

And FRITHELSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Frithelstock Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th July 2023 at 7.00pm in The Village Hall, Frithelstock.

Present: T Warrington, C Stevens, L Hunkin, M Baker and A Hardwick.
Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock - Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public. Cllr Andrew Saywell (DCC) and Cllr Phil Pennington (TDC).

FP24 Apologies

Cllr M Thomas.

Cllrs were reported that Cllr Connor was unable to attend but the Clerk was looking at some advice re: leave of absence.

FP25 Declarations

None

FP26 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes held on 28th June 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

(NC)

*** Councillor Hardwick entered the meeting at 7.05pm. ***

FP27 Reports from outside bodies

a) To receive a report from Devon County Councillor – Andrew Saywell.

- Road closure next week at Catsborough Cross to sort out water issues 17-25th July.
- No date yet for village road works.
- Small underspend for 22/23 financial year.
- Current budget – looking at overspend this year.
- Elastomac being trialled for road patching.
- Mobile Library Vans will cease due to the vans at the end of their life. Looking at other options for people that cannot attend the libraries. Also, looking at community libraries to be set up.
- Cllr Warrington thanked Cllr Saywell for his help with the speeding campaign in the village.

b) To receive report from Torridge District Councillor – Phil Pennington.

- Successful fly tipping prosecution. On A386 - £984 inc costs.
- Encouraging people to submit fly tipping to the environmental health of Torridge District Council.
- Budget – 65 families being housed due to homelessness at the moment.
- Household support fund for those families that are under pressure.

c) To receive report from Police.

- 1 Malicious communications
- 1 dog out of control,
- 1 personal ASB
- 1 harassment
- 1 public disorder
- Logs – 1 suspicious activity, 1 hate incident, 1 abandoned call, 1 missing person

FP28

Public Participation

- Member of the public – asked for the last 2 years for a simple set of accounts for the parisioners but understood that it is not legally required as there is a budget publicised and also a period during the internal audit anyone can look at accounts and supporting documentation etc. They also feel the narrative is currently not good enough on payments over £100 and doesn't comply with the transparency code. A member of the public made a statement saying that the Clerk had also not paid Pension payments for sometime. The Clerk responded to say that that there were circumstances that he was unaware of and she was in constant communication with DCC Pensions and councillors are aware. They felt that they needed the accounts so they can ascertain what the money is being spent on as they have had a query on why the Clerk's salary has been raised and felt they also wanted to know why there was a penalty from HMRC. The clerk felt that this member of the public was stating factually incorrect information and accusations and asked them to discuss this outside of the meeting if they wish, but that it was inappropriate and not the correct place for this. The chairman asked the member of the public to stop talking. The clerk reiterated that the audit has been completed and there is a public notice period of which their right could be exercised during that time to see the accounts. The Chairman suggested that the member of the public email their concerns/wants and the council will look at this.
- East and West Lane – amended two pot holes and left the rest.
- A member of the public asked for the name to be changed from Recreation Field to Playing Field on the Agenda because it was tradition and on the constitution.

FP29

Road Warden Scheme

The Clerk explained what training requirements are required for the Road Warden Scheme. There were some concerns regarding the amount of time that it is taking for the scheme to get going, but the Clerk said that there are regulations that the council would have to abide to in order to continue with the scheme. Whilst she

understood the frustrations with courses/documents that needed to be completed, this is what the scheme requires.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk send around the information that she has found out and also enquire about dates for the next training.

FP30 Resilience Forum

Members were submitted a report from the representative who attended the Resilience Forum. The Clerk reported that the person will be attending the next meeting.

FP31 Playing Fields

Cllr Hunkin reported that she had asked a small group where they would like the bases positioned, as requested by Cllr Warrington and they said they didn't want concrete bases. Cllr Warrington mentioned that the contractor was having issues with having to trim and move the benches and that is becoming a health and safety issue for them as they are very heavy. A member of the public said that they could use a trolley that would move the bench and be able to put it back again. Cllr Baker felt this was not acceptable and offered the member of the public to try this. Cllr Hunkin felt that it didn't need to be trimmed as close to the benches. Members of the public asked why Cllr Baker and Cllr Warrington had not declared an interest as the chairman's son works for the playground inspection company and Cllr Baker has the grass cutting contract.

The Chairman asked the members of the public to stop speaking within the meeting so the councillors could debate the matter appropriately and one member of the public left.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk investigate other options for hard standing bases and costings for the next meeting.

(NC)

FP32 Hele Lane Footpath Extension

The Clerk gave a report on the possible Hele Lane Footpath Extension and that there are some matters to consider:

- They would need an agreement in place with the land owner to hand over ownership of the land and they would need to establish a new boundary to the garden for the owner to maintain.
- They would need a legal agreement with DCC which NPS, a property services company, would organize should they want to transfer the footway to HMPE once constructed.
- They would need the correct license in place to install the footway and use an accredited contractor for the construction of the footway to our specification.

RESOLVED: That the footpath is not something that can be done at this present time due to budget constraints.

(NC)

FP33

**Finance
Payments made:**

1	Salary (April – June)	£533.82
2	HMRC	£355.60
3	Clerk Expenses	£60.45
4	Pension (Emp and Empee)	£257.89
5	Mr M Baker – Grass Cutting	£1640.00
6	Mr M Baker – Grass Cutting, Playing Field	£840.00

RESOLVED: That the above payments are confirmed and actioned.

(NC)

A member of the public asked if the Clerk had received the Playing Field Money – The clerk responded yes.

FP34

Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- Hardstanding bases for Playing Field.
- Road Warden Scheme.
- Members of the public speaking within meetings.

Meeting closed at 8.14pm.

Signed: Dated: