

Hemyock Parish Council
Monthly Meeting
held at Parish Hall at 7.30pm on 1st December 2021

Subject	Action
<p>1. <u>Present</u> Mr P Doble (Chair), Mr S Ritchie (Vice Chair), Mrs P Dayus-Jones, Miss P Lawrence, Mr L Povah, Mr A Russell, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk) and members of the public. <u>Apologies</u> Mr T Barton (unwell), Mr N Moon (unwell) and Mr R Calcraft (away) received and approved. County Councillor R Radford and District & Parish Councillor S Clist.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Declarations of Interest/Dispensations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda item 5 – Planning – Mr Clist is a member of the planning committee of Mid Devon District Council and chooses not to participate in any planning application consultation. • Agenda item 8 - Mr Ritchie & Mr Russell each has a personal interest as they are members of Longmead Management Committee. • Agenda item 21 - Mr Doble has a personal interest as he is a trustee of the Healthy Living & Activity Centre. 	
<p>3. <u>Public Participation</u> 3.1 A parishioner asked why Culmstock Road would be closed from 6-10 December. During the meeting it was confirmed that the closure was to enable safe working to carriageway boxes.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Minutes from Previous Meeting</u> PROPOSAL: The council minutes of the 3rd November are approved. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mr Povah DECISION: passed (all in favour). Mr Clist abstained from voting as he was not present at the meeting. The minutes of the finance committee meeting of 25th November 2021 were noted.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Planning</u> The following applications were considered:-</p> <p>5.1 21/02249/FULL. Erection of an agricultural storage barn. Rodleigh Farm, Hemyock. PROPOSAL: the council is content with the application. Mr Ritchie asked if the effect on any 4G internet connection would be a planning consideration. PROPOSED: Mr Ritchie SECONDED: Mr Russell DECISION: passed (all in favour) Mr Clist asked Mr Ritchie to email him his concerns and he will ask for clarification from the planning department.</p> <p>5.2 21/02160/HOUSE. Erection of a conservatory to rear. 7 Higher Millhayes, Hemyock. PROPOSAL: the council is content with the application. PROPOSED: Mr Ritchie SECONDED: Mr Russell DECISION: passed (all in favour)</p> <p>Permission granted noted for:-</p> <p>5.3 21/01731/HOUSE. Erection of a detached granny annexe. Parkview, Withy Lane, Hemyock.</p> <p>5.4 21/01708/HOUSE. Erection of single-storey extensions and porch. Scotland Farm, Hemyock.</p> <p>5.5 21/00464/FULL. Change of use of land from agriculture to camping site (4 Pitches). North of Lickham Bottom, Hemyock.</p> <p>5.6 21/01914/HOUSE. Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 18/01377/HOUSE to allow the substitution of previously approved plans - Erection of an extension. Whitehall View, Hemyock.</p> <p>Refusal noted for:-</p> <p>5.7 21/01316/FULL. Erection of an agricultural building, greenhouse, irrigation pond, ground mounted solar PV panels and associated works. Castle Hill, Hemyock.</p>	SR/SC

6. Finance**6.1 Income and expenditure and bank reconciliation.****INCOME**

No	Amount	From
1	.78	Interest, HSBC
2	923.11	BHLAC, insurance contribution
3	850.00	DCC grant (Skatepark)
4	500.00	Pallex grant (skatepark)
5	20.00	Exe Valley Pizza donation, Longmead
6	.80	Interest, HSBC
7	400.00	Stonehenge Masonry

EXPENDITURE

No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1.	226.00	Event insurance	Grant to Hemyock's Big Visit
2.	127.50	K Amor	Toilet cleaning
3.	258.34	I Pike	Village maintenance
4.	1,031.55	D Evans	Wages and expenses
5.	55.42	HMRC	PAYE
6.	46.22	Npower	Electricity, toilets
7.	44.70	Hemyock Parish Hall	Room hire
8.	47.17	Signomatic	Cemetery sign
9.	36.00	DALC	Training
10	45.00	Open Spaces	Subscription
11	1,187.15	R & W Brooke	Insurance, The Garages
12	263.09	Glasdon	Village maintenance
13	209.70	D Evans	Reimbursement, traffic cones
14	1,272.42	MDDC	Grass cutting
15	3,532.08	BK Construction	Bridge abutments, Longmead
16	480.00	J Stevens	Soil levelling/disposal, Longmead trim trail
17	84.00	T Brooke	Hedge trimming, Longmead

BANK RECONCILIATION

Account	Amount
HSBC Community a/c	477.72
HSBC Deposit	94,346.69
Unity Trust Bank current	100.00
Unity Trust Bank deposit	69,296.85
Unity Trust Bank GF	710.97
Unity Trust Bank P3	2,224.21
Skipton 1-year Bond	86,906.18
United Trust Bank	79,613.87
Total	333,676.49

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

PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence

SECONDED: Mrs Dayus-Jones

DECISION: passed (all in favour).

6.2 Recommendations from the finance committee:-

6.2.1 Vire £50 from 'other grant budget' to poppy appeal budget

PROPOSAL: the pc agrees to the virement.

PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence

SECONDED: Mr Doble

DECISION: passed (all in favour).

<p>6.2.2 Set the precept for 2022 at £87,037 keeping the band D property annual rate at £97.31. PROPOSAL: the precept is set at £87,037. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mrs Dayus-Jones DECISION: passed (5 for, 2 against). Mr Clist & Mr Ritchie believed the precept should be reduced.</p> <p>6.2.3 Make a donation of £100 to Mid Devon Mobility PROPOSAL: the pc makes a donation of £100 to Mid Devon Mobility. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mr Russell DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p> <p>6.2.4 The pc discusses and agrees an ownership and reporting structure for the skatepark. PROPOSAL: the pc agrees to discuss the skatepark. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mr Russell DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p>	
<p>7. <u>Longmead</u></p> <p>7.1 Skatepark – an email from the tennis club with regard to the skatepark was noted. No further action necessary.</p> <p>7.2 Overflow car park area – Mr Russell suggested the overflow car park area at Longmead needs improving. He will arrange a site visit to discuss his ideas.</p>	AR
<p>8. <u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>8.1 Email about state of roads and volume of traffic on roads. Clerk was asked to write to parishioner informing her that most of the issues raised are outside of the control of the parish council. It was suggested that the pc needs to update the webpage to show what it is and isn't responsible for and needs to agree a communication strategy. Mrs Dayus-Jones will take this forward.</p> <p>8.2 Email about state of road near Buncombe Cottage. Devon Highways are dealing with this.</p> <p>8.3 War memorial – the clerk has asked for advice from MDDC conservation officer with regard to any remedial work to the listed memorial. However, Mr Povah has suggested that the surface around the memorial also needs attention. He will obtain quotes to improve the surface.</p> <p>8.4 Letter reference secretary of state permission for planning applications on common land noted. The clerk has asked for more information from the parishioner..</p> <p>8.5 CPRE winter newsletter noted.</p>	Clerk PDJ Clerk LP
<p>9 <u>Community Land</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>10. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>10.1 Noticeboards – There has been some confusion about this. As agreed, Mrs Dayus-Jones had approached the Community Shed about making two noticeboards. They are happy to make if the pc pay for the materials. Mr Calcraft had also approached a parishioner asking for a quote to make two noticeboards. The parishioner had mistakenly gone ahead and purchased some materials and provided a quote. The pc agreed that it had asked the Community Shed to make them (free of charge) and the pc would pay for the materials.</p> <p>10.2 Parish Hall – the pc awaits final confirmation from the hall committee with regard to the basketball hoop and Purple Peril.</p>	
<p>11. <u>County Council Report</u> Councillor Radford circulated the following report before the meeting:- There has been quite a bit of disruption to the road network in Hemyock but Gigaclear are nearing completion. I was pleased to be able to support an application for Longmead Environmental Area through the locality budget. COVID case rates in Devon have continued to rise, with Torridge now reaching more than 1,000 cases per 100,000 of population - one of the highest case rates in the country.</p>	

Elsewhere in the county there are local pockets where case rates are rising significantly, with Devon's average rate overall still higher than the England average.

Employment levels are now higher than prior to the pandemic across Devon. The economy has however seen a decline in the levels of self-employed individuals, and the numbers of people on universal credit is higher currently than before the pandemic, suggesting that whilst we have strong employment, earnings are not keeping pace and we are starting to see rising numbers of working poor.

We are rapidly approaching the 'business end' of the financial year where month 6 and 7 figures show no slowdown in demand as we move into winter, not least where higher needs in education requirements are increasing pressures. Winter is the traditional time for a peak surge of demand on services across DCC, but frankly currently every day is 'winter' before we get to Christmas.

One of the key factors in setting our budget for the following year, as well as informing future years setting, is the settlement we receive from central Government. This is largely based on a formula which enables the DCC finance team to predict the amount we are likely to receive and set the budget, together with any additional support as 'one offs' e.g. Covid support money is temporary and not something we can depend on in future years. The settlement figure or at least a strong idea of the amount for DCC should be known at the back end of December, early January. A bit more levelling up here recognising deprivation in large parts of our largely rural county would be appreciated. Devon is not the land of milk and honey for many of our residents that many outside of the South West would think, not least in the amount per pupil our school pupils receive compared to other local authorities.

The various service areas are now putting to the finance team what they think they will need for 2022/23 with plenty of opportunity for members to have a view on budget proposals culminating in rounds of scrutiny meetings at the end of January and final budget setting at Full Council on the 17th of February 2022 where we set the legally required balanced budget within the resources available to us. Ongoing pressures, largely as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, are likely to have a significant impact on DCC in the same way they are everywhere else in our society.

Retrofitting our estate

Recently approved at cabinet a £3.3 million scheme that will cut carbon emissions and reduce energy use on our buildings in Exeter, Barnstaple, Tavistock and Honiton.

Insulation will be improved and solar panels and air source heat pumps will be installed along with mechanical ventilation that recovers heat and LED lighting.

Work will start this month and be completed in 2022.

Environment

Right Place Right Tree Guidance for Devon This new guidance, which will help inspire and guide people in their woodland creation and tree planting ambitions, was launched at the DALC conference on 7th October. The guidance is being promoted as part of the Local Nature Partnership's 'Trees for Devon' initiative and has resulted from a funding partnership led by DCC with the Blackdown Hills AONB, East Devon AONB. The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission have also been active members of the project steering group. The guidance highlights the many benefits of trees and the reasons why we need to increase woodland cover in Devon.

12. District Council Report

Nothing to report.

13. Clerk Update

13.1 General Data Protection Regulations – the clerk has recommended that the pc has a GDPR audit at a cost of £150 and appoints a Data Protection Officer at an annual cost of £150.

PROPOSAL: the pc agrees to the GDPR audit and appointment of a DPO.

PROPOSED: Mrs Dayus-Jones

SECONDED: Mr Clist

DECISION: passed. (all in favour).

