

FRITHELSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Frithelstock Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 7.00pm in The Village Hall, Frithelstock.

Present: Cllrs T Warrington (Chairman of the Frithelstock Parish Council as Chair of the meeting) and 19 members of the public.
Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock - Parish Clerk as minute taker.

01 Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

02 Matters arising from minutes of 29th April 2021

03 Report by Devon County Councillor Andrew Saywell

Cllr Saywell gave a verbal report of his year to date, which is attached as Appendix 1.

Cllr Warrington mentioned that the rural lanes surrounding the Parish are becoming worse in condition and Cllr Saywell reiterated that everyone needs to report potholes and any other concerns re: the website/telephone, this is important as it adds to the case when roads are determined for repair.

04 Chairman's Report - Cllr Terry Warrington

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Warrington gave a verbal report, which is attached as Appendix 2.

05 Financial Report - Parish Clerk

The accounts are yet to be audited and a report will be available in May.

06 Police Report

The following report was received.



Crimes Recorded - 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022 - CT2F

Offence	Recorded Crime 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022	Recorded Crime 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021	Recorded Crime % Difference
Violence with Injury	0	2	-100.0%
Violence without Injury	0	5	-100.0%
Stalking and Harassment	0	1	-100.0%
Other Sexual Offences	1	0	-
Burglary Non-Dwelling	0	1	-100.0%
All Other Theft Offences	2	1	100.0%
Arson	0	1	-100.0%
Criminal Damage	3	4	-25.0%
Public Order Offences	1	1	0.0%
Total	7	16	-56.3%

Non Notifiable Offences | 2 | 0 | -

07 Report from Frithelstock Parish Church

No report received.

08 Report from Village Hall Management Committee

Mr Adrian Green gave a verbal report, which is attached as Appendix 3.

09 Playing Fields Annual Report

The Chairman, Cllr Elizabeth Hunkin gave a verbal report, which is attached as Appendix 4.

10 Poorlands Charity Annual Report

Mrs Maureen Poole mentioned that they had a meeting in December and the trustees nominated 20 people to receive £10.00 each. We also received £150.00 from Torrington 100. Account balance is £623.00.

- 11** **50 Club Annual Report**
Mr Michael Short reported that there were 76 members last year, but this year, there are 85 members. Last year the 50 Club gave £914.00 to the Village Hall Committee and £910.00 in prizes.
- 12** **Comments and Questions by members of the public**
None received.
- 13** **Date of next meeting**
19th April 2023.

Appendix 1: Cllr Saywell Report

Cllr Andrew Saywell DCC Report for Frithelstock Annual Parish Meeting

Dear Councillors, ladies and gentlemen,

It is good to be back 'in person' and to see so many people attending tonight.

The Annual Parish Meeting is a chance to look back on the past year and the first thing I would like to say is **thank you**. Thank you the people of Frithelstock Parish for re-electing me as your County Councillor. It is a fantastic privilege to represent Frithelstock and the 17 other communities that make up Torrington Rural at County Hall, and I have worked hard to repay that trust and to represent all the residents of the Parish to the best of my ability.

One of the issues I have continued to work on in Frithelstock has been on road safety and I have been organising meetings with representatives of the Parish Council with DCC's County Road Safety Manager. Progress has been slow, but I will continue to persist on getting more enforcement on the A388 for Frithelstockstone, and to do what I can to improve road safety in Frithelstock.

Since the election my role on the County Council has changed with the Leader, Cllr John Hart, appointing me to the Cabinet with the portfolio of 'Organisational Development, Workforce and Digital Transformation'. In layman's terms, it means I'm responsible for HR services, internal DCC IT, and helping to shape the corporate focus and aims of the Council. It has been a big step up in responsibilities, but one that I have relished. I have also used, when it has been appropriate, this new platform to draw attention to my Cabinet colleagues and Senior Officers the problems that still need addressing here in Torrington Rural.

