

## FRITHELSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Frithelstock Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs T Warrington (Chairman), A Heard, A Hardwick, C Stevens, L Hunkin and M Baker.  
Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock - Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public. Cllr P Pennington - Torridge District Council and Cllr A Saywell - Devon County Council.

**FP63 Apologies**  
All members were present.

**FP64 Declarations of Interest**  
None.

**FP65 Minutes**  
**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed at a later date due to Covid-19.

(NC)

\*\*\* Cllr Heard entered the meeting. \*\*\*

**FP66 Public Participation**  
None

**FP67 Reports from Outside Bodies**

**a) Devon County Council - Cllr Saywell**

Highways - Going to SCARF meeting next week.

5,373 Coronavirus infections in Devon (County).

Cllr Saywell read out information from Public Health England - this is attached as Appendix 1.

**b) Torridge District Council - Cllr Pennington**

Cllr Pennington gave a report to members, which is attached as Appendix 2.

Cllr Hunkin asked regarding the Swimming Pools and whether there is any information on when they will open, as it is important for children's health and wellbeing and she was sure it was part of the curriculum. Cllr Pennington said that once the asbestos situation has been sorted then the pool would reopen.

Cllr Hunkin asked whether there would be a possibility for funding for a litter bin to be placed within the Playing Field. Cllr Warrington also mentioned that there were repairs that needed to take place on equipment. Cllr Saywell and Pennington said that they would contribute £150 each from their Ward budgets, if the project fits their funding criteria.

\*\*\* Cllr Pennington left the meeting. \*\*\*

**c) Police**

No report has been received.

**FP68**

**Accidents in the Village**

The Chairman reported that he has had a number of parishioners' report to him accidents that have happened within the village. He has reported this to DCC for inclusion on the SCARF report but has found that many of the incidents have not been reported/logged.

Surveys have been completed but the work has not been finished on drainage which doesn't help the situation. Cllr Saywell said that DCC were awaiting a further meeting with Frithelstock Parish Council to discuss their findings within the Doing What Matters Project.

Cllr Warrington asked whether the letters from the residents would help with the SCARF report - Cllr Saywell replied that he expects it would be the data but he would try to address the committee to request them to take this information into account.

\*\*\* Cllr Saywell left the meeting. \*\*\*

**FP69**

**Annual Rough Sleeping Estimate**

Members were circulated information from Torridge District Council relating to the annual rough sleeping estimates due to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact Torridge District Council to let them know that as far as the Council is aware there are no rough sleepers within the community.

(NC)

**FP70**

**Parish Council Insurance**

Members were circulated a copy of the revised Insurance Policy Renewal Schedule, prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the insurance is renewed for a premium of £541.22.

(NC)

**FP71**

**Defibrillator Checks**

Members were informed that the current resident who completes the weekly checks and monthly submissions is moving from the village and that another volunteer would need to be sought.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Hardwick becomes the responsible person for the Defibrillator checks and that he contacts the resident on instructions for the process of reporting.

(NC)

**FP72**

**Finance and Payments**

**Payments**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>CHQ NO</b>
17	K Graddock - Salary (October and November)	£270.70	Bacs on 6/11/20
18	HMRC - PAYE/NI	£180.40	Bacs on 6/11/20

19	K Graddock - Expenses including 2 months of Zoom account fees	£77.06	Bacs on 6/11/20
20	Zurich Municipal Insurance	£541.22	Bacs on 9/11/20
21	M Baker - Grass Cutting Services	£890.00	Bacs on 9/11/20
22	John Patts (Happy Bags from Grant)	£265.60	Bacs on 7/9/20
23	Green Lantern (Happy Bags from Grant)	£144.00	Bacs on 7/9/20
24	Parish Council Websites - Website hosting renewal for 12 month	£216.00	Bacs on 9/11/20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2584.98</b>	
		<b>£2175.38</b>	
		<b>to pay</b>	

### Receipts

	Return of overpayment of grant monies	£250.00 (still to clear)
11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Precept Payment - TDC	£3244.35
12	Interest	£0.02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3244.37</b>

Bank Balances as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020  
Current A/C £7439.69 (£250.00 still to clear)

After payments made: £5264.31

Reserve A/C £668.26

**RESOLVED:** That the payments and receipts as detailed above are accepted and actioned by the Clerk.

(NC)

### FP73 Planning

\*\*\* Cllr Hardwick declared an interest in the applications at Stone Farm as the owner of the property and took no part in the discussion or vote. \*\*\*

#### To ratify and note the following comments submitted outside of the Council meeting due to time restrictions:

- 1/0685/2020/FUL Proposed roof over existing slurry store at Stretchacott Farm, Frithelstock - Recommend Approval.
- 1/0625/2020/FUL Conversion of redundant outbuilding to residential at Buidling adjacent Stone Farm, Frithelstockstone - Recommend Approval.
- 1/0627/2020/FUL Conversion of redundant outbuilding to provide overspill accommodation to main dwelling at Stone Farm, Frithelstockstone - Recommend Approval.

