

**Hemyock Parish Council Monthly Meeting**  
**held in the Forbes Lounge at 7.30pm on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

Subject	Action
<p><b>1. <u>Present</u></b>            Mr I McCulloch (Vice-Chair), Mr R Calcraft, Mr S Clist, Mr S Major, Mr R Brooke, Mr L Povah, Mrs L Clist, Mr R Hart, Mr J Edwards, Mr R Radford (County Councillor), Mr F Rosamond (District Councillor), Mr Kevin Finan (Chief Executive MDDC), Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk) and 14 members of the public.  <u>Apologies</u> Mrs H Stallard (away)</p>	<p>All to note</p>
<p><b>2. <u>Public Question Time</u></b></p> <p>1. <u>CLT/Housing Needs Survey</u>            A member of the public commented that no reply had been received from the council to a letter which had been sent from Neil Parrish MP. The clerk confirmed that no letter had been received.</p> <p>The member of the public has been in correspondence with John Scott, Community Council of Devon about the Housing Needs Survey. John Scott has answered the questions raised but has suggested more information could be provided, if the parish council requests it. The main concerns are around affordability and ensuring the proposed 12 houses will be affordable to those in the village that have a housing need.</p> <p>Mr McCulloch had responded to the member of the public, proposing that the parish council discuss these points in a section 2 meeting (closed to the press and public) to be held after this meeting.</p> <p>2. <u>Pavements</u>            A member of the public commented that the pavements along Prowses have been weeded, but gaps have been left where the work has been completed. East Mead pavements still need attention. It was suggested that applying weed killer is more effective than digging up the weeds. Clerk will report to Highways.</p> <p>3. <u>CLT/Culmstock Road</u>            A member of the public asked for clarification on ‘greenfield’ and ‘greenbelt’. Mr Major clarified that ‘greenfield’ is land that has not been previously developed whereas ‘greenbelt’ is land that has been protected from development usually in towns and cities e.g. Vivary Park in Taunton. As far as Mr Major was aware there is no ‘greenbelt’ land around Hemyock. The member of the public confirmed he has collected 230 names and addresses of people who object to the proposed development by the UCCLT of 12 houses off the Culmstock Road. The member of the public will provide a copy to the clerk for the council’s records.</p> <p>4. <u>Hedges in the village</u>            Various hedges around the village need trimming back to stop them encroaching on to the roads and/or affecting visibility along the roads. Council to monitor the situation for the next month, as many land owners may be planning on trimming the hedges this month. Clerk will contact the owner of the hedge which is growing out from Summer Close, along the Culmstock Road affecting road visibility.</p>	<p>All Councillors</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>3. <u>Kevin Finan, Chief Executive MDDC</u></b>            Mr Finan updated the council on the following:-</p> <p>1. <u>Reduced Budget</u>            MDDC is working with a reduced grant from the government. It has made significant savings without increasing council tax and is planning on making</p>	

<p>more savings over the next few years. MDDC has reduced the workforce by 12% through natural wastage. It has increased car parking and swimming hire charges. It is trying to increase the use of IT to help with savings. MDDC's financial position (cash reserves) has improved. It has invested in solar panels on its main buildings and fitted solar panels on 1,200 of its council houses, providing free electricity for the tenants. The extra income that this generates is reinvested back into other green energy schemes.</p> <p>2. <u>Economic Development</u> MDDC has a budget of £250k for economic development, with another £100k from the Mary Portas Scheme and £100k from the High Street Innovation Fund. It is working with traders groups. A Mid Devon Business Forum has been formed to encourage networking, training and to improve activity in the business community. Over the next 25 years 2,000 homes are planned in Tiverton and 130,000m<sup>2</sup> of land will be developed for employment. MDDC is working with landowners on a master plan. It is looking at development opportunities at the northern end of Cullompton. MDDC is working closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership (Devon &amp; Somerset) as they are the main conduit for government funding.</p> <p>3. <u>Affordable Housing</u> Nationally there is a housing problem, with a shortfall of over 100,000 homes. MDDC owns 3,100 homes. 22 new homes are planned in Crediton, 6 in Willand and 10 in Tiverton. Other sites being looked at.</p> <p>4. <u>Universal Credits</u> From 1 April 2013 the national council tax benefit scheme will cease. Instead, each local council will introduce its own local council tax support scheme. Mid Devon District Council is now seeking views on its proposals. Government funding is being reduced by 10% and this will impact on the level of support that the Council can give. Under the new proposals, everyone apart from pensioners – who are protected by law – will have to pay something towards their council tax.</p>	
<p>Mr Finan then took some public questions/comments:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was concern over the lack of maintenance of some of the flats in Prowses. Mr Finan explained that MDDC has a 30 year modernisation plan, but had insufficient funds to implement the full plan. MDDC now has an extra £1m a year to spend. Mr Finan confirmed a survey has been completed reference Prowses and he will ask for a copy of the report to be sent to the Clerk.</li> <li>• A member of the public asked whether MDDC has ever considered prefab housing as a way of helping with the housing shortage. Mr Finan said that the government were in favour of prefab housing and has challenged developers to design a prefab home for around £60,000. He would feed back the comments made.</li> <li>• Junction 27 development. MDDC is supportive of development at this site as is DCC's Chief Executive.</li> </ul>	<p>Mr Finan</p> <p>Mr Finan</p>
<p><b>4. <u>Minutes from Previous Meetings and Matters Arising</u></b> The Council minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> August and 25<sup>th</sup> July were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>1. <u>Upper Culm Community Land Trust Queries (carried forward)</u> The Chairman confirmed that these were queries for the UCCLT to answer and not the Parish Council. Mrs H Stallard to ask the CLT Company secretary to respond to the member of public direct.</p> <p>2. <u>Housing Needs Survey (carried forward)</u> To be discussed in section 2 meeting to follow this meeting see 2.1 above.</p>	<p>Mrs Stallard/ CLT Company Secretary</p> <p>All</p>