14. Highways

14.1	Mr Povah will chase Highways for a date for repair of the bank between the church and the castle.	LP
14.2	Mr Clist volunteered to join the Devon Countryside Access Forum. Mr Clist to check eligibility and apply.	SC
15.	<u>Cemetery</u> Nothing to report.	
16.	<u>Footpaths</u> The team of volunteers who walk the footpaths will be conducting their annual surveys shortly.	
17.	<u>Commons Management Group</u>	
17.1	Hemyock Turbary ditch clearance – Mr Moon proposed that the pc clears a ditch to prevent flooding of certain areas of the turbary and the creation of a circular walk. PROPOSAL: the pc agrees to the proposal. PROPOSED: Mr Clist SECONDED: Mrs Dayus-Jones DECISION: passed. (all in favour).	
17.2	Horse riding – over winter months. The clerk has obtained advice from Open Spaces with regard to protecting the land over winter. PROPOSAL: the pc agrees to erect signage asking horse riders not to gallop over the turbary during the winter months. PROPOSED: Mr Clist SECONDED: Mrs Dayus-Jones DECISION: passed. (all in favour).	
18.	<u>Village Maintenance</u> Nothing to report.	
19.	<u>Garages Youth Project</u> Nothing to report.	
20.	<u>Blackdown Hills Parish Network</u> Nothing to report.	
21.	<u>Blackdown Healthy Living & Activities Centre</u>	
21.1	Crash Barrier. Nothing to report.	
21.2	Tree Works PROPOSAL: the pc appoints Ashculme Tree Surgeons to attend to the trees at the BHLAC. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mr Clist DECISION: passed. (all in favour).	
21.3	Sensory Garden – Miss Lawrence asked that the pc agrees in principle to the BHLAC creating a sensory garden at the centre. PROPOSAL: the pc agrees in principle to the creation of a sensory garden. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mr Doble DECISION: passed. (all in favour).	
21.4	Mrs Dayus-Jones reported that she was unable to heat the rooms to the desired temperature and that the heating was having to be run overnight. The solar venting system was circulating cold air which was adding to the problems. She will refer back to NuVision, the installers, for advice.	PDJ
22.	<u>Asset Management</u> Nothing to report.	
23.	<u>Items raised by chairman</u>	
23.1	To consider adopting a new working practice to include sending an update report to accompany the agenda. PROPOSAL: the pc adopts a new working practice to include sending an update report to accompany the agenda. PROPOSED: Mr Doble SECONDED: Miss Lawrence	

<p>23.2</p> <p>23.3</p>	<p>DECISION: passed. (all in favour).</p> <p>To consider not meeting in August (unless there are planning applications)</p> <p>PROPOSAL: the pc agrees not to meet in August, unless there are planning applications to consider..</p> <p>PROPOSED: Mr Povah</p> <p>SECONDED: Mr Clist</p> <p>DECISION: passed. (all in favour).</p> <p>To consider changing the venue of council meetings to the BHLAC. It was agreed to carry this proposal forward to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>24.</p> <p>24.1</p> <p>24.2</p>	<p><u>Items raised by councillors</u></p> <p>Mr Ritchie has liaised with the contractor resurfacing the trim trail. During the work the contractor incurred additional expenses for expansion joints and increased costs of materials. Mr Ritchie confirmed this amounted to £500.</p> <p>PROPOSAL: the pc agrees to pay the additional £500 subject to the contractor making good the large paw prints which have appeared in the concrete.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Mr Doble</p> <p>SECONDED: Mr Ritchie</p> <p>DECISION: passed. (all in favour). Mr Clist abstained from voting. Mr Povah congratulated the contractor on a first class job.</p> <p>Miss Lawrence enquired if anyone in the parish might be organising an event to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee next year?</p>	
<p>25.</p>	<p><u>Public Participation</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>26.</p>	<p><u>PR</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>27.</p>	<p><u>Date of next Meeting</u> Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 7.30pm, Parish Hall, Hemyock.</p>	
<p>28.</p>	<p>Exclusion of public & press – Chair to move 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>29.</p>	<p>Maintenance Person tenders – The tenders were discussed.</p> <p>PROPOSAL: the pc awards the maintenance tender to Mr Pike. Mr Pike to liaise with the clerk over tasks, etc.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence</p> <p>SECONDED: Mr Clist</p> <p>DECISION: passed. (all in favour).</p> <p>The clerk to approach the lengthsman of Clayhidon to establish if he might be interested in undertaking some work in Hemyock.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>30.</p>	<p>Overage at Old Station Yard (Old BMX site)</p> <p>PROPOSAL: the pc instructs the expert valuer to negotiate on the pc's behalf on a flat fee and percentage basis.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Mrs Dayus-Jones</p> <p>SECONDED: Mr Doble</p> <p>DECISION: passed. (all in favour). Mr Clist abstained.</p>	
<p>31.</p>	<p>Shuttleton Common</p> <p>PROPOSAL: the pc instructs its legal advisers to register the land with Land Registry.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Mr Ritchie</p> <p>SECONDED: Mr Doble</p> <p>DECISION: passed. (all in favour).</p>	

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