

**Hemyock Parish Council**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**held via Zoom at 7.30pm on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. <u>Present</u></b>            Mr T Barton (Chair), Mr R Calcraft, Mr S Clist, Mr P Doble (Vice Chair), Miss P Lawrence, Mr N Moon, Mr L Povah, Mr S Ritchie, Mr A Russell, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public.  <b><u>Apologies</u></b> Miss J Fouracre (accepted and approved)</p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Declarations of Interest/Dispensations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda item 5 – Planning – Mr Clist is a member of the planning committee of Mid Devon District Council and therefore chooses not to participate in any planning application consultation.</li> <li>• Agenda item 5.1 – Mr Povah has a personal interest as his family live adjacent to the property and he chose not to participate in this item.</li> <li>• Agenda item 5.4 – Mr Russell has a personal interest as he is a friend of the applicant and chose not to participate in this item.</li> <li>• Agenda item 11 - Mr Ritchie &amp; Mr Russell each has a personal interest as they are members of Longmead Management Committee.</li> <li>• Agenda item 15 - Mr Moon has a personal interest as he is a member of the rough shoot syndicate that uses the commons.</li> <li>• Agenda item 17 - Mr Calcraft has a personal interest as he is a member of The Garages Committee.</li> <li>• Agenda item 19 - Mr Moon and Mr Doble each has a personal interest as they are trustees of the Healthy Living &amp; Activity Centre</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. <u>Public Participation</u></b></p> <p>3.1 It was suggested that the 'keep dogs on leads' sign at the newly created car parking area at Hemyock Turbary needs to be moved to a more prominent place.</p> <p>3.2 Mr Stephan Lehner from the Repair Café attended the meeting to share his ideas for the creation of a tool library and to explain his need for premises from which to operate. If anyone has any suggestions with regards to premises available for this project please contact Mr Lehner directly on 07715460783 or 01823 421760 or e-mail <a href="mailto:sfelehner@aol.com">sfelehner@aol.com</a>.</p>	IP
<p><b>4. <u>Minutes from Previous Meeting</u></b>  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> The council minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> March are approved.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Miss Lawrence  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p>	
<p><b>5. <u>Planning</u></b>            The following applications were considered:-</p> <p>5.1 21/00365/Full. Downmead, Culmstock Road. Erection of a holiday let.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the parish council is content with the application in principle but has concerns with regard to the proposed roof and wall materials being too shiny. The proposed building would be visible and the pc would prefer to see something darker/duller.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Miss Lawrence  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour). Mr Povah abstained from voting.</p> <p>5.2 20/01868/HOUSE. The Hay Barn, Castle Hill. Revised drawings for erection of single-storey rear extension.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the parish council is content with the application.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Ritchie</p>	

<p><b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p> <p>5.3 20/01869/HOUSE. The Old Stables, Castel Hill. Revised drawings, erection of two-storey rear extension.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the parish council is content with the application.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Ritchie  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p> <p>5.4 21/00564/HOUSE. Meadowcroft, Station Road. Raising of roof to create first floor to bungalow and erection of single-storey extension to rear.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the parish council is content with the application.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Calcraft  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour). Mr Russell abstained from voting.</p> <p>Permission granted noted for:-</p> <p>5.5 20/01786/NMA. Culmstock Road. Non-material amendment to allow substitution of plan re off site highways works.</p> <p>5.6 21/00006/HOUSE. Churchills Barn, Hemyock. Erection of two-storey rear extension.</p> <p>5.7 21/00195/HOUSE. Studleys, Ashculme, Hemyock. Conversion of existing outbuilding (revised scheme and additional plans)</p> <p>5.8 21/00195/HOUSE. Studleys, Hemyock. Variation of condition 2 and 3 to allow revised and additional plans.</p>	
<p><b>6. <u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>6.1 New bin at Byes – MDDC has replaced the new rubbish bin (which kept being moved!) with a dog poo bin and fixed it to railings near the bridge across the river. This was not where the pc had intended it to go. Following the granting of permission from a landowner, the village maintenance person will re-site the bin further down the road. Clerk will inform MDDC.</p> <p>6.2 Fingerposts – the clerk has received advice from Highways confirming that any volunteers working on or near the road will need to have attended a 2-day Highways course. Volunteers may not be prepared to do this. Councillor Clist will speak to Highways for clarity and practical advice on this.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>SC</p>
<p><b>7 <u>County Council Report</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Radford circulated the following report before the meeting:-  This will have to be a short report, as we are now in purdah and I am restricted, being a County Council Candidate, in what I can do or say.</p> <p>What I do want to say is thank you for putting up with me for the last 4 years, I have enjoyed the work that I have done, it is not always easy, you can't do everything that everybody wants done, but I try and do my best and always will.</p> <p>I enjoyed being your County Councillor so much, that it is my intention to stand to represent you at County again at the elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Just a little of what is going on, I am pleased to see that the Station Road Pavement has now been submitted to the Land Registry, this has been hanging around for a long time.</p> <p>A bit about finance, I can tell you that County are in a strong financial position, over the last 4 years, we have managed your finances pretty well, even with COVID, to which I think we can see a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. Government have picked up the majority of the Covid cost, but we will still be between £5m -£6m short of which we will have to cover the cost.</p> <p>The DCC Revenue budget at month 10 is now forecasting an underspend of £3.7 million which is a £5.6 million reduction from month 8 when the predicted overspend was £1.9 million; to put in perspective that is just over one day's expenditure which indicates the scale of the operation .However not included is the projected deficit of £30.9 million on Special Education Needs and Disabilities which totals £49.8 million when including the</p>	