<p>3. <u>New Houses in Hemyock</u> Mr McCulloch confirmed that none of the houses in question at Churchill's Rise has been sold and all are still owned by Magna Housing Association.</p> <p>4. <u>Beef &amp; Butterflies</u> Mr Povah asked that Helen Barnett keep him fully informed of the scheduled works to be completed by the Gun Club. Clerk to contact Helen Barnett.</p> <p>5. <u>Proposed Wind Turbine Planning Meeting</u> No firm date for the MDDC planning meeting, but Mr S Major will attend the meeting representing the council.</p> <p>6. <u>Road Markings outside Surgery</u> (carried forward) Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Mr Radford, Mrs Stallard, and Mr W Pike (DCC) to discuss a way forward.</p> <p>7. <u>Leat behind Redwoods</u> (carried forward) This needs clearing out. Chair will speak to Geoff Ackland.</p> <p>8. <u>South View Road</u> Mr Povah confirmed there were inconsistencies with ownership deeds. Some people clearly have deeds containing no responsibility for the maintenance of the road. Mr Finan agreed to seek clarification with MDDC.</p> <p>9. <u>Virtual Path</u> (carried forward) Mr Povah to design plans to submit to Rhys Davies and Councillor Radford. One suggestion was to use the Redwoods site as a footpath, if Redwoods leaves the village. Mrs Stallard to approach Mr Redwood.</p> <p>10. <u>Dropped Kerbs</u> Mr S Major has completed the survey. There are some areas in the village which lack dropped kerbs. Mr Major will produce a list of recommended works. Mr Major to clarify with Clerk what map he requires from DCC to complete his recommendations.</p> <p>11. <u>Benches</u> (carried forward) The survey of 17 benches in the village has been completed. Mr McCulloch will produce an action plan detailing what needs mending, replacing etc. The job will then go out to tender.</p> <p>12. <u>Station Road/Spar Footpath</u> Mr Radford has spoken to Rhys Davies (DCC) about this. For clarification, HPC will not approach residents until it knows how much the scheme will cost and how much DCC are prepared to contribute towards it. Mr Radford may contribute approximately £5k from his locality budget and it is believed that the overall scheme would cost about £25k. Mr Radford to seek confirmation of total estimated costs and let clerk have copies. HPC need to write to DCC outlining 'community welfare' and 'economic regeneration' as reasons for implementing the footpath.</p> <p>13. <u>Community Land Trust</u> (carried forward) Clerk will contact secretary of CLT (Neil Punnett) with specific questions/concerns raised previously.</p> <p>14. <u>Housing Needs Survey/Village Questionnaire</u> (carried forward) The village questionnaire was completed in December 2008. Mr McCulloch suggested the original panel get together to look at the results and decided what action, if any, needs to be taken. Mrs Stallard agreed to get the group together and take forward.</p> <p>15. <u>Pencross Lay-by</u> Mr Radford will circulate copies of 3 different proposals to councillors.</p> <p>16. <u>Recycling/Binmen</u> Mr Radford confirmed that binmen start work at 6am (7am recycling).</p> <p>17. <u>TAP Fund</u> (carried forward) HPC will need to have a separate meeting to decide what grant monies it could</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Mr S Major</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Mrs Stallard</p> <p>Mr Finan</p> <p>Mr Povah Mrs Stallard</p> <p>Mr Major Clerk</p> <p>Mr McCulloch</p> <p>Mr Radford Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Mrs Stallard</p> <p>Mr Radford</p>
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<p>apply for under this scheme. Will discuss at next meeting. (see also item 12.8)</p>	<p>All Councillors</p>
<p><b>5. <u>District Council Report</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Council Houses</u> Council Officers have the right of entry after 24 hour's notice to inspect properties in which they suspect wrongdoing, e.g. breach of occupation rules, fraud etc.</li> <li>2. <u>TAP Fund</u> Money is still available. See 4.17 above.</li> <li>3. <u>Local Government Ombudsman</u> MDDC has received a good annual review from the ombudsman with no concerns about its complaints procedure.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>6. <u>County Council Report</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 33,000 street lights have been converted to part/night lighting saving 12% on energy costs.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>7. <u>Planning</u></b></p> <p>Planning Approval was received for:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 12/000896/FULL Retention of enlarged window in west elevation, insertion of additional window and door in west elevation. Corunna, Hemyock.</li> <li>2. 12/00764/FULL Removal of conditions 4 and 5 of planning permission 10/00948/FULL to remove the association of work units to the dwellings and to allow the work units to be used either for B1 purposes or domestic storage. Land and buildings at NGR 314092 113320 Culmbridge Farm, Hemyock.</li> <li>3. 12/00796/FULL Variation of conditions 2 and 7 of planning permission 09/01844FULL. Churchills Farm, High Street, Hemyock.</li> <li>4. 12/00853/FULL Erection of covered silage pit. Great Simmonsburrow Farm, Hemyock.</li> </ol> <p>Refusal received for:-</p> <p>12/00794/CLP refusal of certificate of lawfulness for proposed conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation. 27 Logan Way, Hemyock.</p>	
<p><b>8. <u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was updated on the following financial matters:</p> <p><u>Income</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. £ 35p interest</li> <li>2. £ 88p interest</li> <li>3. £ 4p interest</li> <li>4. £ 4p interest</li> <li>5. £ 85p interest</li> <li>6. £ 88p interest</li> <li>7. £ 4p interest</li> <li>8. £512.80 Pring &amp; Son (D Barton £400.79, P Kallaway £112.01 receipt No 47)</li> <li>9. £375 DCC (grant money received for M Ridings Hemyock Youth Theatre)</li> <li>10. £1,391 Longmead (net contribution towards football pitch maintenance)</li> </ol> <p><u>Expenditure</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. £150 St Marys PCC (annual Pump contribution due 1<sup>st</sup> Oct)</li> <li>2. £20 DALC (AGM H Stallard)</li> <li>3. £44.00 Hemyock Parish Hall (monthly meetings Jul, CLT)</li> <li>4. £261.96 Clerk's wages and expenses</li> <li>5. £110.00 Mr Taylor, BMX trim and tidy</li> <li>6. £205.00 Mr I Pike, grass cutting</li> <li>7. £3,782.81 Came &amp; Co – annual insurance contribution (£2,049.74 to be contributed by Healthy Living Centre)</li> <li>8. £27.50 Hemyock Parish Hall (August meetings and CLT)</li> </ol>	

