

Hemyock Parish Council

Full Meeting

held at Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre, Hemyock at 7.30pm on 6 November 2024

Present

Councillors P Doble (Chair), A Doble, Povah and Ward together with Mrs S McGeever (Clerk) and members of the public.

Councillor Doble opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Parish & District Councillor Clist and DCC Councillor Radford together with Councillors Lawrence, Matthews, Moon, Summers and Talbot.

2. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

- Agenda Item 7 Planning – Councillor 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 Longmead – Councillors P Doble and Ward may have a personal interest as both are members of Longmead Management Committee

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Public Participation

Members of the public raised the following points which would be addressed under the appropriate agenda item or dealt with in any other business:

- Anti-social behaviour in the village
- Planning applications on the agenda
- Longmead and the Cavanna land
- Impact from the closing of the doctor's surgeries in Churchstanton and Dunkeswell in the afternoons
- Grass cutting at Longmead
- Hemyock Day 2025
- Drains/gulleys choked and blocked – Longmead / Station Road
- Trim trail and accesses into Longmead and to South West Water give high kerb at the car park
- Water remaining by the stream/why water is not going away
- Footballers to clear rubbish out after matches (the rubbish had included team sheets)
- Bollard/post that people keep hitting at BHLAC. It cannot be seen so there needs to be something more visible.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 2 October 2024

PROPOSAL: The council minutes of 2 October 2024 are approved as a true record of the meeting.

PROPOSER: Councillor Povah

SECONDER: Councillor Ward

It was RESOLVED by those who had been present at the meeting that the minutes were a true record of the meeting, and they were duly initialled and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that the Parish Council was quorate.

5. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked Mr A Brooke for clearing a road following a landslide.

6. Finance

In the absence of Councillors Lawrence and Summers, the Clerk presented the financial information.

6.1 To agree income and expenditure and bank reconciliations:

The bank statements were not available when the agenda was prepared and so the additional information presented at the meeting is included in the minutes.

INCOME

Account ending 1298	cemetery	£500.00
Account ending 1311	Interest	£0.00
Account ending 1324	pizza van	£20.00
	precept	£43097.50
	P3	£480.00
	cemetery	£575.00
	gun club	£150.00
	national grid	£54.14
Account ending 1308	Interest	£0.00

EXPENDITURE – Invoices received 2024/25

Invoices to pay in October:

No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1.	127.50	E Ingledew	Cleaning public conveniences
2.	417.22	I Pike	Cemetery £225 Village maintenance £180 Timber £12.22
3.	576.18	S McGeever	Clerk's wages (Payroll 31/10/24)
4.	6.00	GiffGaff	PC phone paid by S McGeever
5.	9.00	S McGeever	Travel expenses – September
6.	144.20	HMRC	PAYE
7.	64.00	MDDC	Car park rates - October
8.	16.00	BHLAC	Meeting rooms invoices sent out 31/10/24
9.	180.00	Upcott	Cutting of the grass at Longmead (1)
10.	240.00	Upcott	Cutting of the grass at Longmead (2)
11.	180.00	T Brooke	Rolling Cavanna Land
12.	75.00	R Taylor	Footbridge strimming

EDF Energy DD for Public Conveniences

Councillor Ward questioned why the Cavanna Land had been rolled and the Clerk explained that this was to allow the post-development topographical study to take place.

PROPOSAL: The expenditure listed above should be paid.

PROPOSER: Councillor Ward

SECONDER: Councillor Povah

It was RESOLVED to make the payments.

Action: Clerk to set up online payments.

Bank Reconciliations

Bank account	Closing balance 30/09/2024	Monies in	Monies out	Closing balance 31/10/2024
Unity Trust Bank current 298	299.08	10500.00	5828.16	4970.92
Unity Trust Bank deposit	108820.63	44376.64	10,000.00	143197.27
Unity Trust Bank GF	747.99			747.99
Unity Trust Bank P3	1295.34			1295.34

Statement were awaited for the remaining bank accounts.

6.2 To receive an update on the application for bank card (Financial Regulations)

The application for the bank card for the Clerk was ongoing.

6.3 To receive an update on the change of key contact for Unity Trust Bank and changes for other bank accounts

The paperwork had been sent off

Unity – complete

United Trust Bank – understood to be complete

Nationwide – amended paperwork sent

Cambridge – awaiting identification paperwork

Skipton – awaiting a response

HSBC – awaiting a signed mandate from Councillor Talbot

Lloyds – Poor Charity – understood to be complete

6.4 To receive information on S106 monies

Possibility of additional funding towards the cost of the trim trail project – ongoing

6.5 To approve purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Day

PROPOSAL: A wreath should be purchased.