2019/20 deficit which will be carried forward in line with the Department of Education guidelines. Central government has confirmed additional Grant funding to help during the pandemic amounting to £91 million and DCC has made £1.75 million available to the District councils.

### **Winter Service**

There are a few more weeks of winter service possible – with a coldish snap for the coming weekend. But to date

- 17,700 tonnes of salt used this season (last season was 9,600 tonnes!).
- 2257 route treatments this season.

So considerably more activity than last year, which has a consequence as described below..

### **Scheme Delivery**

The challenging winter period and high level of gritting operations has had a corresponding impact on the delivery of the planned works. The cohort of gritter drivers is made up of Skanska operatives who are the same people tasked with delivering our other work streams during the day. They are often unable to work in the daytime if they have been driving gritters overnight or find that their normal working hours are cut short as they have been called in to undertake winter operations overnight.

The Service took an early operational decision to focus resources on repairing pothole safety defects in line with the recommendation of the CIRS Scrutiny Committee. While this has been a key factor in controlling the number of defects recorded on the network it has also impacted the programme for the delivery of planned works.

There have been other obvious barriers to delivery that we have had to overcome. The financial year 2020/21 has seen the authority deliver its largest ever capital budget of £74m. This has been a real challenge, not only in scale but also due to the relatively late announcement of the increase limiting the time to effective plan. The pandemic certainly impacted the first two months of the financial year leaving us a reduced window in which to deliver the planned works.

Despite the challenges described above the Service has been able to deliver over 95% of the budget with a limited number of schemes not being delivered before the end of March. The local teams have tried to work together to prioritise schemes that are important to communities to minimise the impact of the delays.

### **Traffic Flows**

Generally traffic flows have been steadily rising, the last week for which data is available shows an overall reduction of 24% below 2020 levels. The M5, A30 and A38 are showing a reduction of about 40%.

### **Skanska/Milestone**

The team have been working hard on the Novation of the Term Contract from Skanska Infrastructure Services to Milestone Infrastructure Services (part of M group Services). With the complexities of the divestment (involving 23 other contracts) the date of our novation has been put back one month to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021. Due diligence has been completed and the team are working to this revised date.

Many thanks for your support over the last 4 years, and if re-elected, I will support you all for another 4 years.

Councillor Clist reported:-

MDDC is busy distributing the restart grants from Government, which are aimed particularly at the hospitality sector. A 152-acre site for a solar array in Mid Devon had come before the planning committee but more information has been requested before a decision is made.

Councillor Clist is dealing with an incident involving a child who injured themselves on a wire fence between Eastlands and South View. He will liaise with Mr Povah about design of any replacement fence.

SC/LP

## 9 Finance

9.1 Income and expenditure and bank reconciliation.

### INCOME

No	Amount	From
1	.80	Interest, HSBC
2	50.00	AG Real & Son
3	250.00	AG Real & Son
4	0.72	Interest, HSBC
5	200.00	AG Real & Son
6	1761.00	DCC grant, Longmead Enviro Area
7	61.75	WPD, wayleave

### EXPENDITURE

No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1.	1146.70	D Evans	Wages and expenses
2.	73.65	HMRC	PAYE
3.	150.00	K Amor	Toilet cleaning
4.	338.98	I Pike	Village maintenance
5.	41.67	Npower	Electricity, toilets
6.	50.40	Steepholding	Longmead Environmental Area
7.	22.99	FW3 Ltd	Consumables, public toilets
8.	636.23	MDDC	Rates, car park
9.	250.00	BHPN	Subscription
10.	968.80	Ashfords	Legal fees, Station Road pavement
11.	1245.97	D Evans	Reimbursement, IT
12.	18.00	Unity Trust Bank	Bank charge
13.	1125.00	A Brooke	Grass cutting, Longmead
14.	100.00	P Slater	Reimbursement, Longmead Environmental Area
15.	168.00	K Barr	Longmead, Environmental Area
16.	290.00	N Page	P3 footpath work

