

## FRITHELSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Frithelstock Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 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. and Cllr A Saywell - Devon County Council.

**FP79 Apologies**  
All members were present.

**FP80 Declarations of Interest**  
None.

**FP81 Minutes**  
**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed at a later date due to Covid-19.

(NC)

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

**FP82 Public Participation**  
A member of the public explained that there is currently no Parish Council representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee and the Council may wish to consider at the next meeting. They further explained that the Village Hall is in good financial shape and should receive further Covid Grants.

A member of the public raised a question as to whether the sign for Old Pound could be moved across the road.

**FP83 Reports from Outside Bodies**

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

Cllr Saywell gave his report, which is attached as Appendix 1.

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

**c) Police**

No report has been received.

**FP84 Finance and payments**

**a) To receive request for Funding from The North Devon Records Office**

**RESOLVED:** That a grant of £50.00 be approved.

(NC)

b) To receive request for Funding from Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice.

**RESOLVED:** That a grant of £100.00 be approved.

(NC)

c) To receive and approve payments and Receipts from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 until 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

#### Payments

	NAME	AMOUNT	CHQ NO
25	K Graddock - Salary , December and January	£255.89	Bacs 18/1
26	HMRC - PAYE/NI	£170.40	Bacs 18/1
27	K Graddock, Expenses inc 2 months of Zoom	£53.78	Bacs 18/1
28	DCC Pension Fund	£95.63	Bacs 18/1
29	Mrs M Baker - Flowers for M Poole	£30.00	Bacs December
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£605.70</b>	

No receipts.

Bank Balances as of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Current A/C £5234.31

Reserve A/C £668.29

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

(NC)

#### FP85 Precept

The Clerk presented the draft budget for 2021-22. It was

**RESOLVED:** That the budget for 2021/22 be approved and a precept request is submitted for £6,755.00 which results in a 1.6% increase.

(NC)

#### FP86 Census 2021

Members were circulated information relating to the Census 2021.

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

(NC)

#### FP87 Website

Cllr Warrington gave an update on the progress to date. It was

**RESOLVED:** That All Coast Media be appointed to complete a new Community website for £549.00 with a £15.00 monthly hosting fee and that a working party is formed to work with All Coast Media to deliver the site.

(NC)

#### FP88 Village Tidy up and Maintenance

Cllr Warrington gave an update to members on volunteers within the Parish that could complete basic tidy up and maintenance. The Clerk stated that the Council could not condone any roadside working without the volunteers completing Highways training and a full risk assessment would need to be completed before any works are done.

**FP89 Village Green – Potential Water Leak**  
Cllr Warrington informed members that he had received communication from a resident that there was a potential water leak on the village green, but that he thought the resident was going to fix this. It was  
**RESOLVED:** For Cllr Warrington to keep the Council up to date with any progress.

(NC)

**FP90 Broken Bollard**  
Members received quotations for the broken bollard on Church Lane. Cllr Warrington suggested placing additional bollards on the area to stop cars reversing on the space. The Clerk asked who the landowner was, but councillors were unsure, she therefore stated that before any bollards are placed on site, the landowner would need to be identified and appropriate permission sought. The Council should not place furniture on the site before this permission has been sought and a full risk assessment etc has been completed.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk complete a land registry search to identify if the land is owned.

(NC)

**FP91 Drainage Survey Update**  
Cllr Warrington gave an update on the drainage survey to date and that works had started to take place.

**FP92 Councillor Questions**  
Cllr Warrington expressed an interest in placing a bookcase within the phonebox.

Meeting closed at 8.46pm.

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

## Appendix 1 - Report from Cllr Saywell

Can I start by wishing you all a Happy New Year, and to thank everyone in Friethelstock for everything you are doing to keep the community safe during this difficult time.

### Coronavirus

- Stats – As of 14<sup>th</sup> January DCC area of Devon now up to 15,142 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.
- Since the 8<sup>th</sup> January that is a weekly increase of 1,786 infections.
- By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 83 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon 111 in the last 7 days, West Devon 73 in the last 7 days.
- There are now over 20,000 tests a week being carried out in the County.
- Locally, we have done incredibly well to keep our local infection rates as low as we have. **Torridge has one of the lowest infection rate per 100,000 in England (121.6)**, along with North Devon and West Devon, and **Devon as a whole has the one of the lowest rates in Upper Tier Authorities in England (222.6 per 100,000)**. At present Devon is actually the lowest Upper Tier authority, bar North Lincolnshire, but things can change quickly.

However... **cases are still rising**. In the November lockdown we saw cases continue to rise for about 10 days after the commencement of the lockdown. So if those trends are replicated for the January lockdown, we would anticipate seeing the impact of that in the figures next week.

