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## FRITHELSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Frithelstock Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.00pm in The Village Hall, Frithelstock.

Present: Cllrs T Warrington (Chairman), E Hunkin, A Hardwick, C Stevens, and M Thomas.  
Also in attendance: Mrs K Graddock - Parish Clerk, Cllr A Saywell (DCC) and 4 members of the public.

**FP12 Apologies**  
Cllr M Baker and Cllr P Pennington.

**FP13 Declarations of Interest**  
None.

**FP14 Minutes**  
**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

**FP15 Public Participation**  
The following was mentioned by members of the public:

- The Village Hall has now re-opened for Pilates.
- Successful on a further £8,000 covid grant.
- Finished car park wall.
- Opposite the Village Green there is a verge that needs attending too. They asked who is responsible for this outside of the wall.
- Sign near Old Pound - sign needs to be cleaned.
- Best Kept Village sign has gone missing.
- Painting of telephone box - looks great.
- Torrington 100 Grant - hope money goes in the right direction.

**FP16 Reports from Outside Bodies**

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

Cllr Sawyell gave a detailed report on matters to date, which is attached as Appendix 1.  
Cllr Hunkin suggested sending out information to parishioners with regards to reporting potholes.

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

- Planning - in the light of last weeks by election in the Chilterns there appears to a desire for further consultation on the white paper. The central thrust appears around local involvement /voice.
- Rising coved rates. May affect opening/use of leisure facilities. Check TDC website for any changes to opening times.

**c) Police**

None received.

**FP17**

**Co-option of Councillor**

One candidate spoke on his application and reiterated that he can be flexible as retired and has numerous director appointments.

**RESOLVED:** That a secret ballot is used.

(NC)

A secret ballot was held and a member of the public confirmed with the Clerk the ballot papers and it was

**RESOLVED:** That Felicity Sluman be Co-opted onto the Parish Council and the Clerk will ensure that she signs her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests completed.

(4.1)

**FP18**

**Speeding in the Village**

Cllr Warrington will continue to speak to DCC and progress the matter.

**FP19**

**Website**

Website is progressing well. Once key information has been received the website could then be launched.

**FP20**

**Torrington 100 Grants**

The Clerk reminded members that there was £500.00 obtained from Torrington 100 towards VE Celebrations.

**RESOLVED:** That the £150.00 obtained as part of the £500.00 grant be transferred to The Poorlands Charity Account and they be asked to keep a record of what the funds were spent on to send to Torrington 100 as evaluation of the project and that A Green be asked to investigate a possible QR board with information on for War Memorial.

(NC)

**FP21**

**Finance - Payments and Receipts  
From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 until 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Payments**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>CHQ NO</b>
1	Amazon - Keyboard and Mouse	£25.77	Debit Card
2	Amazon - Archive Boxes and files x 3	£31.53	Debit Card
3	Viking Direct - Filing Cabinet and Suspension files	£29.99 £136.80	Debit Card
4	DALC - Subscription Renewal	£84.67	Bacs 17/6/21
5	Marmax - Recycled Litterbin	£430.80	Bacs on 20/6/21
6	Julie Snooks - Internal Audit	£125.00	Bacs on 25/6/21
7	K Graddock - Salary	£383.83	Bacs on 25/6/21
8	K Graddock - Expenses	£125.82	Bacs on 25/6/21
9	HMRC - PAYE	£255.60	Bacs on 25/6/21
10	Peninsula Pensions	£143.45	Bacs on 25/6/21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1773.26</b>	

## Receipts

1	Torrige District Council - Precept 1	£3377.50
2	Interest on Reserve Account - April	£0.01
3	Interest on Reserve Account - May	£0.01
4	Interest on Reserve Account - June	£0.01
5	HMRC VAT Refund	£391.34
		<b>£3768.87</b>

Bank Balances as at 20/6/21

Current A/C £7603.45

Reserve A/C £668.34

**RESOLVED:** That the above payments and receipts be accepted and actioned by the Clerk.

(NC)

## FP22

### **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21**

Members were circulated the AGAR for 2020/21 and the internal auditors report prior to the meeting. The Clerk informed members that the Council would be exempt from a full external audit, as it's expenditure was below £25,000.

#### **a) To discuss and agree the Annual Governance Statement detailed in the AGAR 2020/21.**

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Governance Statement as detailed in the AGAR for 2020/21 be received and approved.

(NC)

#### **b) To receive and agree the Accounting Statements contained within the AGAR 2020/21 along with the Internal Auditors Report and Internal Control**

The Clerk gave a overview of the comments from the Internal Auditor. Queries were raised from the auditor regarding the Council using Council funds for gifts to individuals namely previous Councillors.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the Accounting Statements contained within the AGAR 2020/21 be received and approved.
2. That the Statement of Internal Control be received and approved.
3. That the Internal Auditors report be noted.

