

**Hemyock Parish Council**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**held at Parish Hall at 7.30pm on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. <u>Present</u></b>            Mr P Doble (Chair), Mr S Ritchie (Vice Chair), Mr R Calcraft, Mr S Clist, Miss P Lawrence, Mr N Moon, Mr A Russell, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Bob Evans (Deputy Leader) and members of the public.  <b><u>Apologies</u></b> Mr T Barton and Mr L Povah (accepted and approved) and County Councillor R Radford.</p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Declarations of Interest/Dispensations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda item 6 – 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 8 - Mr Ritchie &amp; Mr Russell each has a personal interest as they are members of Longmead Management Committee.</li> <li>• Agenda item 18 - Mr Moon has a personal interest as he is a member of the rough shoot syndicate that uses the commons.</li> <li>• Agenda item 20 - Mr Calcraft has a personal interest as he is a member of The Garages Committee.</li> <li>• Agenda item 22 - Mr Moon has a personal interest as he is a trustee of the Healthy Living &amp; Activity Centre.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. <u>Public Participation</u></b>            Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>The following agenda items were dealt with:-            Longmead</p> <p>8.1 Skatepark. After the last meeting, at which the tennis club objected strongly to the suggested site of the proposed skatepark, an alternative site was put forward. The council believes this alternative site does not meet the criteria for keeping anti-social behaviour to a minimum by siting the skatepark in a central, well-used location. The clerk will arrange for the tennis club, skatepark team and councillors to visit Tiverton skatepark to gauge the noise level generated by a skatepark.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>4. <u>Length of meetings</u></b></p> <p>4.1 To suspend standing orders to consider a motion to make an amendment to standing orders.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> The council suspends standing orders to consider the following motion.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Doble  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Clist  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p> <p>4.2 Mr Doble asked that the council considers changing its standing order so that meetings starting at 7.30pm will end no later than 9.15pm.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> The council amends the existing standing order 3 (x) from 'a council meeting shall not exceed 3 hours' to 'a council meeting shall not exceed 1¾ hours'  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Doble  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Ritchie  <b>DECISION:</b> failed (3 for, 4 against).            Mr Moon then put forward  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> The council amends the existing standing order 3 (x) from 'a council meeting shall not exceed 3 hours' to 'a council meeting shall not exceed 2 hours'  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>SECONDED:</b> Miss Lawrence  <b>DECISION:</b> passed. (all in favour).</p>	

**5. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

**PROPOSAL:** The council minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> August are approved with one amendment to include the personal interest declaration from Miss Lawrence.

**PROPOSED:** Miss Lawrence

**SECONDED:** Mr Russell

**DECISION:** passed (all in favour).

**6. Planning**

The following applications were considered:-

6.1 21/01668/HOUSE. Conversion of part of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation and installation of solar panels on south facing roof. Barnfield, Madford Farm, Hemyock.

**PROPOSAL:** the parish council is content with the application.

**PROPOSED:** Mr Russell

**SECONDED:** Mr Ritchie

**DECISION:** passed (all in favour).

Permission granted noted for:-

6.2 21/00978/HOUSE. 11 Station Road, Hemyock. Conversion of loft to living accommodation with dormer window.

6.3 21/01203/HOUSE. 18 Lower Millhayes, Hemyock. Erection of single-storey rear extension.

6.4 21/01270/HOUSE. Pikes Cottage, Hemyock. Erection of a garage/workshop/store.

6.5 21/01140/FULL. Pring and Son Funeral Directors, Culmstock Road. Erection of replacement timber storage shed.

**7. Finance**

Income and expenditure and bank reconciliation.

**INCOME**

No	Amount	From
1	0.78	Interest, HSBC
2	1,133.33	Culmstock PC, defibrillator
3	905.15	Interest, United Trust Bank
4	.80	Interest, HSBC

**EXPENDITURE**

No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1.	15,840.44	J Stevens	Trim trail, Longmead
2.	2,908.01	Came & Company	Insurance
3.	40.00	Hemyock parish hall	Room hire
4.	127.50	K Amor	Toilet cleaning
5.	571.00	I Pike	Village maintenance
6.	894.98	D Evans	Wages and expenses
7.	44.81	Npower	Electricity, toilets
8.	106.00	R Taylor	Village maintenance
9.	480.00	PKF Littlejohn	External audit fee
10	160.00	Andrea Rickard	Longmead Enviro Area, scythe tuition
11	22.99	FW3	Toilet, consumables
12	13,890.84*	J Stevens	Trim trail, Longmead

*No1 already paid – to be ratified*

**BANK RECONCILIATION**

Account	Amount
HSBC Community a/c	477.72
HSBC Deposit	94,344.31
Unity Trust Bank current	84.00
Unity Trust Bank deposit	54,721.09
Unity Trust Bank GF	710.97
Unity Trust Bank P3	893.21

Skipton 1-year bond	86,906.18	
United Trust Bank	79,613.87	
Total	317,751.35	
<p><b>PROPOSAL:</b> that the income is agreed and the above cheques/payments are paid/agreed.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Lawrence  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Russell  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p>		
<p><b>8. Longmead</b>  8.2 Bridge – the abutment work has been completed. The bridge manufacturer has to arrange for bridge components to be galvanised. It should be delivered in September.  8.3 CCTV – Sam Iddon, Hemyock Football Club, circulated some information on costs for CCTV at Longmead.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the pc agrees in principle to install CCTV at Longmead but requires more information on costs (installing and ongoing) and a more detailed proposal.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Ritchie  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p>		
<p><b>9. Correspondence</b>  9.1 Reef &amp; Beef – request to pitch at Longmead weekly. The pc suggested that businesses might be charged for having a weekly pitch. The clerk will investigate if there are any regulatory issues with regard to charging for a pitch.</p>		Clerk
<p><b>10. Community Land</b>  Several council members met on site with Cavanna to discuss the removal of topsoil on the fields which will become the community land. Cavanna has assured the pc that once it has spread any subsoil from the development site onto the two fields, all topsoil will be put back. After discussion it was agreed that instead of spreading subsoil over both fields, Cavanna will spread the subsoil mainly on the lower parts of the western field.</p>		
<p><b>11. Matters Arising</b>  11.1 Pavement to school – Highways has cancelled the original scheme to slurry seal the pavement and we wait for new works to be scheduled.</p>		
<p><b>12. County Council Report</b>  Councillor Radford circulated the following report before the meeting:-</p> <p>Coronavirus in Devon, the government has announced that Devon, Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, are designated as an ‘enhanced response area’. This is in response to the very high case rates of coronavirus in these five authority areas. With that designation comes additional support to those areas from the government in terms of testing, vaccination, and comms support.</p> <p>Devon County Council has recognised that much of the decision processes on highway maintenance is made centrally, and has begun the process of allocating more spending at a local level. We have always encouraged Parish Councils to bring issues to their local Neighbourhood Highways Officer, and this is part of the process, along with highway inspections reports from our road condition survey vehicles, that allows the local neighbourhood team to establish community priorities. It is intended that Parish Councils will be formally consulted on maintenance priorities in their areas in the future, but there are well over one hundred parish councils in our Western team area alone and this means that this consultation will have to be phased in over time, as we establish an effective method for doing this.</p> <p>In order to target funding where it can be most effective it is inevitable that more funding will be spent on higher category roads, which carry more traffic. Outside of this we also try to apply asset management principles to the work that we do. This is why you have noted that some roads are prioritised when there are others in a worse condition. In practise this means that the life of some roads can be extended by the timely intervention of treatments such as surface dressing, whereas</p>		

other roads that may be in worse condition will need more expensive interventions, such as reconstruction, and will need to wait until funding is available for that work.

Around £730,000 has been awarded to a scheme to help update farmers and landowners in Devon and Somerset on upcoming changes to funding support. Devon County Council is one of 19 organisations across the country to receive a share of The Future Farming Resilience Fund from Defra. The funding support is in preparation for the Agricultural Transition Period which runs up to the end of 2027 as the government phases out EU funded Direct Payments and introduces a new system. It will provide more than 770 farmers with the opportunity to attend information workshops. Any farmer or land manager currently in receipt of Direct Payments is eligible to apply. Defra will be evaluating these projects and others around the country as it looks to scale-up a national scheme which is due to be launched in April 2022. Anyone who wants to find out more about the programme in the Heart of the South West area contact [farmingresilience@devon.gov.uk](mailto:farmingresilience@devon.gov.uk)

#### CDS - MOBILE BOOST SCHEME

A scheme to improve mobile phone coverage in rural parts of Devon and Somerset is being expanded.

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) has announced that its Mobile Boost Programme, which aims to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in “not-spot” areas, now includes a greater choice of equipment.

The initiative, which is being funded through the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership’s (HotSWLEP) Growth Deal, aims to improve the quality of mobile phone calls and connectivity. It is targeting small businesses and households in rural communities who currently have inadequate coverage, or have access to only one provider and are currently struggling with connectivity.

