

Hemyock Parish Council
Monthly Meeting
held via Zoom at 7.30pm on 5th August 2020

Subject	Action
<p>1. <u>Present</u> Mr T Barton (Chair), Mr R Calcraft, Mr S Clist (Parish & District Councillor), Mr P Doble, Miss J Fouracre, Miss P Lawrence, Mr N Moon, Mr A Russell, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk), and 3 members of the public. <u>Apologies</u> Mr L Povah and Mr S Ritchie (received and accepted). Mr R Radford (County Councillor).</p>	
<p>2. <u>Declarations of Interest/Dispensations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda item 10.6 – Miss Lawrence has a personal interest as she is a member of the Calf Club project. • Agenda item 11 - Mr Russell has a personal interest as he is a member of Longmead Management Committee. • Agenda item 16 - Mr Moon has a personal interest as he is a member of the rough shoot syndicate that uses the commons. • Agenda item 18 - Miss Fouracre & Mr Calcraft each has a personal interest as they are members of The Garages Committee. • Agenda item 20 - Mr Moon and Mr Doble each has a personal interest as they are trustees of the Healthy Living & Activity Centre. 	
<p>3. <u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>3.1 Agenda item 5.2 – could it be noted that there is historic information regarding when the village has flooded? The Environment Agency lists 31 properties in the area that are at high risk of surface water flooding. A report by JBA, commissioned by MDDC, does not include a surface water management plan for Mid Devon.</p> <p>3.2 Could it be noted that at the entrance to Hemyock Turbary there is a deep ditch on the left hand side which the council may wish to take into account when creating the hard standing area?</p>	
<p>4. <u>Minutes from Previous Meeting</u> PROPOSAL: The council minutes of the 1st & 31st July are approved. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mr Moon DECISION: passed (all in favour). The minutes of the Finance Committee of 14th July were noted.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Planning</u> <i>Councillor Clist chose not to participate in any discussion with regard to the following planning applications because of his membership of the district council's planning committee.</i> The following applications were considered:-</p> <p>5.1 20/01028/FUL. Erection of a porch on North Elevation. Way Close, Hemyock. PROPOSAL: the parish council is content with the application PROPOSED: Mr Moon SECONDED: Mr Doble DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p> <p>5.2 20/00580/FUL. Erection of two dwellings and associated parking. Land at NGR 313478 113105 (Cornhill), Hemyock. PROPOSAL: the parish council is not content with the application. It makes similar comments to those made on a previous application, namely:- The parish council is not content with the application. The site is outside the defined settlement limit. The proposed development would remove a large section of native hedgerow that will exacerbate flooding in the area. Local knowledge means that we are aware that the site is prone to flooding - see photographs sent separately. The road is narrow and unsafe for pedestrians and access. It is believed that the electricity supply in the area is at maximum capacity. The bus information given in the letter is inaccurate. There is only one bus that services the village. Any development on the site will have an adverse effect on neighbouring dwellings and dwellings further downstream with regard to flooding. The government website details 31 properties in the area that are at high risk of surface water flooding. The pc challenges some of the answers given in the Foul Drainage Assessment Form,</p>	

