

Northlew Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council held virtually via Zoom at 7.30pm on Monday 21 September 2020

Present:

Councillors: Steve Smith (SSm) - Chair
Holly Dancer (HD) – Vice Chair
Celia Rundle (CR)
Bryan Dufty (BD)
Shirley Brookman (SB)
Mark Rundle (MR)
Sue Main (SM) – Clerk

Borough Councillors: James McInnes (JMcl) - Devon County Council (DCC)
Patrick Kimber (PK) – West Devon Borough Council (WDBC)

Apologies: Gillian Dixon (GD)
Terry Hatt (TH)
Clare Kemp (CK) – West Devon Borough Council

Public Question Time

None attended.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Gillian Dixon, Terry Hatt and Clare Kemp.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – none.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th August** were approved and signed by SSm post the meeting.
- 4. Action Points Arising** – in order of action points in Appendix A:-

Finance – AGAR return has been uploaded onto website.

Changes in Councillors – SM had received confirmation from WDBC that there had been no call for a bi-election and that three parishioners had expressed an interest in being considered for the Councillor role. It was agreed that all three should provide a short summary on why they wished to join the Council by 12 October for circulation to the Council prior to the next meeting on 19 October when a decision would be made.

Training Courses – Action: SM confirmed she would circulate new on-line dates from DALC as and when they became available.

Councillor Login Area – SM confirmed this had now been created on the website to access helpful documentation and login details had been circulated to all.

Correspondence – SM reminded PK to follow up with the parishioner requesting assistance on social housing

Public Toilets – see Item 10 below.

Newsletter – see Item 11 below.

Footpaths – see Item 11 below.

5. Planning Applications

The Council considered the three planning applications namely 2615/20/FUL, 2790/20/HHO and 2811/20/OPA. There were no objections to any of them and it was agreed SM would notify WDBC accordingly. **Action:** SM to notify WDBC of no objection.

6. Parish Council Website

SM confirmed she had updated the website, specifically the Memory Bank and Local Info pages, adding new photos and links and asked that the Council review and provide any additional material.

7. Finance

Payments – SM referred Council to Appendix B seeking approval on the monthly payments to be made which was given. She also noted that the Council had received a Covid-10 business grant of £10,000 on the public lavatory, which would help towards remedial repair work required on the lavatory – see Item 10 below and other identified causes.

Donations – it was agreed that the same donations be sent to Northlew Methodist Church (£150), Northlew PCC (£150), West Devon Methodist Circuit Whiddon (£70) as in previous years and that ODCTG and CAB be given £50 each. **Action:** SM to contact the relevant bodies to organise payment.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence received.

9. Playing Field and Playground Update

Working Party Report – TH was not present to report on work to be done.

Replacement Fencing to Entrance and far perimeter. **Action:** MR confirmed he would trim the perimeter hedges in the coming week and the repair to the fencing and posts would follow at a later stage.

Use of the playing fields – it was confirmed that one of the fitness instructors was continuing their classes elsewhere. **Action:** SM would contact the other instructor to establish their plans for the Autumn/Winter.

Park Benches – it was agreed that the two benches removed (due to disrepair) would be replaced by new ones. CR agreed to make enquiries with a local supplier regarding type and pricing.

Community Orchard Grant Scheme – SS outlined his idea of creating an orchard or planting scheme within the playing fields in light of the potential Government grant scheme available (including the local grant scheme at WDBC which might be available as indicated by JMcl). The Council liked the idea but felt that the orchard proposal had already been mooted the previous year and had not been pursued due to ongoing maintenance requirements and sustaining interest over time. **Action:** SS agreed to revisit and suggest other ways of introducing a landscaped area to provide variety within this communal space in due course.

10. Public Lavatory

It was agreed to SSm would progress three quotes to advance the repairs to the roof and other essential works as soon as possible so that the public lavatory was brought up to a reasonable standard and weather proof. Contact would also be made with the local painter who had decorated the toilets voluntarily in the past to see if he would like the work at the appropriate time.

11. Matters brought forward by Chair and Councillors

Newsletter Update – CR reported that she and SM had met up to brainstorm on ideas for the launch of the newsletter in a new format which would be circulated in due course.

Footpaths – Kimberlands, Harpers Hill and Footpath No. 3 – it was agreed that SM would send details to JMcl so that he could seek more information on boundaries and ownerships at WDBC.

Honour Your Covid Hero – members of the Council unanimously agreed that The Square shop should be nominated for their efforts during the pandemic. **Action:** SM would make the submission.

Northern Links meeting on 17/9 – there was no representation from the Council at this meeting and SM would obtain meeting minutes for circulation.

Feedback on Northlew and Ashubry Product Craft Show – HD reported that this had been well attended despite the COVID restrictions, attendees had behaved impeccably and £101.20 had been raised for Force cancer charity in the process with a nice piece appearing in The Moorlander September edition.

New Councillor Course – HD reported that she had attended the first of four webinars being run by the DALC. It was well run and she encouraged others to attend future ones being organised.

The Ruby Way and the Tarka Trail Cycle Route – PK reported that the cycle path between Hatherleigh and Meeth and Highampton/Halwill had not been completed and any help by the Parish Council to lobby the County Council to progress this would be much appreciated.

Christmas Tree – it was agreed that MR should organised the ordering of the village Christmas Tree.

Green Dragon's Village Party Saturday 29th August – SSm confirmed that this had been well attended and organised and provided a well needed feel good factor for the community.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00

Actions Points arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 21 September 2020

Item	Description	Responsibility
5.	Planning Applications – SM to lodge a no objection with WDBC to the 3 planning applications discussed	SM
7.	Finance Grants – SM to make payments agreed to the 5 bodies discussed	SM
9.	<u>Playing Fields and Entrance</u> Hedgerows - MR to cut back hedgerows surrounding the area Use of playing fields – SM to make contact with fitness instructor to confirm their Autumn/Winter plans Park Benches – CR to investigate pricing and styles of replacement benches with local supplier Community Orchard Grant Scheme – SSm to investigate alternative landscaping and/or planting schemes	MR SM CR SSm
11.	Public lavatory – Quotes for repairing the roofs and other essential works to be sought	SSm
12.	Matters Brought Forward Footpaths – Kimberlands, Harpers Hill and Footpath No. 3 – SM to send details to JMcl to gain further information Honour Your Covid Hero – SM to put forward nomination	SM SM