Businesses and households can apply for a voucher of up to £1,200 towards the cost of a mobile signal booster from a registered supplier. The value of the voucher will be dependent on the type of technology most suitable for the premises.

Businesses and residents applying through the scheme need to complete a form self-certifying that they cannot receive an adequate indoor 4G mobile signal. Applicants will be emailed a voucher code which can be used with one of the registered scheme suppliers.

#### **13. District Councillor Report**

Councillor Clist will send a report before the next meeting.

#### **14. Clerk Update**

14.1 The council has a vacancy as a consequence of Jo Fouracre’s resignation. The pc awaits confirmation from MDDC that it may co-opt a new member to the council.

14.2 External Audit – the council has had its annual return approved by the external auditor without comment.

#### **15. Highways**

15.1 Several hedges in the village are encroaching onto the road and need trimming. Mr Clist will provide details to the clerk who will then write to the relevant homeowners. SC

**16. Cemetery** nothing to report.

**17. Footpaths** nothing to report.

#### **18. Commons Management Group**

The fallen tree and clearance work at Lickham will be completed this month. Mr Moon will order a drainage pipe for the gateway. NM

#### **19. Village Maintenance**

19.1 Mr Pike was asked to treat all of the external doors at The Garages and shed with OSMO.

19.2 Mr Pike was asked to repair the fencing in the play area at Longmead.

**20. Garages Youth Project** Nothing to report.

<p><b>21. <u>Blackdown Hills Parish Network</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>22. <u>Blackdown Healthy Living &amp; Activities Centre</u></b>  22.1 Crash Barrier – Mr Ritchie has met with Mr Povah and they have agreed a scheme to reduce the height of the brick wall to one brick and install concrete and posts and rails.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the pc agrees to the design and Mr Ritchie will obtain quotation for the works.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Ritchie  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Clist  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).  22.2 The impact on the centre’s finances as a consequence of the pandemic continues to be felt. It is currently paying wages from reserves and the centre asks if the pc would pay for the oil tank to be filled. It was suggested that the pc has already contributed heavily to the centre over the last few years but that it would be prepared to give the centre an interest-free loan.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the pc will provide the centre with an interest-free loan to fund the filling of the oil tank.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Clist  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Moon  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p>	
<p><b>23. <u>Asset Management</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>24. <u>Items raised by chairman</u></b>  The chairman thanked Mr Ritchie for his work in coordinating the resurfacing of the trim trail. *Mr Ritchie confirmed that there remained a small amount of trim trail still to be laid to link it to the new bridge and therefore suggested that J Stevens be paid £10,000 with £3,890.84 to be held until the job is completed.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the pc pays £10,000 to J Stevens with a further £3,890.84 to be paid on completion.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Ritchie  <b>SECONDED:</b> Miss Lawrence  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p>	
<p><b>25. <u>Items raised by councillors</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>26. <u>Public Participation</u></b>  26.1 Councillor Bob Evans will provide the clerk with a link to some possible funding towards CCTV at Longmead.  26.2 It was suggested that CCTV might also resolve problems with dog mess at Longmead.  26.3 A parishioner asked that members of the public be kept informed of decisions made by the council. Clerk will send the parishioner the minutes once available so that the parishioner may read them before the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>27. <u>PR</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>28. <u>Date of next Meeting</u></b>  Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm, Parish Hall, Hemyock.</p>	
<p><b>29. <u>Exclusion of public &amp; press</u></b> – Chair moved that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential /sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.</p>	
<p><b>30. <u>Overage</u></b>  Following the granting of planning permission on the site of the old BMX track, an overage clause has come into effect and the developer has put forward a proposed valuation. The clerk has contacted two professional valuers and received advice and quotations. Mr Ritchie suggested the pc should engage both experts so that the pc then has 3 valuations (including the one from the developer) and use this information to negotiate the matter itself. It was agreed that the pc would prefer to engage one expert and for that expert to deal with all negotiations.  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> the pc to instruct Richard Miller to act on its behalf.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Doble  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Clist  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour).</p>	

**31. Community Land**

Mr Barton circulated his report following a meeting with the homeowners with regard to gaining access to the proposed community land. A discussion ensued around the need for a covenant to prevent any future development or an overage clause to benefit from any uplift in value of the land if planning permission was granted in the future. However, it was agreed that neither of these were appropriate or necessary.

**PROPOSAL:** the pc accepts the offer as per Mr Barton's report.

**PROPOSED:** Mr Clist

**SECONDED:** Mr Moon

**DECISION:** passed (6 for, 1 against). Mr Ritchie voted against the proposal as he believed other access options should be explored and an overage or covenant should be put in place.

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