<p>9. £1,669.20 B Kingston (gross payment of maintenance work to football pitches) 10. £375 M Ridings (payment of grant money received from DCC)</p> <p>All income and 10 payments were agreed unanimously by the Council.</p> <p><u>Other Finance</u></p> <p>1. <u>Printer</u> Clerk requires new printer, scanner and copier to replace existing, now defunct one. Clerk and Mr McCulloch to source suitable all-in-one printer and purchase immediately (approximate cost £150).</p> <p>2. <u>Annual Return</u> A clean bill of health has been received from the Audit Commission. Annual Return notices were posted on noticeboards.</p>	<p>Clerk/Mr McCulloch</p>
<p><b>9. <u>Highways</u></b></p> <p>1. Station Road light is not working. Mr Povah advise Clerk of the number. 2. No 2 Mill Leat light is permanently on. Clerk to report. 3. Various hedges needing attention. See 2.4 above. 4. General weed killing needed around curb edges in village. Clerk to report</p>	<p>Mr Povah  Clerk Clerk</p>
<p><b>10. <u>Cemetery</u></b></p> <p>1. Ashculme Tree Surgeons are scheduled to complete the first phase of works on 4<sup>th</sup> October. 2. Not all graves are levelled within 12 months of a burial. Finance Committee to consider ways to introduce an upfront fee, to be reimbursed when the undertaker levels the ground.</p>	<p>Finance Committee</p>
<p><b>11. <u>Footpath Issues</u></b></p> <p>1. Mr Povah to issue a schedule of works for replacing some stiles with gates. 2. Work is underway to try to resolve the flooding issue at the bridleway by Conigar Farm/Tedburrow Lane.</p>	<p>Mr Povah</p>
<p><b>12. <u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <p>1. Design Guide for Houses issued by Blackdown Hills AONB. Clerk to get more copies for all councillors. 2. MDDC – email about future consultation arrangement for wind turbines exceeding 10m in height (to hub); ground mounted solar arrays; agricultural buildings over 500m<sup>2</sup> gross floorspace; anaerobic digesters. 3. Emergency Plan – Mr Tim Barton has agreed to act as co-ordinator of the village Emergency Plan. Clerk to write letter thanking him for volunteering. 4. DPFA – Notification of AGM 5. Parish Matters latest edition 6. Email from member of the public about the dog fouling problem at Longmead. Mount Vets, Wellington has kindly donated some ‘Dog Poop Bags’ for dog walkers/owners to use. Clerk to investigate whether they might be located at the Post Office and Spar. 7. Email from Glyn Jones circulated to all, updating current position with proposed wind turbine application. 8. Culmstock Parish Council/Cricket Club. Email received asking HPC to join forces with a few other parishes and donate £250 from its TAP fund. Mr Major to discuss proposal for coaching funding at next meeting of Hemyock Cricket Club to see if they can benefit from the funds, and will liaise with Culmstock PC. Clerk to forward email to Mr Major. 9. Email received from member of the public asking for more information on Community Speed Watch project. Clerk to email details. 10. Police Update from PCSO Tracey Peters</p>	<p>Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk/Mr Major  Clerk</p>