PROPOSER: Councillor Ward

SECONDER: Councillor Povah

It was RESOLVED to purchase a wreath.

6.5 Grant requests to go to Finance Committee

The Parish Council RESOLVED the following grant requests should be considered by the Finance Committee:

- the Lights Brigade

- CHAT

6.6 Approval of MDDC Grass Cutting Charges

The Parish Council noted the grass cutting charges in Hemyock for 2025-2026.

The charges were based on; current regime of 7 cuts, the areas we cut and includes an inflationary increase. This charge takes into account the subsidy provided by Devon County Council for grass cutting visibility areas of their land within your Parish/Town four times a season. Therefore, the contribution for 2025-2026 would be £1284.24 ex. VAT.

The Finance Committee would make the appropriate budget entry.

6.7 Devon Communities Together

The Clerk was looking to set the membership fee of £50.00 by Direct Debit.

6.8 National Joint Council for Local Government Services agreement on the 2024/25 pay award

The Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the 2024/25 pay award for the Clerk with effect from 1 April 2024. The increase represented an increase of 67p per hour.

7. Planning

7.1 To consider the following applications:-

24/01307/FULL

Proposal: Erection of general agricultural building

Location: Land at NGR 314712 110798 South West of Madford Farm Barn Hemyock Devon

Grid Ref: 314653 : 110734

Parish: Hemyock 26

The Decision Deadline for this application had been 6 November 2024. The Parish Council had supported the application when it was consulted for the first time. There were no material changes to the proposal and thus no comment had been submitted.

24/01565/FULL

Proposal: Erection of chapel of rest, associated facilities and double garage following partial demolition of existing building

Location: Pring & Son Funeral Directors Westhayes Farm

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 312775 / 113446

Parish: Hemyock 26

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council is content with the application.

PROPOSER: Councillor A Doble

SECONDER: Councillor Ward

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council was consent with the application.

Action: Clerk to submit response

24/00783/FULL

Proposal: Conversion and extension of barn to self-build dwelling and erection of a link-to garage with store

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 311821 115118 (Cracklehayes Barn) Hemyock Devon

Grid Ref: 311843 : 115067

Parish: Hemyock 26

The Parish Council noted that the revised set of drawings showed no significant changes. The C3 dwelling house and extension showed a reduction in the size of the extension so as not to be larger than the barn that would be converted to the C3 dwelling house.

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council is content with the application.

PROPOSER: Councillor A Doble

SECONDER: Councillor Ward

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council was consent with the application.

Action: Clerk to submit response

Other matters:

23/00511/FULL

Eastlands

The decision was made to approve at committee but it is currently in the process of having a legal agreement signed. Residents have made representations to Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council.

7.2 To receive the following decision notices/appeal decisions:-

No: 24/01221/TPO – APPROVED – 8 October 2024

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

Proposal: Application to remove overhanging branches on 3 Oak trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 00/00007/TPO

Location: Land at NGR 313896 113010 (Windward Edge) Hemyock Cullompton Devon

24/01330/HOUSE – APPROVED – 22 October 2024

Proposal: Erection of replacement conservatory

Location: Cheritons Culmstock Road Hemyock Cullompton

7.3 To receive information regarding enforcement issues:

ENF/23/00164/COU – 13 July 2023

Re: Conversion of barn to dwelling

Shuttleton Castle Hill Hemyock

Update requested.

ENF/23/00214/BRE – 30 August 2023

Re: Home office used as living accommodation

Ploversfield Culmstock Road Hemyock

Update requested.

8. Asset Management Reports

8.1 Longmead

Report from Clerk

The review of the constitution, provision of the committee structure and terms of reference is ongoing.

The insurance form for completion prior to the commencement of any works has been received and required the name of structural engineer and architect.

Planning permission is required for any external alterations including doors.

Discussions with MDDC are ongoing with regard to auxiliary services and rates.

The purpose was to make Longmead more financially viable.

The Finance Committee would hear a business plan brief on the potential alterations on 20 November 2024. It was understood that there had been some amendments to the plans originally submitted.

Lighting for the Hemyock Muga

The questions raised at the Parish Council meeting have been given to the Longmead Committee for consideration.

It was also noted that quotes for upgrading the MUGA were being sought as the current surface was breaking up and becoming a health and safety risk. It was thought that grants would cover the cost of any upgrade.

Councillor Povah noted that some of timbers were breaking away.

Report from Councillor P Doble

Councillor Doble felt it important that the Parish Council consider whether it should continue to have Longmead cut manually or move to a robot mower and agree in principle which route to follow.

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council move to having Longmead cut by a robot mower noting that some areas will still need to be cut manually.

PROPOSER: Councillor P Doble

SECONDER: Councillor A Doble

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council should obtain three quotes for robot mowers.