Cases in Devon are highest in the working age population and elderly (75yrs +), with elderly cases, sadly, mainly attributable to care home outbreaks. In Torridge cases area very much in the working age bracket, and we are seeing increases in cases and outbreaks in workplace settings and subsequently households.

So while the situation is not as bad here as other areas of the country, the situation remains extremely serious. Please **stay at home**, and only leave home if you absolutely have to. When you do go out, don't forget to **socially distance, wear a face covering in indoor public spaces and wash your hands regularly**.

We don't have definitive proof yet but it is extremely likely that the new variant of coronavirus is here, and this strain is much more infectious than previous strains – where there have been outbreaks, in a workplace or care home, the number of infections has been much higher.

### Community Testing

DCC will start rolling out Community Testing for coronavirus at the end of this month.

Community testing will help to find individuals who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms and need to isolate and who may inadvertently be spreading the virus. A positive or negative result will not remove the need to follow existing COVID measures socially and in the workplace.

Rapid lateral flow tests will be used, which will provide a result within thirty minutes. This will not be a substitute for the national coronavirus testing – if you are

symptomatic, people should book a free NHS test via the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website or by calling 119.

The first site is planned to open near the end of January, beginning in Exeter, with other sites planned to become available across the County in February and March.

The Director of Public Health has outlined that when fully up and running the aim will be to get mobile testing sites deployed if there is a large outbreak in a specific setting (e.g. workplace) or community.

## **COVID Vaccinations**

On the more positive side... the good news is that residents of Torrington Rural aged 80+ and residents and staff of care homes **have started to receive their vaccinations**. County wide, **1000s of people have received their first vaccination dose**.

Main points for vaccine rollout:

- We now have vaccination hubs up and running at all four acute hospitals in Devon -these are vaccinating hospital staff and over 80's inpatients about to go home and outpatients
- 16 Primary Care Network vaccination sites up and running with 4 more coming on stream end of this week
- Mass Vaccination sites in Plymouth and Exeter to be opening before the end of January
- Vaccination of care home staff and residents has started prioritising largest care homes in the first instance (50+ residents)
- Locally, there have been vaccination sites at Holsworthy, Okehampton and Barnstaple. This has been due to the complexities of storing the Pfizer vaccine. Now that the Oxford vaccine has arrived, I know from talking to the head of one of Torrington's GP Practices that they are looking at rolling this out more locally so people do not have to travel long distances.

Priority for Phase 1 according to JCVI priority list is: Care home residents, over 80's and frontline health and care staff.

Thousands have been vaccinated already with each Primary Care Network having received at least one batch of vaccines (975 vaccines per batch); we received the Oxford vaccine last week and we have the workforce in place to undertake the vaccine programme. It is, however, a huge logistical exercise, very much dependent upon the speed and rate of vaccine supplies. Please though wait for the NHS to contact you when it is your turn.

## **Covid-19 Prompt Action Grant**

DCC's COVID-19 grants have opened again for the third lockdown. The guidance is slightly amended and can be found on this link along with the online application form. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/>

The biggest difference to the first two waves is that DCC are working in partnership with Devon Community Foundation to fund food projects. So any project that is for food provision needs to apply here <http://devoncf.com/apply/community-food-programme-2/>

## **Libraries and Recycling Centres**

- Devon's libraries are now temporarily closed for the new lockdown.
- Household Waste and Recycling Centres remain open for essential use only.

Can I again thank you for all you are doing to stay safe and to keep our communities safe during this difficult time. Hope is on the horizon with the vaccine... but we must not let our guard down or become complacent. Please follow the rules. DCC will do all that it can, as it has done during the first and second lockdown, to support the people of Devon during this difficult time and to protect the old, the young, and the vulnerable. We will recover from this pandemic and the lockdown. But in the meantime, please stay at home and stay safe.

## **Highways**

- Resurfacing is planned on the A388, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb – 12<sup>th</sup> March, night closures, weeknights only.
- This is a scheme identified and being completed by the Highways Asset Management team as a SCRIM site. SCRIM sites are sites where the skid resistance of the road is to low and it's been identified that the risk in this location is too high to not take action. This is why these works are taking place, even though visually it will not look bad...
- So if people do ask questions why, please give them this information.
- Preliminary 'Doing What Matters' work on the drainage schemes in the Parish are provisionally planned for late February but maybe delayed as they are still waiting for the results of the drainage survey.
- However, Darryl Jagger is currently writing a design brief to give to the County's Engineering Design Group to carry out a signing and lining review as a result of the speed survey findings.
- Highways preference is to avoid multiple road closures – I said I would canvass the Council's views so if you have any feedback let me know

## **DCC Budget**

DCC's Budget is due to increase by just under £37million thanks to some additional Government funding. Specific details remain TBC and I will update the Parish Council next month.

## **Locality Budget**

Please note if you have any projects in mind, funding for these will need to be allocated by the end of February.