<p>point 6c states that the system will not be installed on land that is subject to flooding and point 8 states that it will be at least 10m from a watercourse and 15m from a building. In summary, this site is unsuitable for development.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Mr Moon SECONDED: Miss Fouracre DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p> <p>Approval noted for:- 5.3 20/00799/HOUSE. Erection of garage/workshop and retention of log store, extension and alterations. Lickham Bottom Barn, Hemyock.</p>	
<p>It was agreed to bring forward the following agenda items:-</p> <p>11.4 Longmead, request for funding from football club. Sam Iddon, football club manager, gave a comprehensive presentation to the parish council. He updated the pc on his recent fundraising via Facebook to enable the club to purchase new goals. He asked for funding towards a new net behind the western goal to stop balls from going into the brook and to protect the environmental area and pedestrians from flying footballs!</p> <p>PROPOSAL: that the pc makes a donation of £450 to the club to purchase the required net. PROPOSED: Mr Doble SECONDED: Mr Clist DECISION: passed (all in favour). The clerk will send Mr Iddon a link to County Councillor Ray Radford's Locality Budget application as another possible source of funding.</p> <p>11.5 Longmead, signage. The pc has no objection to the football club erecting a sign advertising matches, subject to agreement from Longmead Management Group.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>6. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>6.1 Doors & electricity, The Parish Store – to be carried forward. 6.2 Fingerposts – to be carried forward. 6.3 South West Water – access to community land – to be carried forward. 6.4 Man Shed – Mr Calcrafft confirmed that The Garages Committee has liaised with the Scouts with regard to relocating their storage into the main room at The Garages. This will be done before a partition wall is constructed. The Garages Committee will pay for the partition from their own funds.</p>	
<p>7. <u>County Council Report</u></p> <p>Councillor Radford circulated the following report before the meeting:- I am meeting Phil Morgan, Highways, to discuss funding for `Doing what Matters`, a project that you took part in.</p> <p>Ash die-back – trees are currently being cleared along the North Devon Link Road and in Exminster, there is a risk that this work will generate public interest. Such clearance should generally always be avoided in late Spring /Summer due to potential impacts on nesting birds/dormice/ bats and other protected species. Ecological consultants are on site overseeing works and we are comfortable that no offences are being committed.</p> <p>Further National Funding Recently the Government announced the third tranche of local authority funding to support councils to continue to deliver crucial frontline services and support those most in need, this equates to a further £4.7M to DCC. Additional funding has also been provided to city and district councils and fire services. This additional funding is welcomed but local spending and investment during the COVID-19 period, some of which will be reoccurring, has been greater than the central funding received.</p> <p>Spending Adult Care and Health Services shows a net overspend of just under £5.7million, after a carry forward request of £731,000 which relates to the Better Care Fund. The overspend is mainly the result of price and activity pressures for older people and disabilities. Children's Services has an overspend of £4.4 million Children's Social Care the overspend is £1.5 million- The main cause has been a greater number of children with complex needs requiring enhanced packages of care within supported accommodation provision. Education and Learning General Fund has an overspend of £2.8 million. The most significant adverse variance is within Schools Transport. The personalised transport budget has seen increased costs and higher numbers of children with Special Educational Needs requiring personalised transport. Education and Learning has a year-end funding shortfall of £19.8 million mainly due to increased demand and rising costs around high needs and in particular Independent Special School placements. In line with requirements issued by the Department for Education, the County Council must carry forward the whole</p>	

funding shortfall to the Dedicated Schools Grant budget in future years, which will be held on the balance sheet as a negative reserve.

The following carry forwards have been agreed by the Schools Forum:

Ring fenced schools surplus balances of £16.1 million, other central and delegated balances of £3.6 million and the High Needs deficit of £19.8 million.

- **Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity** shows an overall underspend of just over £1 million after taking into account grants and contributions carry forward. Vacancies, slippage on major development projects and reduced journey numbers for national travel scheme are the main reasons.

- **Corporate Services** has an overall overspend of just over £1.1 million after taking into account grants and contributions carry forward, and any other carry forward requests.

Highways, infrastructure development and waste had an underspend of £2.2 million. Pressures within Highways and traffic management from safety defect repairs and income targets have been offset by reduced winter service activities and underspends on street lighting energy savings from LED conversions and lower waste tonnages.

Pension contribution shortfall also underspent by £1.2 million

The Better Care Fund has underspent this year and £1.0 million of the Improved Better Care Fund Grant is being carried forward into 2020/21.

Interest Receivable is £922,000 more than budgeted

The Council Tax Support Partnership budget is underspent by £279,000.

The Bellwin Scheme Related Emergencies budget of £1.5 million has not been needed and remains unspent at the year-end.

The Covid19 Pandemic started to impact the authority's finances in March and £843,000 of costs and lost income was incurred. The authority's share of the first £1.6bn Covid19 funding grant was £22.5 million and was received in March; of this £843,000 has been used to offset the costs incurred and the remaining £21.7 million is being carried forward to 2020/21. The pandemic is causing considerable financial uncertainty and the Outturn therefore includes a prudent increase in the Bad Debt Provision of £1.4 million. (Second Tranche of funding received in 2020/21)

The Brexit Preparation Grant remains unspent and it is recommended that it is carried forward to 2020/21. £217,000 infrastructure development budget was carried forward from 2018/19; this sum is committed to future capital projects and it was recommended that £208,000 is carried forward again this year.

£160,000 of additional compensation grants for Business Rates reliefs along with £2.3 millions of income from being part of the Devon Business Rates Pool have been transferred to the Business Rates Risk Reserve to help increase resilience to future fluctuations.