### BANK RECONCILIATION

Account	Amount
HSBC Community a/c	477.72
HSBC Deposit	94,340.35
Unity Trust Bank current	82.00
Unity Trust Bank deposit	38,237.88
Unity Trust Bank GF	710.97
Unity Trust Bank P3	1,688.21
Skipton 1-year Bond	86,173.70
United Trust Bank	78,709.80

Total	300,420.63	
<p><b>PROPOSAL:</b> that the income is agreed and the above cheques/payments are paid/agreed.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Russell  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p>		
<p><b>10. Clerk Report</b></p> <p>10.1 Pump refurb – The clerk has made contact with the conservation officer at MDDC. They will meet on site to discuss refurbishment when Covid restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>10.2 Station Road Pavement – the mapping query has been resolved and new plans sent to the Land Registry.</p> <p>10.3 Future meetings after 7<sup>th</sup> May and delegation –  Existing laws that allow for councils to hold virtual meetings expire on 7<sup>th</sup> May.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> that the council holds its Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting will consist of a summary of the year by the chairman. The annual meeting of the council will follow at 7.40pm on the same evening and at which the election of the chairman will be the first item on the agenda.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Russell  <b>SECONDED:</b> Miss Lawrence  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p> <p><b>PROPOSAL:</b> Once face-to-face meetings resume, after 7<sup>th</sup> May, the council delegates all authority to the clerk, in consultation with councillors, if the council is unable to meet or is inquorate due to restrictions or problems associated with Covid.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Miss Lawrence  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Russell  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p> <p>10.4 Play Area – Lower Greenfield – Councillor Clist is chasing a response from the legal department at MDDC.</p> <p>10.5 Litter-Picking Equipment – this will be carried forward until after the county councillor elections when the pc will apply for funding from the locality budget.</p> <p>10.6 Water leak at public toilets - the clerk confirmed that SWW has applied a credit to the account, following the recent leak.</p>		
<p><b>11. Longmead</b></p> <p>11.1 SWW – It was agreed that the pc needs a more detailed breakdown of the costs of reinstatement at Longmead before finalising a claim. Clerk will chase a detailed breakdown.</p> <p>11.2 Trim Trail – Mr Ritchie is in the process of obtaining quotations to resurface the trim trail in a variety of different surfaces. Mr Calcraft will provide Mr Ritchie with contact details of a contractor he recommends. Matters such as width, surface, distance and grant funding were mentioned. Mr Ritchie will report back.</p> <p>11.3 Skateboard Park – Mr Russell updated councillors following his meeting at Longmead. Parents, children and other interested parties are canvassing opinion in the village and a social media profile has been created for the proposed skatepark. As yet the pc does not know the likely cost, how big an area is required or where it might be best located (taking into consideration noise and visibility). Mr Russell will report back to the skateboarders and it was suggested that, once the group have more information, a meeting should be organised with the group to discuss the matter further.</p> <p>11.4 Bridge – the bridge at Longmead has been taken away a month earlier than planned. Brookridge Timber has suggested the bridge is in a poorer state than expected. Mr Povah will liaise with Mr Brooke and Mr Kingston to decide the best way forward for any wooden replacement. Mr Povah will also investigate the possibility of replacing the wooden bridge with a steel one.</p>		
<p><b>12 Highways</b> Nothing to report.</p>		
<p><b>13 Cemetery</b> Nothing to report.</p>		

<p><b>14 <u>Footpaths</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>15 <u>Commons Management Group</u></b> Mr Moon has liaised with the gun club and reminded them of their obligation with regard to the topping of the Turbary.</p>	
<p><b>16. <u>Village Maintenance</u></b> The Parish Store – nails are protruding from the woodwork and need attention. Mr Pike to action.</p>	IP
<p><b>17. <u>Garages Youth Project</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>18. <u>Blackdown Hills Parish Network</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>19. <u>Blackdown Healthy Living &amp; Activities Centre</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>20. <u>Asset Management</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>21. <u>Community Land</u></b> 21.1 Foot Anstey – the council's legal adviser acting on its behalf with regard to the transfer of the community land. <b>PROPOSAL:</b> that the council instructs Foot Anstey to conduct all the necessary conveyancing searches at a cost of £1,250.00 (in addition to the £1,250 originally quoted for acting.) <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Doble <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Clist <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p>	
<p><b>22. <u>Correspondence</u></b> 22.1 Open Spaces, Spring edition noted. 22.2 Email from parishioner suggesting the planting of blossom trees in village. The pc suggested it might plant blossom trees on the community land. 22.3 Email from church with regard to post-Covid village celebration noted.</p>	
<p><b>23. <u>Public Participation</u></b> 23.1 Mr Lehner requested that the pc considers funding the repair café if he is successful in finding premises and also asked the pc to bear the repair café in mind if any future community buildings become available.</p>	
<p><b>24. <u>PR</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>25. <u>Date of next Meeting</u></b> Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (via Zoom) 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting (summary of year from chair) 7.40pm Annual Meeting of the Council</p>	

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