After the elections in May, we reverted back to face to face meetings. However, Zoom and Teams meetings have continued and we have settled down into a more hybrid way of working. DCC staff are slowly starting to come back more to the offices. This is something that comes under my Cabinet portfolio – and what I am determined to achieve is that we get the best of both worlds. There are advantages to home/remote and virtual working, but there are also advantages to being back in an office environment as well. There will be an element of trial and error going forward but I expect we will start to see Council staff in the office 2-3 days a week.

I mentioned the pandemic earlier, and although lockdown restrictions were finally lifted in the past year, Covid has not gone away. But the vaccines have made it possible to revert back to a degree of normality that without them, I suspect we would still all be on Zoom. In the first phase of the pandemic Devon had consistently some of the lowest infection rates in the country. This year, we have often been one of the higher rates, partly I suspect because we were so successful in keeping the virus at bay during the first phase. But with vaccinations, despite that high infection rate we have kept our overall hospital rate low and thankfully deaths have been far lower than what they would have been.

Devolution has been on the agenda in the past year and Devon was shortlisted for a County Deal, along with 7 other areas. The Council will be submitting an ambitious proposal to Government.... We are not proposing to have an elected mayor but we are asking for greater powers and discussions have now started with the Government. We will see what happens!

An ongoing theme continues to be budgetary and financial constraints on the Council. DCC's turnover is £1.5 **billion** a year and the revenue budget is in excess of £600 million. Yet of the money

DCC spends, 76% of it ends up going on just over 3% of the population. These are on people on care packages, adults with disabilities, children in care, etc.

Coming out of the pandemic, the demands on our 'people' services is going to be greater than ever, which in turn puts pressure on the budgets of the non-people services like Highways. The challenge for us as a Council is not to go around cutting support for Adult Social Care but to look at how we can do things differently, and more effectively, so that our limited budgets can go further.

That will be the strategic priority facing the County Council this coming year. Along with this DCC is working hard with the District Councils to help settle Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war.

And along with these issues I will continue to work with the Parish Council to address ongoing local matters, particularly around Highways.

As ever, if there are any County Council matters you would like me to look into please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Andrew

Appendix 2: Chairman of Parish Council report Chairman's Report 2021/22

I would like to start by thanking my fellow parish councillors for their support over the last year and welcome Felicity Sluman as a new parish councillor. Everybody has offered help and encouragement and several projects have or are being carried out including New signage, New Notice Board, Tree removals on the Village green, Xmas Tree with new lights added and we are currently working on a celebration event for the Queen's Jubilee. The nice thing for myself is the fact all councillors are passionate about our Parish and keen to help, also our Clerk Kate Graddock who has helped keep us on course and done a great job.

I would also like to thank Adrian Green for keeping the village Hall running smoothly and the incredible amount of funding he has been successful in gaining through covid grant, also thank you for the input in the Parish council meetings and other events. Thanks also go to Andrew Saywell for his work with Highways, this year we have had the surveys carried out await the news on Maintenance works. Andrew and Mr Anstey from DCC are currently exploring solutions for the speeding issues we have in the Parish. Also thank you to Councillor Phil Pennington at Torridge District Council for attending our meetings and often taking things back to the council on our behalf.

Thank you also to Lizzy and Adrian for keeping the Playing field the envy of many. It is also lovely to see and hear of the parishioners who regularly walk our boundaries litter picking and help keep the Village looking nice.

We have been able to support some charities, such as Families in grief, Citizens advice and the Records Office who we have donated some funds.

A new community Website has been developed and working well with most of the teething problems resolved, a special thanks to Adrian Hardwick, Chris Stevens and Dave Gubb of All coast Development.

Finally, I have enjoyed my time as Chairman and look forward to better times ahead with Village Platinum Jubilee celebrations, possible Quiz nights, Scrumpy strolls. Thanks to Kim for the Prior newsletters and again to Adrian Green /Webbers for the free printing, thanks also to everybody who helps deliver the News letters, Maureen and Arthur Poole, Mary Goaman, Judith, Lizzy and Steve Hunkin, Margaret Hutchings. It does feel that this year will be an exciting year with the platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Chestnut tree is now in the ground already, and a scrumpy stroll planned for the 1st of May. I am again really impressed by the genuine goodwill in the parish and look forward to next year.