<p><u>Crimes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A car was reported as acting suspiciously at Station Yard, Station Road during the evening of 01/08/12. The car and occupants were searched resulting in a small quantity of cannabis being found on one of the male passengers. A cannabis warning was issued to the male.</li> <li>• We received a report of criminal damage from a resident of Hemyock. The latch on his side gate had been bent back sometime between 02/08/12 – 14/08/12.</li> <li>• We received a report via the internet on 29/08/12, that a 6 month old calf went missing from a cattle grazing area in Culm Davey between 16/08/12 – 17/08/12.</li> </ul> <p><u>Incidents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 14/08/12, we were alerted to a suspicious vehicle at the old BMX track / skate park in Station Road. The owner of the vehicle was spoken to and there were no offences.</li> <li>• On 21/08/12, the alarms at Hemyock Primary School were activated. A keyholder was contacted and attended the site. No offences were reported to us.</li> <li>• On 23/08/12, a resident informed us of a vehicle which is often driving dangerously in the village, especially in the 20mph zone. The vehicle has been noted by us and we will monitor the situation.</li> </ul> <p>The police also reported that there was no rubbish bin at the Station Yard BMX track. HPC confirmed there had previously been a bin at this site but that it was often thrown in to the river or vandalised. HPC will look at providing a more permanent solution. Carried forward for next meeting.</p>	All
<p><b>15. <u>Chairman's Business</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr Clist made the following observations/suggestions for consideration:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on allotments is required. Clerk to include update in Pump.</li> <li>• Surgery. Clerk to invite the Practice Manager to a future monthly meeting to update council on any surgery matters.</li> <li>• NALC Code of Conduct. Mr Clist has a query about the new wording. Mr Clist to give Clerk the details.</li> <li>• Mr Clist suggested the launch of an annual event to celebrate the Blackdown Hills. Mr Clist to consider how to progress this idea.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Blackdown Hills Parish Network – are looking for volunteers for a Planning Working Group and a Transport Working Group. Contact <a href="mailto:catherinejbass@gmail.com">catherinejbass@gmail.com</a> if you are interested. Clerk to mention in PR</li> <li>3. Playhouse in Parish Hall playground has been vandalised. Mr Calcraft to report to Parish Hall committee.</li> </ol>	Clerk Clerk Mr Clist Mr Clist Clerk Mr Calcraft
<p><b>16. <u>PR</u></b> The Council requested PR on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder in Parish Pump of the hotline number for reporting potholes, lights out etc.</li> <li>• Allotment update in Parish Pump</li> <li>• Blackdown Hills Parish Network – volunteers needed for working groups</li> </ul>	
<p><b>17. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u></b> Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30pm.</p>	All to note

Meeting finished at 9.55pm, move to Section 2 Meeting.

*Signed*.....*Date*.....