Action: Clerk

The decision would then be taken as to whether the Parish Council should purchase or lease the equipment. One quote already received had made a recommendation of two machines and the Clerk was asked to organise a trial of one of the machines.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Povah advised that there were timbers blocking the stream by the South West Water plant and this was impeding the flow of water. Damage was being done by the South West Water lorries including signs being broken.

Councillor Povah noted that the purple peril needed painting to remove graffiti and that a path to the BMX path would be beneficial as the approach became very muddy in winter.

Action: Councillor Povah/Clerk to obtain quotes.

The Clerk advised that MDDC were appointing a consultant to look at the maintenance of their buildings and it would be beneficial to have a maintenance plan for each building/asset.

Mr Ian Pike would look at the works that needed to be carried out.

8.2 War memorial

Councillor Povah advised the work would be carried out in the New Year.

8.3 Cemetery

In the absence of Councillor Clist, Councillor A Doble had circulated two quotes for fencing at the cemetery and the extension to Parish Council members. One contractor had not provided a quote.

The quotes covered four different options and it was agreed that a site visit was required before making a decision on which option to pursue.

Action: All

The Clerk advised that Cavanna were looking into the hedge cutting between the cemetery and the houses.

8.4 Blackdown Healthy Living and Activities Centre

Councillor P Doble advised he has nothing to report.

8.5 The Parish Store

Councillor P Doble advised he has nothing to report.

8.6 The Commons

The Commons Management meeting has been postponed to the New Year.

8.7 Public Conveniences

The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting quotes for the repairs to the Public Convenience. Further damage had been reported (broken seat) and the urinals had been unblocked.

8.8 Car Park

Councillor Povah reported that there was still no date for the re-surfacing being undertaken by MDDC.

8.9 Village Maintenance

The Clerk advised that maintenance continued around the village.

The Floodbridge had been damaged and DCC were making it safe until a full repair could be completed.

The fence at by St Margaret's Brook had been ripped out and needs to be put back as this could be a health and safety issue.

Action: Councillor Povah would speak to Mr Stevens

8.10 Ground Maintenance

A complete ground maintenance tender of 2020 had been found on file and this would assist in the review of the ground maintenance around the village and the allocation of works.

Councillor Povah advised that he was meeting with a new ground maintenance contractor in the village.

Councillor Povah advised that the hedge at Logan Way and Griffin Close and Parklands had been heavily flailed by a private individual and this had seriously rutted the grass and resulted in debris. It was understood the work had been commissioned by the hedge owner.

9. Project Reports

9.1 Community Land (Cavanna)

Report from the Clerk

- A quote is awaited for the full drainage survey albeit that the current information being provided is that the soil itself needs to be tested at various points to ascertain the different layers that have been added as seen in the post-development topographical survey. Cavanna had suggested the use of a land management company and this was being followed up.
- The signs have been removed from the cemetery fencing
- Email sent to Cavanna regarding private roads and fencing for the attenuation pond. Cavanna would look into additional private road signs and had ROSPA coming to advice on the correct fencing to be used for the attenuation pond.
- Trees on Cavanna land near Longmead – Cavanna were looking into the works that would be required.
- Email sent to solicitor for update on progress with the handover and a response was awaited. The Clerk understood that there was a draft contract but this would need to reflect the works needed to re-instate the land.

The Clerk was asked to contact Cavanna with regard to where the DCC maintained highways ended and what was in the S106 agreement regarding access to the community land through the development.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Matthews was not present at the meeting.

9.2 Station Road Pavement

Councillor Povah advised that the owners have requested a timescale for the works from the start date to finish date. It was difficult to give a time scale because it was dependent on the new planning consent and the chosen contractor. The wording 'Once we have planning permission the work will be done in xxx months' was considered suitable but all households should be provided with the same terms.

Action: Councillor Povah/Clerk

9.3 Connecting the Culm/DRIP

Claim form for reimbursement of works done at Shuttleton completed.

Installation of web cameras

The cameras are installed and take a picture every 30 minutes, sensors are going to be fitted so that if flooding is likely pics can be up to every 5 minutes. The cameras are solar powered but still work when it's dark. Face blurring was supposed to be switched on but wasn't, it will be at the next opportunity.

9.4 Blackdown Hills Parish Network (BHPN)

The Flir C5 Thermal Imaging Camera is available to all Parish Councils in the BHNL to borrow. This will enable a nominated representative to carry out simple heat loss surveys for your parishioners of their properties.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask to borrow the camera for a week.

Action: Clerk

10. Community Matters

10.1 Garages Youth Project

In the absence of Councillor Matthews, the Clerk advised that the floor had been repaired. Work to set up a meeting to discuss the lease was ongoing.