Appendix 3: Chairman of Village Hall Committee
Report from the Chairperson of the Village Hall Management Committee
For the Annual Parish Meeting of 20 April 2022

As mentioned in the circular email reminder of this meeting, we will be having the brief formal statutory AGM of the Village Hall at the end of this meeting so this is just an update on what has been happening at the Hall over the last 12 months. Everybody should have a copy of the financial statements for the Hall for the year ended 31 March 2022 on which I'll comment.

It has been another unusual year, as we were closed, then open with restrictions, then closed again and finally open again now with no specific restrictions. This has been reflected in our financial figures.

Once again we had no specific fund raising events in the year. Rental income has partially recovered, to about half of a normal year, with the recommencement of Pilates classes and the odd Hall booking. However, we have been fortunate again to have succeeded in our applications for Government Covid-19 grants administered by Torrington District Council. We received both the Restart Grant and the Omicron Business Interruption grant which totalled £10,667.

We also received two years' worth of donations from the 50 Club. I won't steal Michael's thunder by revealing how much the 50 Club has donated to the Hall over very many years but it is opportune here to thank Michael Short and Sylvia Riddell for continuing to run the Club and making this valuable contribution to Village Hall funds.

The Bar was open for some of the Six Nations rugby matches and during home skittles games and bar takings amounted to just over £1,500 which is obviously well down on a normal year.

On the expenditure side, although we were closed for several months we still had some unavoidable recurring expenses. Two to mention, which may look odd in the comparative figures with last year, are the cleaning and electric costs. On cleaning it is last year's figure that is low because Penny, the caretaker/cleaner, elected to be paid once a year whereas with electricity it is this year's figure that is low because we received almost £1,000 credit from EDF this year for over-billing last year. We are closely monitoring the cost of electricity this current year as the Hall is classed as a business and there is no cap on our tariff.

With non-recurring expenses, the cost of the car park walls renovation was less than anticipated and to date we have paid £5,000 in labour costs – the prior year figure was for materials.

We have also made a payment towards the poles and materials for new curtains but have yet to pay for them being made up.

In addition we plan to replace the heaters in the Skittle Alley, we may need a new cover for the Marquee and we are investigating the cost of CCTV to cover the main car park.

Altogether we had a surplus of just over £6,500 in the year and an ending bank balance of £47,350. The Hall remains in a strong financial position and we have resolved not to increase Hall rental rates or Bar prices at least until the autumn.

We have so far planned only one social event – a Scrumpy Stroll on Sunday 1st May. We hope to recommence the First Friday Social Nights in May. We are assisting the Parish Council in the Jubilee Celebrations so are unlikely to have a Summer Event but will probably have an Autumn Quiz and hopefully a return to the Xmas Fun Night in December.

I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Adrian Green

Appendix 4:Chairman of the Playing Field Committee

Playing Field Report 2022

The last 12 months have seen the Playing Field well used, often by non-locals. Last summer, we purchased the recycled plastic picnic tables and bench to replace rotted furniture. The donations box was emptied and the amount of £42.43 collected. In March, damaged equipment was reported by a member of the public via the PC website; the equipment was quickly repaired by TK Play and the member of public thanked. I would like to thank all volunteers for their continued support and goodwill in maintaining the Playing Field; in particular Steve and Valerie Beer for sanding and repainting picnic benches last year, John and Kay Burrell for restoring the donations box and Steve Hunkin and his workmen for various repairs, including replacing fence posts along the track. My appreciation to Richard Cousins for his time spent locking up the Playing Field also my thanks to TK Play for their speedy repair jobs and to Clements Hill Farm for maintaining the hedges both of whom have done this free of charge. Thank you to Diane Williams for stepping forward when I was looking for a volunteer to take on the locking up and thank you to all the painters - it won't be long and it will be time to sand and repaint all the play equipment, once again. Please see the treasurer's report for an update on the Playing Field finances.