(NC)

#### **c) To consider and agree the AGAR for 2020/21**

**RESOLVED:** That the AGAR 2020/21 be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Certificate of Exempt be sent.

(NC)

## FP23

### **Planning**

#### **The following applications were considered:**

- a) 1/0564/2021/FUL Proposed roof over existing feed yard (Affecting a public right of way)  
At: Stretchacott Farm Frithelstock Torrington Devon EX38 8LB

**RESOLVED:** That no objections be raised.

(NC)

**To ratify the decisions on the following applications:**

a) **1/0556/2021/AGMB** Agricultural Building At Cloister Hall Farm  
Frithelstock Devon  
Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 2  
no. dwelling houses and associated building operations under Class  
- No objections.

b) **1/0458/2021/FUL** Kitchen extension and downstairs WC at 1  
Rakeham Cottages Torrington Devon EX38 8JE - no objections.

**RESOLVED:** That the above applications and comments submitted  
during recess be ratified.

(NC)

**FP24 Telephone Box**

That two local parishioners had renovated the telephone box, which  
everyone agreed looked great. There is to be two shelves above the  
defib and two below. Cllr Hardwick mentioned that no liquids etc  
should be stored on the top shelves due to the defib and it was

**RESOLVED:** That the Telephone Box is named 'The Exchange'.

(NC)

**FP25 Parish Grass Cutting**

It was noted that there was no way of the Cemetery and Church  
obtaining grass cutting for this year and that the Parish Council wished  
to include this within their tender as it is an important part of the village.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council go out to tender for the grass  
cutting maintenance for this financial year:

- Frithelstock Cemetery
- Frithelstock Church
- Village Green

(NC)

**FP26 Recreation Field - Benches**

That the Parish Council look at purchasing benches for placement  
within the Recreation Field instead of grass cutting, which would be  
completed by the Recreation Field Committee. This arrangement  
should be reviewed annually.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council purchase benches for the  
Recreation Field instead of Grass Cutting for the 2021/22 financial  
year.

(NC)

**FP27 Councillor Reports and Items for Future Agenda**

None.

**FP28 Part B: Exclusion of Press and Public**

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

(NC)

**FP29**

**Maternity Cover**

The Clerk informed members that her baby was due on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and that she would use her annual leave entitlement for 21/22 over the coming months but she would continue to check emails and action any urgent matters as necessary but wished for the Council to consider whether they wanted full cover from an external organisation/individual.

**RESOLVED:** That no external cover is sought and that the next Parish Council meeting be scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and that any urgent matters of business is delegated to the Clerk and Chairman in consultation with Committee members via email.

(NC)

Meeting closed at 7.56pm.

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

## Appendix 1 - Cllr Saywell Report.

### ***Cllr Andrew Saywell – Report for Frithelstock Parish Council, June 2021***

#### **Thank You!**

As this is the first meeting since the election I would like to thank the people of Frithelstock and Torrington Rural for re-electing me as your County Councillor, it is an amazing privilege to represent this area and communities like Frithelstock at County Hall.

I have looked at the records and I believe I am the first County Councillor for Frithelstock to be re-elected since 1997! I will continue to work as hard as I can for Torrington Rural and will represent all residents, however they voted.

#### **Cabinet Position and Priorities for the New Term**

The work of the new Council has now begun following the Elections. The Leader of the Council, Cllr John Hart, has asked me to join the County Council Cabinet – a big step up in responsibility for me. My portfolio on the Cabinet will be ‘Organisational Development, Workforce and Digital Transformation’ and covers a wide remit from staffing, ICT, communications, websites and so on.

Despite these new responsibilities, my constituency work remains a priority – I will continue to follow up local matters and if I can, use my new position to advance the priorities of Torrington Rural.

The priority for the new Administration is Recovery and Regeneration as we come out of the pandemic and will be the theme of the Council for the next four years.

#### **Coronavirus**

- Stats – As of 24<sup>th</sup> June the DCC area of Devon now up to 21,578 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.
- Since the 19<sup>th</sup> June that is a weekly increase of 440 infections, more than double the previous week.
- By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 61 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon was 37 in the last 7 days, West Devon 11 cases in the last 7 days. The bulk of the Devon wide increase comes from Exeter where there were 147 new infections.

Unfortunately we have seen outbreaks at both Great Torrington School and Chumleigh School which have driven our local numbers up. DCC and other agencies are supporting the schools as they manage the outbreak, and the schools are dealing with a difficult situation extremely well given the circumstances. GTS has currently switched to online learning for the rest of this week due to the high number of pupils self isolating.

It is important to stress schools are not the cause for the rise in infections. Public Health Devon monitor and trace the cases, and in most incidences the transmission has been through social contact most likely outside of a classroom environment.

Across Devon, the increase in infections have come from unvaccinated young adults or young people still in education. But we have not seen an increase in hospitalisations or deaths.