10.2 Hemyock Community Larder

Councillor Doble advised that the community larder continued to be a success.

10.3 Footpaths (P3)

Councillor Povah advised that the bridge on Footpath 19 had now collapsed and Devon County Council had been informed and repairs would be carried out.

The P3 grant had been received.

10.4 Hemyock Day 2025

The event would take place on 21 June 2025 and the organiser was grateful to the Parish Council for meeting the shortfall in revenue versus expenditure.

It was hoped the event would continue to raise the profile of Hemyock and events were planned over the next months to raise the profile of the day itself. This included an autumn feast, a neon 90s night and a family disco.

The continued support of the council with the use of Longmead and the documentation required for the event was most welcome.

11. Highways

Road Warden Scheme

Councillor A Doble had completed the online training and Chapter 8 training was being arranged for 17 December 2024. DCC would also assist with the payment for a strimming course.

20mph applications/speed limits

The Clerk advised that correspondence from residents had referred to the use of speed cameras and the need for a reduction of speed on Cornhill.

Devon County Council had indicated that self-funded 20mph limits may be brought in but no cost information had been received.

Bus routes

The Clerk had requested a meeting with DCC and Dartline to address ongoing issues with buses and parked cars.

Other matters:

The following consultations have been circulated to councillors and a response was required:

The Local Transport Plan

The Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) is the strategic document that sets out the priorities for transport across the county between 2025 and 2040.

The draft Local Transport Plan document was available alongside other supplementary materials on the [Transport and roads Archives - Have Your Say \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/transport-and-roads-archives) webpage from **1st October 2024** until **30th November 2024**.

It was noted that there was nothing in the plan for Hemyock but centred around the key growth areas.

Devon Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Devon Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) public consultation would run from 1 October 2024 until 30 November 2024.

Full details about the engagement process, and all of the proposals, was available on at : devon.cc/devon-lcwip.

It was noted that there was nothing in the plan for Hemyock but centred around the key growth areas.

12. Police matters

12.1 Crime

Anti-social behaviour had escalated in the village but it was not believed that all the perpetrators were from Hemyock.

It was important that every incident was logged with the police and a crime number logged in order to show the need for a police presence.

Action: Clerk to contact Neighbourhood Police Officer and ask if he could attend a meeting.

It would also be useful to put a request on social media for residents to advise the Clerk of any incidents.

Action: Councillor Talbot.

12.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme

In the absence of Councillor Clist, no report was given but the Clerk advised that the most relevant information had been circulated to councillors.

13. MDDC Report

In the absence of Councillor Clist, no report was given.

14. DCC report

Councillor Radford had submitted a report which was considered by the council and no questions raised.

15. Public Relations

In the absence of Councillor Talbot, there was no report on Public Relations.

The Clerk advised that work was ongoing to change to a gov.uk website domain and update the website.

16. Clerk Update/Correspondence

Items received had been circulated to the Parish Council and included on the agenda as appropriate.

Neighbourhood Plan

A meeting is being arranged to discuss neighbourhood plans – date to be confirmed.

Attendance recommended.

Skatepark

Members of the committee had met for a second time but in the absence of Councillor Summers no report was given.

Peter Holway Trust

Land Agent has inspected the subject land and believed the market rental value to be in the region of £180 per acre.

There was the possibility that Rural Land Payments may raise a higher income and this was being looked at. A meeting of the Trustees would be called to discuss how to allocate funds.

Emergency Plan

The Clerk met with Devon Communities Together to work on the Emergency Plan as Hemyock was a key parish.

Devon Countryside Access

The Devon Countryside Access is advertising opportunities to become a member. The application form is available on this link [Devon Countryside Access Forum application](#) The closing date is 30th November 2024, with appointments commencing in April 2025.

Music Grants

The Blackdown Hills Beer Festival were once again inviting applications for grant money from community music groups in the Blackdown Hills.

Suitable applicants are invited to contact the Trust by email: blackdownmusictrust@gmail.com with details of their application in no more than 250 words by 1st November 2024 and successful applicants will be informed by the end of 2024.

17. Matters raised by Councillors/meetings attended

Councillor Povah advised that residents at the Eastland/Culmbridge Road junction would welcome a grit bin.

Action: Councillor P Doble

18. Items for the next agenda

Discussion had taken place on assistance for the Clerk who had identified an individual who might be able to assist with producing an inventory of the filing cabinet. Knowledge of the information stored in the filing cabinet may assist with the registering of land and decision making.

The Parish Council were in favour of the project.

Action: Finance Committee to consider

The Lights competition finance would be considered by the Finance Committee.

Action: Finance Committee to consider

19. Dates of the next meetings:

The next meeting will be on:

4 December 2024

The Parish Council would offer mince pies and mulled wine to attendees prior to the start of the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman