

Hemyock Parish Council
Monthly Meeting
held at The Parish Hall, Hemyock at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd May 2023

Subject	Action
<p>1. <u>Present</u> Mr P Doble (Chair), Mr T Barton (Vice chair), Miss P Lawrence, Mrs C Matthews, Mr N Moon, Mr L Povah, Mrs K Talbot, Mr S Ward, Parish & District Councillor Mr S Clist, Mrs D Evans (Clerk), County Councillor Ray Radford and members of the public.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Co-option</u> The pc has received one application and will advertise the position at the open event on 8th May.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Declarations of Interest/Dispensations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda item 7 – 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 14 - Mr Moon & Mr Doble each has a personal interest as they are trustees of the Healthy Living & Activity Centre. • Agenda item 22 - Mr Moon has a personal interest as he is a member of the rough shoot syndicate that uses the commons. 	
<p>4. <u>Public Participation</u> 4.1 It was reported that many parishioners are disillusioned with MDDC's planning and enforcement team. Many applications are submitted retrospectively and no action is seen from enforcement.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Community Larder</u> To be carried forward until next month's meeting.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Minutes from Previous Meeting</u> PROPOSAL: The council minutes of the 5th April are approved. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mrs Talbot DECISION: passed (all in favour).</p>	
<p>7. <u>Planning</u> 7.1 23/00582/LBC. Listed Building Consent for construction of a stud partition and softwood joisted ceiling to enclose plant area in middle barn. Whitehall Manor, Whitehall, Hemyock. PROPOSAL: The parish council is content with the application. PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence SECONDED: Mr Moon DECISION: passed (all in favour). <i>Mr Barton declared a personal interest as the applicant is his daughter and he chose to leave the room whilst the following matter was discussed.</i> 7.2 22/01635/FULL. Revised plans - Erection of dwelling and attached garage with associated external landscaping. Bailey Lodge, Culmstock Road, Hemyock PROPOSAL: The parish council is content with the application. PROPOSED: Mr Moon SECONDED: Mrs Talbot DECISION: passed (all in favour). <i>Mr Barton returned to the room.</i> Appeal decision allowed noted for:- 7.3 Appeal Ref: APP/Y1138/W/22/3309494. The Old Parsonage Cottage, High Street, Hemyock. The development proposed is retention of building for use as additional living accommodation. The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for retention of building for use as additional living accommodation at The Old Parsonage Cottage.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Annual Return</u> 8.1 Statement of Internal Controls PROPOSAL: The council reviews and adopts the statement of internal control. PROPOSED: Mr Clist</p>	

- SECONDED:** Mr Barton
DECISION: passed (all in favour)
- 8.2 Internal Audit Report
PROPOSAL: The council notes the findings of the internal audit and approves the implementation of recommendations.
PROPOSED: Mr Clist
SECONDED: Mr Barton
DECISION: passed (all in favour)
- 8.3 Annual Governance Statement, year ending 31st March 2023.
PROPOSAL: The council adopts the Annual Governance Statement, year ending 31st March 2023
PROPOSED: Mr Clist
SECONDED: Mr Barton
DECISION: passed (all in favour)
- 8.4 Accounting Statements year ending 31st March 2023.
PROPOSAL: The council adopts the Accounting Statements, year ending 31st March 2023
PROPOSED: Mr Clist
SECONDED: Mr Barton
DECISION: passed (all in favour)

9. King's Coronation

Sue Scantlebury updated the council on plans for the various events over the weekend. The bunting has been put up, warning of the event/road closure signs are in place. Sue was thanked for her efforts in organising the weekend's events.

10. Longmead

10.1 Representatives from the council met with the skatepark team and Maverick to discuss how to take the project forward. It was agreed that the pc wishes the design of the skatepark to fall under permitted development and must therefore be less than 200m³ capacity. The design and layout to be agreed by the skatepark team and Maverick. Once a design concept has been agreed the pc will submit a certificate of lawfulness to MDDC for approval.

11. Finance

11.1 Income and expenditure

INCOME

No	Amount	From
1.	132.60	Interest, Nationwide
2.	3.92	Interest, Nationwide
3.	42,445.00	Precept, MDDC
4.	54.14	WPD, wayleave
5.	150.00	Pring & Son
6.	130.00	Stooks Memorials
7.	50.00	Fine Memorials
8.	250.00	Pring & Son

EXPENDITURE

No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1.	156.77	R Tomlinson	Skatepark, reimbursement
2.	1,381.04	D Evans	Clerk's wages and expenses
3.	47.73	HMRC	PAYE
4.	361.25	I Pike	Village maintenance
5.	127.50	E Ingledew	Cleaning, toilets
6.	4,500.00	Hemyock Cricket Club	Donation
7.	701.40	Ashfords	Legal fees
8.	95.00	ICCM	Subscription
9.	49.28	Spot on	Toilet consumables

10.	714.00	Ashculme Ltd	Tree surgery	
11.	427.20	Ashfords	Legal fees	
12.	16.89	Pennon Water Services	Cemetery, water	
13.	210.49	Pennon Water Services	Toilets, water	
14.	16.00	BHLAC	Room hire	
15.	23.62	Carly Press	PR material	
16.	156.00	C Houghton	Lengthsman work	
17.	16.60	I & Y Pike	Reimbursement, materials, village maintenance	

BANK RECONCILIATION

Account	Amount
HSBC Community a/c	357.72
HSBC Deposit	94,766.14
Unity Trust Bank current	100.00
Unity Trust Bank deposit	140,087.84
Unity Trust Bank GF	718.76
Unity Trust Bank P3	1,244.70
Skipton 1-year Bond	87,210.35
United Trust Bank	80,452.46
Nationwide Inst Acc	5,003.92
Nationwide Notice Acc	80,132.60
Cambridge Building Society	80,000.00
Total	570,074.49

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

PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence

SECONDED: Mr Barton

DECISION: passed (all in favour).

Mr Clist asked that money is spread amongst a greater number of institutions in order to avoid breaching Investor Compensation limits. The finance committee has worked hard to create new deposit accounts but not every account on the market is open to parish councils. Mr Clist was asked to provide a list from MDDC of appropriate accounts to consider.

SC

12. Clerk Update

12.1 Following reports of young children learning to ride bikes in the play area at Longmead, the company that installed the wet pour surface has confirmed it is suitable for small bikes.

12.2 The clerk's landline is out of contract and she no longer needs it. The council agrees to purchase a mobile phone with monthly allowance for council calls.

PROPOSAL: that the pc purchases a mobile phone and monthly contract for council business.

PROPOSED: Miss Lawrence

SECONDED: Mr Doble

DECISION: passed (all in favour).

12.3 Chapter 8 Training. It was agreed that the pc will not consider training anyone else to be a road warden at this time. There is no team of volunteers wanting to fill in pot holes and work on the road, etc.

13. Cemetery

Nothing to report.

14. Blackdown Healthy Living & Activities Centre

14.1 Work has started to repair and change the wall, parking area, drainage and pavement at the side of the building.

15. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

16. Community Land

16.1 Representatives from the council met with Cavanna on site to discuss matters. A summary of the meeting as follows:- the likely date of transfer of the land to the pc is June 2024, they will leave the tarmac car park if requested; they will leave a possible connection to water and electric in car park area; the field to the east will be monitored over the winter with regard to drainage; they will confirm a few legal issues with regard to access, fencing and boundaries. During the site visit several councillors wondered whether the field to the east could be cut for silage. Subsequent to the meeting, it was agreed that the land is full of stones and unsuitable for cutting. Mrs Matthews and clerk to draft a letter to Cavanna asking for the land to be taken back to bare earth, levelled, de-stoned and a wild flower meadow mixture sown.

17. Matters Arising

Nothing to report.

18. County Council Report

Councillor Radford circulated the following report:-

Things are hectic at County, it has been a challenging year, more so than any previous years, finances are very tight, there are services we have to supply, irrespective of the cost and the government do not allow enough for those services.

As a County Councillor you have to serve on various committees, for me I am on the Corporate Services and Infrastructure some of whose main responsibilities are roads, waste, planning, properties, etc. There are other committees I serve on such as Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) and the Canal Advisory Committee.

The sort of financial pressures include Adult Services and Children and Young People, both of these suck up 79% of available revenue, this is mandatory, we have to do it. Because of the cost of these services, other departments revenues are squeezed.

The Council finds itself in a very challenging internal position in that Children's Services, SEND provision and budget sustainability face serious challenge along with concern from stakeholders regarding confidence in the Council to address these challenges. The continuous failure of the Council to improve the Inadequate judgement by Ofsted of Children's Services over a 12-year period has resulted in the children's minister issuing a Revised Statutory Direction for social care specifically citing failures of corporate governance and escalating to the appointment of a Commissioner to oversee Improvement and hold the Council to account. There is also government intervention for SEND and a material threat of a s114 notice because of the High Needs Block deficit now approaching £130 M. These are serious, material, well evidenced failures of the County Council's governance. In response the Leader and Chief Executive in meetings with the children's minister have agreed the urgent need for a Review of Corporate Governance as a priority in conjunction with the formal work of the Improvement Boards in Children's Services where oversight of progress is led by the Commissioner appointed by the Minister and the SEND Improvement Board.

Highways for maintenance of Devon roads had gradually fallen from around £35 million in 2012/13 to approximately £25 million in 2022/23. Coupled with inflationary change, in particular the rapid increase in inflation seen in 2022/23, this meant that the maintenance budget had halved in real terms compared to a decade ago. This also has the knock-on impact of forcing change in priorities with safety taking higher consideration and proactive works being stopped, leading to rapid deterioration of roads. 80% of traffic use 20% of the 8,000 miles of Devon's highways.

Councillor Radford was asked to report back to Highways that its whole policy for dealing with road maintenance should be reviewed. He was also asked to fight against any potential policy to downgrade rural roads in the parish which would mean Highways would no longer have to maintain them.

19. District Council Report

Councillor Clist reported that:-

The scrutiny committee has been tasked with looking at the following:- 3 Rivers Development Company, Members' Allowances, Planning Enforcement Working Group, Protecting Rivers and Seas, Inclusivity and Community Engagement, and ask a local GP to speak to the Committee, to give it an update and insight as to how the services locally were coping.

Mr Moon complained that MDDC fail to take away rubbish if it's not in a wheelie bin, explaining that this could lead to an increase in fly tipping.

20. Highways

Nothing to report.

21. Footpaths

21.1. The footpath diversion around Pitt Hayne Farm has been through the official process and has been accepted. Permanent new signage will be erected.

22. Commons Management Group

22.1 Mr Moon needs to purchase approx. 25 stakes to support some trees on the common.

23. Village Maintenance

23.1 Hooks need to be fitted to the doors at The Garages so that they can be held open. Clerk to obtain permission from the owner. Clerk

23.2 Mr Povah will provide the clerk with the details of the diamond drill she needs to purchase on behalf of the pc. This will be used to replace some of the floodbridge slats. LP

24. The Garages Youth Centre

Mrs Matthews updated the councillors following her meeting with Mrs Pinder. After Covid it appears there was a shortage of demand for youth sessions and of volunteers. The Garages committee is still operational and hires out the building to many groups. The pc will appoint a representative to join the committee at the next meeting of the council.

25. Blackdown Hills Parish Network

25.1 The BHPN has acquired a thermal imaging camera. It will be available for parishes to use for 2 weeks at a time. Miss Lawrence suggests in the first instance the pc may wish to monitor the council-owned and community buildings in the village. It will be promoted at the Open Event on Monday 8th May. The group is also looking at the idea of a rural Uber.

26. Asset Management

26.1 Miss Lawrence is happy to oversee the management of all of the council assets. However, she suggests that at the next meeting individual assets are assigned to individual councillors who will then monitor that asset and report back to Miss Lawrence.

27. Items raised by chairman

27.1 The chair asked that individual councillors attend the open event at Longmead on Monday 8th May for an hour or so to promote themselves and the work of the parish council.

28. Items raised by councillors

28.1 Miss Lawrence will purchase a gazebo for the pc to use at the Open Event. PL

28.2 Miss Lawrence asked that the new finance committee review budgets to ensure realistic budgets are set against asset management and supporting groups.

28.3 It was noted that the recycling centre at Poole is monitoring registration numbers and checking that vehicles are from Somerset.

28.4 Councillor Clist thanked everyone for the support received whilst he has been a district councillor.

<p>29. <u>Public Participation</u> 29.1 Spoil heap at the cemetery – this will be dealt with by Cavanna when weather improves.</p>	
<p>30. <u>PR/Social Media</u> 30.1 Mrs Talbot has access to the council’s facebook page. All councillors should think about possible items to be included on the page and forward to Mrs Talbot. The clerk will look at a social media policy.</p>	Clerk
<p>31. <u>Date of next Meeting</u> Annual meeting of the new council, Wednesday 17th May at 7.30pm, Healthy Living Centre.</p>	

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