several points were raised: the pre-application was for bungalows, but this application is for “upside down houses” which overlook properties on Rectory Rise, there are concerns over the construction management action plan and queries on the maintenance of the surrounding land. **The Clerk is to contact Planning and ask for clarification before supplying comments.**

Council is asked to receive planning application decisions made by Torridge District Council. Council is asked to note the below decision:

- c. **Decision:** Ref: 1/0593/2021/FUL, Decision Date: 12th August 2021 for the proposal: Proposed agricultural livestock building at Land At Hallwood Farm, Petrockstowe, Devon. Decision: **GRANTED**
33. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed in the agenda from 14th July to 14th September 2021 inclusive, and had no comments.
34. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
- a. **Defibrillator.** Replacement pads have been purchased and installed.
- b. **Virtual attendance.** The internet is now faster and testing for virtual attendance will take place asap.
- c. **Thanks** - Council is asked to note that thanks have been received from: St Petroc’s Church, ODTCC, Citizens Advice and ND Records for the grants paid to them.

35. **Current Business.**

- a. **The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Central Weekend 2022** – There are currently no plans to celebrate this. In the past, the PC has purchased a gift for all children in the parish from the pottery in Bideford. It is unknown how many children are currently in the village. **Cllr Brasier** will arrange to put a request/order form in the newsletter and **Cllr Harris** will make enquires at the pottery. **c/f**
- b. **Recreation Ground** – There are issues with dog poo and the number of non-parishioners using the Rec Grd. Following a discussion it was decided that the **Clerk will obtain quotes** for 2 “Private Property” signs. Hatherleigh Cricket Club have expressed interest in using the cricket green next year. The PC need proof of insurance - **Cllr Busby to ask.**
- c. **Parking on the Square** – There are 3 AirBnB properties adjacent to The Square who are advertising “parking on premises” when there is none; The Square is being used. The PC have the right to prohibit parking or charge for parking but have always allowed parishioners and Church users to park. **The Clerk was requested** to write to the owners and AirBnB to request that they remove this from their adverts.

36. **Clerk/Parish Councillors Reports.**

- a. **Play Park.** Richard Lawson provided a report detailing that over the past 2 months there has been no income or expenditure; bank accounts change of names is ongoing; weeding has taken place and bench frame was to be painted in the summer.
- b. **Clerk.** Website Audits are being undertaken by Government Digital Services (GDS). Once audited, the body has 12 weeks to respond to any shortcomings. The Local Government Association has published “A Cllrs Workbook on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.” **Cllrs are asked to contact the Clerk** if they would like further information.
- c. **Baxter Hall.** We are taking advantage of the grants currently on offer. Decorating inside & outside (except ladies toilets) is starting soon. More shelving to be put in the store cupboard. New front doors with canopy and some events booked before the end of the year.

37. **Finance**

Receipts: to note receipt of income

- a. **Western Power Distribution** – Wayleaves - £3.48
- b. **Donation for old laptop** - £50

Previous Account Balance £982.43

Payments £0.00

Receipts £53.48

Account Balance £1,035.91

38. **Date of next meeting** Should a Planning meeting be required, this will be on Tuesday 19th October. The next PCM was confirmed as Tuesday 16th November 2021 in Baxter Hall at 7.30pm

With no further Part 1 business, the meeting went into Part 2 at 8.57pm

Chairman Date

Initials of chair