**RESOLVED:** That the Application comments as above are ratified.

(NC)

**To note the following application were APPROVED by Torridge District Council:**

- 1/6025/2020 FUL Conversion of redundancy outbuilding to residential dwelling. Building adjacent to Stone Farm.
- 1/0627/2020 FUL Conversion of redundant outbuilding to provide overspill accommodation to main dwelling at Stone Farm.

**RESOLVED:** That the information is noted.

(NC)

**FP74 Litter bin at Playing Field**

Members were reported that both Cllr Saywell and Pennington had offered to potentially grant fund the litterbin to be placed within the Playing Field.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk apply for funding for the litter bin at the Playing Field and if successful purchase a litterbin for the required amount.

(NC)

**FP75 Website and Accessibility**

Members were reported that the current website is not compliant with the Public Sectors Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations. Members had concerns regarding just having a Parish Council website and felt that the website should be more community minded and should give additional information for parishioners and visitors to look at.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact All Coast Media to enquire as to the exact details to what the quotation details.

Cllr Mark Thomas suggested having adverts on website to generate revenue for continuation/enhancement of the website. Cllr Hardwick suggested having a working group to discuss and move the project forward.

**FP76 2021/22 Budget**

Members considered items for inclusion in the 2021/22 budget. It was **RESOLVED:** That members would think about what items they would like to be included within the 2021/22 budget and report to the next meeting.

(NC)

**FP77 Part B - Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED:** That under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items due to the likely disclosure of confidential information.

(NC)

\*\*\* The Clerk left the meeting. \*\*\*

**FP78**

**Pension**

**RESOLVED:** That the Council join the Parish Clerk (Mrs K Graddock) to the Local Government Pension Scheme through Peninsula Pensions from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

(NC)

Meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

Appendix 1 - Report from Cllr Pennington.

**Philip Pennington**

**Torrige District Councillor Report Oct -Nov 2020**

**Report to Fristock Parish Council 5 Nov 2020**

**As with everyone, Torrige is getting ready for a second period of lockdown starting next Thursday**

Main issues

**FREE PARKING:** The council finally agreed to have some free parking in our town centres. This was to enable local shops to recover from the effects of the first lockdown. With the run up to Xmas there is a feeling that further innovative ways of supporting town centre businesses in this important trading time.

**PLANNING WHITE PAPER:** Torrige has made a collective response which had to be completed by Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. There are many unanswered questions on how proposals will impact on the district. A copy of the response should be available on TDC's website.

**STRATEGIC PLAN UPTO 2023:** Full Council agreed a final draft and will be available shortly.

**KIVELLS AGRI-CENTRE;** TDC invested in a new market at Holsworthy and is leased by Kivells. A dispute arose over the dirty water system. After a Court judgement TDC were left with some considerable costs. Under a question, asked at Full Council, the total costs against TDC was £1,281,695.20 A sad outcome to what still is a flagship development.

**LEISURE FACILITIES:** Due to the way central government support worked it has been difficult to come to an agreement with 1610, the provider of services at the Northam, Torrington and Holsworthy sites. Due to difficulties at Torrington and Holsworthy it is not possible to open up in the near future. It was planned the Northam facility be opened as soon as possible. However, on the announcement of the second lockdown this has now been put on hold

Please email with any queries.

Phil Pennington

## Appendix 2 - Report from Cllr Saywell Coronavirus

- Latest stats as of 4<sup>th</sup> November, there are now 5373 recorded coronavirus infections in Devon since the start of the pandemic. At District level, there have been 194 positive cases in Torridge, 443 in North Devon and 256 cases in West Devon.
- In the last 7 days from the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, there has been a weekly increase of 733 infections Countywide. In Torridge the weekly increase is 34, North Devon 94, West Devon 50.
- Frithelstock is included with Hartland on the 'MSOA' Map, and there have been 6 recorded cases in the last 7 days from October 30<sup>th</sup>. However I think that is probably due to a recorded outbreak at Hartland GP Surgery... There have also been recorded cases in Torrington, Holsworthy, Bideford and Northam – the latter three's numbers have been higher than Torrington's. Also note the data is only from the 30<sup>th</sup> October.
- These trends mirror the Countywide developments which have seen cases being recorded in the towns and their travel to work areas. Albeit outside of the Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay suburbs and travel to work areas, they are still low numbers.

I know a second lockdown will have come as a blow to many, particularly when the people of Torrington Rural as a whole, have put in a magnificent effort to keep our infection numbers low. We have seen excellent compliance with the public health rules and guidance.

Thank you to everyone in the Parish for the work you have done, are doing and will do again to look after those in need in our community. While lockdown is difficult, we do know a lot more now than we did in March and I know we can and will look after those in need during the second lockdown and beyond.

I want to read out two statements from Dr Virginia Pearson, Director of Public Health in Devon which should help to explain the situation:

### **Dr Virginia Pearson, Director of Public Health Devon said:**

“The number of incidents of coronavirus in Devon is still below the national average, however cases have been rising across the county in line with the rest of the country over the past month, in all our communities and in all age groups, although the majority – 55 per cent – are in young adults aged 16 to 39.