There is also a clear ‘vaccine affect’ in infections. The infection rate in Torridge for 0-59s is 138.9 per 100,000. For over 60s it is **zero**. Some over 60s or double vaccinated people will

likely test positive – but the chances of them developing serious illness will be greatly diminished by having the vaccine.

So I do not believe these increase in infections should be a cause for panic. We should remain vigilant - continue to follow the guidance of hands, face, space and fresh air – and for those of us working away from home, travelling and/or socialising regularly, take up lateral flow testing. Above all the key message remains, **get your job when you are called up!**

### **Rapid Lateral Flow Testing**

As mentioned above, with Covid-19 cases increasing I think it is more important than ever that those of us who are working away from home (and don't take tests for work already), are travelling or coming into regular social contact with other households, should take up rapid lateral flow testing.

To practice what I preach, I took a test before coming to this meeting (the result was negative!) and have taken tests throughout the week.

I ordered a home testing kit off the Government website and have also started to use the **DCC Mobile Community Testing Service** which is in **Torrington on Tuesdays (1.30pm to 5pm) and Fridays (9am to 12.30pm), Sydney House Car Park**. Alternatively it is in **Bideford on Mondays (9am-5pm) and Thursdays (1.30pm to 5pm) in Morrisons Car Park**.

The staff at the mobile testing unit are efficient and helpful, can help answer questions about how to carry out a test, and can also be used to collect home testing kits.

Remember, lateral flow tests are only for people who DON'T have symptoms and are designed to pick up cases which are asymptomatic. If you have any symptoms book a PCR Test through the Government website.

More information can be found online at [devon.cc/testing](https://devon.cc/testing)

### **COVID Vaccinations**

The rollout of the vaccine in Devon and in Torrington Rural continues to go well.

I sent a briefing note from the NHS to the Parish Councils earlier this week but the main points for vaccine rollout:

- **All adults aged 18 and over** on 1<sup>st</sup> July are eligible to book their vaccination.
- **802,450 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose** up to 13<sup>th</sup> June, **while 625,312 second doses have been given**.
- **Latest estimate is 90% of people aged over 55 in Devon has received both doses. 80% of the adult population in Devon have received a first dose.**
- Anyone aged 40 or above should bring forward their second dose appointment from 12 weeks to 8 weeks to ensure priority groups have the highest possible protection from the Delta variant.
- **If you have an appointment for a second dose these appointments remain in place and its really important that you attend it as planned. There has been a number of people in Devon not attending their second appointment. Please do so, two doses of the vaccine offer you the best protection against the Delta variant!**
- Even when you have been vaccinated, you must still continue to follow the COVID-19 safety rules – remember hands, face, space, and fresh air!

## **Local Highways Matters**

Speeding Issues – I have been discussing the speeding issues in Frithelstockstone and the A388 with the County Road Safety Manager. There is the *possibility* of some mobile camera enforcement, with two possible sites being the village hall and the strip of grass on the left, just outside the village heading towards Stibb Cross.

I cannot guarantee anything for definite at this stage but I will do all that I can to see this come to fruition, if it is possible! I am well aware the Parish has had a long wait when it has come to this issue, I will continue to fight on your behalf to get something done.

Regarding potholes, **it is really important that residents continue to report potholes and other highways defects**. I cannot stress enough this is a numbers game – the more potholes reported the more likely it is we can have permanent repair works like resurfacing take place. Please visit [devon.cc/report-it](https://devon.cc/report-it) to report potholes and other highways defects online.

## **DCC Bids for Community Renewal Funding**

A programme of bids totalling more than £12.2 million has been submitted by Devon County Council to a new Government funding scheme which aims to support communities and businesses to recover after the Coronavirus pandemic.

Devon's bid is made up 16 projects from across the county which have the potential to generate around 620 jobs, support the creation of 400 new businesses, and help 3,000 people to retrain.

Torrige activity accounts for £3million of the £12million bid, including bids for the biosphere, agriculture, and upskilling young people and self employed workers.

## **Support for Children during Half Term**

Thousands of meal boxes have again been delivered to families with young children over the half term holiday week, in an initiative to help those who are struggling during the coronavirus pandemic. DCC first ran 'The Goodie Box' initiative during the Easter holidays, with good success. The boxes included ingredients and simple recipe ideas, and they were delivered to families' front doors. Feedback from families was that they loved them.

DCC rolled this out again this holiday, and the boxes have included fresh and store cupboard ingredients for dhal curry and flatbreads; hearty veg-packed pie; veggie bolognese; creamy summer pasta; tomato and courgette risotto; Mexican bean burrito; pitta pizzas; and fruity pancakes.

Each recipe had tips on how to swap or add ingredients and advice on healthy eating and how to prevent food waste. These meals helped to make sure young people throughout Devon had access to healthy and nutritional meals during the holiday period.

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Thank you again for your support in the Elections and as ever, if there are any DCC matters you'd like to raise with me then please get in touch. -

*Andrew Saywell*