The Government has distributed the surplus on the Business Rates Levy Account and Devon's share of this is £344,000. This along with variances on Local Service Support Grant, Schools Improvement and other small grants have been used to balance the overall outturn position.

General Balances

- The working balance at 31st March 2019 was £14.7 million. The review of the financial risk assessment prepared when the 2019/20 Budget was set indicates that the Council should hold a working balance of about £14 million. The outturn has enabled £33,000 to be added to the working balance.

Earmarked Reserves

- At the beginning of the financial year, earmarked reserves (excluding schools and non-schools carry forwards) stood at £111.2 million. During the year earmarked reserves have increased by a net £8.8 million to £120.0 million.

- For the first time, the authority now also holds a negative reserve. The underfunding of the Dedicated Schools Grant SEND service has resulted in £19.772 million being held on the Balance Sheet. The creation of the negative reserve is in line with Government requirements and, whilst recognising this is a national issue, it is nonetheless a worrying development for Local Government. It is unclear how Government intends to rectify the historic and projected future underfunding.

Capital

- The approved Capital Programme for 2019/20 totalled £152.4 million. This figure includes £29.4 million carry forward from 2018/19 and £12.0 millions of other additions approved during 2019/20.

- Spend for the year totals £115.1 million resulting in an outturn variance of £37.3 million (actual spend in 2018/19 was £120.6 million with a variance of £50.3 millions).

- £33.9 million of the variance represents slippage across a range of schemes which is recommended to be carried forward and £3.4 million reflects savings achieved in programme delivery.

8. District Councillor Report

Councillor Clist reported that:-

The Local Plan has been voted through and adopted by the council. MDDC has distributed over £30m in business grants from the government's Covid-19 initiative. The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) is something MDDC is considering. MDDC has seen an increase in the demand for social housing. Mr Barton asked that it was noted that the Upper Culm Community Land Trust has provided over 20 homes in the village in the last few years.

9. Finance

9.1 Income and expenditure and bank reconciliation.

INCOME

1.	3,562.34	VAT reclaim
2.	150.00	Pring & Son
3.	0.78	Interest HSBC
4.	350.00	Pring and Son
5.	600.00	Pring and Son

EXPENDITURE

1.	6.00	Spot On Supplies	Toilet, consumables
2.	1,131.20	D Evans	Wages and expenses
3.	110.55	HMRC	PAYE
4.	419.66	I pike	Grass cutting and maintenance
5.	150.00	K Amor	Toilet cleaning
6.	159.07	Glasdon	Dog bags
7.	132.33	South West Water	toilets
8.	11.73	South West Water	Cemetery
9.	66.50	Npower	Toilets
10.	51.45	DCC	Hemyock road sign
11.	180.00	Roger Beaver	Longmead, maintenance
12.	52.98	FW3 Ltd	Consumables, toilets
13.	98.00	R Taylor	Footbridge tidy & BMX
14.	264.00	J Stevens	Topping turbary/commons
15.	384.00	Bussell Plant	Longmead Play Area - groundworks

BANK RECONCILIATION

HSBC Community a/c	476.45
HSBC Deposit	94,334.07
HSBC Longmead	1.27
Unity Trust Bank current	100.00
Unity Trust Bank deposit	74,445.41
Unity Trust Bank GF	710.97
Unity Trust Bank P3	1,688.21
Skipton 1-year Bond	86,173.70
United Trust Bank	77,194.74
Total	335,124.82

PROPOSAL: that the income is agreed and the above cheques/payments are paid/agreed.

PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence

SECONDED: Mr Clist

DECISION: passed (all in favour).

10. Clerk Report

10.1 BHLAC, outstanding invoice. The heating system supplier has requested the outstanding balance is paid. The BHLAC has confirmed that there are a few matters outstanding. The merits of holding back some of the invoice amount until after the winter were discussed. It was accepted that the contract the pc had agreed was to pay the final balance upon completion. The pc has an undertaking from the heating supplier with regards to the efficiency of the system.