“In Exeter, where we saw cases increase in early October mainly due to cases in university students, they have fallen significantly over recent weeks thanks to prompt action by the university and public health, and are now again below the national average. Around 40% of Exeter cases relate to the University of Exeter. Non-university student cases in Exeter are well below the national average, and there is no evidence of significant spread of the virus between student and non-student populations in the city.

“But we know that the virus has been spreading in adults of working age, often in social settings. We must continue to take extra care and must never drop our guard.

“Testing capacity has increased in Devon, and the number of tests completed has been rising steadily since August, with the number of tests done doubling.

“Most current cases have had contacts traced through the NHS Test and Trace system. The latest performance shows over 75 per cent of contacts are followed up in Devon.

“It should be said that by and large, Devon residents, shops, businesses, educational establishments and care homes, have all behaved impeccably to limit the impact, and have followed national guidance around social distancing, hand hygiene and wearing of face coverings. And that has undoubtedly kept the number of positive cases lower in Devon, keeping us in the lowest of the government’s alert levels.

“However, national data emerging in more recent weeks has shown that, should the country take no additional measures beyond the current restrictions, England would be exceeding the ‘worst case scenario’ levels.

“Public Health Devon supports the need for a time-limited lockdown. If we don’t take extra steps now, numbers will continue to rise and it will put additional pressure on our busy hospitals. We are already seeing our local hospitals having to cancel non-urgent operations.”

“Devon’s response has been first rate, and we have all pulled together – Devon residents included – to limit the impact of coronavirus, and that is what has kept the number of positive cases low, sufficient that we are at the lowest alert level in the country. However, more needs to be done to halt the rising case numbers and the impact on the NHS. We now need to make sure we are in the best possible position to come out of the national lockdown by driving down rates. **We are asking all local people to help by following the public health guidance to the letter.**”

### **Finally, Dr Pearson is calling for one more big effort to stop the second wave of coronavirus.**

“Local people and businesses made huge sacrifices during the first lockdown and this really helped to keep the number of COVID-19 cases and related deaths down in the county. Our residents, shops, businesses, educational establishments and care homes all did a fantastic job to limit the impact of the first wave and this undoubtedly kept the number of positive cases lower in Devon.

“People and communities also came together brilliantly to support one another and look out for the vulnerable and those that might need extra help to stay safe.

“We now need to come together again with one more big effort to help stop the second wave of the virus in its tracks.

“The latest data shows the numbers of cases in the county are increasing, following the pattern in the rest of England.

“Whilst the number of cases is still below the national average, the time to act is now,”

“I am calling on everyone to follow the new lockdown rules, to limit their contact with others, and to follow the basic rules – social distancing, face coverings and hand hygiene – at all times.”



Dr Pearson also is also warning people, “Do not be tempted to drop your guard”.

*With a growing number of cases now in the working age population, she is calling on people to be extra careful and not to lower their guard in the workplace or when doing the other essential things that are allowed under lockdown.*

“In the past month, we’ve seen a growing number of positive cases among the working age population in Devon.

“Evidence suggests that in cases linked to a specific workplace, the spread has often been linked to locations where colleagues meet socially – in staff rooms, kitchens, or other shared communal areas that are ‘down-time’ spaces.

“Lockdown rules will force a change with some continuing to be allowed to work and others staying at home. The rules also ask us to avoid socialising together in most cases with pubs and restaurants being asked to close.

“But if at work and mixing with others we have to take extra care at all times.

“And that includes those ‘take-a-break’ moments with friends and colleagues, where it’s all too easy for our attention to lapse.

“We should also take extra care in other informal social settings such as in the playground when dropping the children to school.

“So please, keep alert to risk at all times. Follow the rules, use common sense and keep yourself and your family safe by not dropping your guard.”

### **Looking to the future...**

I don’t have a crystal ball. I fervently hope that we can go back to more regional based restrictions in December. The only thing I would caveat at this point though is that regionally, in the South West (apart from Exeter) we have seen large outbreaks in the South West cities and large urban conurbations. Plymouth and Torbay would almost certainly have gone into Tier 2 and there have been large outbreaks in Bristol and Bournemouth. If case numbers remain high in these areas it could mean even if we do move into regional restrictions that Devon could be in a higher tier than before the second lockdown.

I hope though we will see infection numbers fall over the next month and that we will be able to have a good Christmas so let’s heed the advice from the Director of Public Health and do all that we can to keep our infection numbers low in Torrington and beyond, and support those who need help during this difficult time.

### **Highways and Speeding/Traffic Issues**

The results of the Speed Survey will go to the ‘SCARF’ meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November and further actions will be detailed by the County Council and the Police following the meeting. I will discuss this further when it comes up later in the agenda.

On a slightly separate note, please do take up the opportunity to have a meeting with Darryl Jagger and Highways to discuss the forthcoming maintenance priorities for

the Parish. I know Drainage Investigations are due to take place on December 1<sup>st</sup> which will involve an evening road closure. The meeting with Highways can also be used to discuss the traffic/speeding issues in the village and Parish as well.

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*Andrew Saywell*

**Devon County Councillor for Torrington Rural**