<p>PROPOSAL: Clerk to pay outstanding balance once all of the work is completed at the centre. PROPOSED: Mr Doble SECONDED: Miss Fouracre DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p> <p>10.2 PSPO – clerk has asked for the consultation period to be extended to allow the pc to consult more widely.</p> <p>10.3 106 money – the clerk has requested a withdrawal of funds to be put towards the new play area at Longmead.</p> <p>10.4 BHLAC – the clerk has met with a tree surgeon and awaits a full report reference action required with regard to the various trees in the garden.</p> <p>10.5 New bins – MDDC has advised that any additional bins the pc may require will need to be purchased and the emptying of any bin will need to be paid for (£5+ per week). Clerk to provide Councillor Clist with information.</p> <p>10.6 Calf Club Project – the group has asked if the pc will pay for the cost of the room hire (£64) for the second film showing. PROPOSAL: the pc pays £64 to the Calf Club Project. PROPOSED: Miss Fouracre SECONDED: Mr Calcraft DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p> <p>10.7 Date for diary - VJ Day Sunday 16th August 3.45pm War Memorial. Councillor Clist will represent the pc.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>11. <u>Longmead</u></p> <p>11.1 Bridge at Longmead – it is hoped that it will be repaired by the end of August. Clerk is waiting for an update from contractor.</p> <p>11.2 Play Area – is progressing.</p> <p>11.3 BMX track – to be carried forward.</p>	
<p>12. <u>Highways</u></p> <p>12.1 Station Road pavements – clerk has written to residents to clarify parking restrictions at the end of the road at Longmead along the back of Station Road. It is hoped legal paperwork will be signed shortly to enable the creation of a new pavement on Station Road from the Spar and joining with the pavement by the Industrial Estate.</p> <p>12.2 Doing What Matters – clerk has circulated the priorities as agreed.</p>	
<p>13. <u>106 Projects</u> To be carried forward to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>14. <u>Cemetery</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>15. <u>Footpaths</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>16. <u>Commons Management Group</u></p> <p>16.1 Mr Moon has estimated the costs of the materials and has circulated to all. He was instructed to go ahead on this basis. As per the terms of the planning consent, he must ensure the relevant forms are completed and sent to MDDC before any work commences. PROPOSAL: Mr Moon is instructed to go ahead and project manage/coordinate the hardstanding and the pc will pay for all materials. PROPOSED: Mr Doble SECONDED: Miss Lawrence DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p>	
<p>17. <u>Village Maintenance</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>18. <u>Garages Youth Project</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>19. <u>Blackdown Hills Parish Network</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>20. <u>Blackdown Healthy Living & Activities Centre</u></p>	

20.1	<p>During the energy performance evaluation a small area in the loft which needs insulating was identified. Mr Russell will obtain necessary materials and arrange for the council to be invoiced directly. He will fit it free of charge.</p> <p>PROPOSAL: the pc pays for the materials to insulate the small area identified.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Mr Doble</p> <p>SECONDED: Miss Lawrence</p> <p>DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p> <p>Mr Russell will also arrange for 3 quotes for an asbestos survey.</p>	AR
20.2	<p>The surveyor's report suggests that the pc should consider protecting the wall adjacent to the BHLAC car park to prevent further damage from vehicles. Some form of crash barrier is required. Clerk to speak to Mr Povah about design, etc.</p>	AR Clerk
<p>21. <u>Asset Management</u></p>		
<p>The finance committee has been through the surveyor's reports and has visited the assets surveyed. It has referred some maintenance matters either to LMG, the BHLAC or the pc's maintenance person and is working through other issues raised.</p>		
<p>22. <u>Community Land</u></p>		
22.1	<p>Cavanna Homes – the clerk had circulated an email from MDDC planning department with regard to the play area provision. It was felt that the preferred option is for Cavanna to provide a small area within the development, even if just left as grass, and then provide play equipment on the community land.</p> <p>PROPOSAL: the pc wishes for Cavanna to provide play equipment to be located on the community land and create a small green area within the development.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Mr Barton</p> <p>SECONDED: Mr Clist</p> <p>DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p>	
<p>23. <u>Correspondence</u></p>		
23.1	<p>CPRE Summer newsletter noted.</p>	
<p>24. <u>Public Participation</u></p>		
24.1	<p>A member of the public asked for clarification reference which areas of grass at the BHLAC are the responsibility of the pc and which are the responsibility of MDDC. The clerk clarified.</p>	
<p>25. <u>PR</u></p>		
<p>Nothing to report.</p>		
<p>26. <u>Date of next Meeting</u> Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed)</p>		

Signed.....Dated.....