

Minutes of Clovelly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors C West, (Chairman), Mrs V Foster, D Garnett, C Huxtable, R Phelps, N Sanders, P Slee, A Tucker.

District Councillors Dart and Harding.

2 Members of the public

92. Representations from the public.

The Road Warden expressed thanks to the Clerk for her efforts to get delivery of tarmac at last and trying to get signage.

There was a long discussion about which potholes should be filled and where.

This was restricted to the Parish of Clovelly but not A or B roads.

Those to be filled were at the Road Warden's discretion.

Action: The Clerk to check the position regarding insurance cover.

93. Apologies. County Councillor J Wilton-Love, Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk.

94. Declarations of Interest. Councillors Mrs Foster and Slee have a Dispensation in respect of items relating to Clovelly Estate.

95. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes held on 8 October 2024.

Approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor Tucker.

Seconded by Councillor Garnett and unanimously agreed.

96. Reports:

96.1 County Councillor J Wilton-Love. Apologies sent.

96.2 District Councillor Dart written report is as follows:

On Monday 25th we had a community and resources meeting.

Two key decisions were agreed in that meeting.

One to purchase two electric vehicles: a Toyota Pro Ace and a Toyota City Icon to replace a Ford Transit and a Ford Transit Connect.

Budgeted costs were originally £50,100 to replace, in reality these cost £57,114 to replace with electric. However, it is thought that this extra cost will ultimately be saved by less maintenance and running costs, given that Riverbank house has solar p.v and a charging point, although no battery storage.

Secondly there was concern within our rural communities about the proposition to only serve plant based foods at Torridge and Torridge premises.

In reality, we rarely have food in Torridge at meetings, however, in my opinion the proposal sends out a very negative message to our farming communities, especially given the recent budget implications for farmers. The information was based on a presentation received by the climate and emergency working group with figures from 2018! And there was no one invited to speak to counter the argument from any other organisation.

There was, however, a very informative statement read out by Cllr Rose Lock, and the vote was taken not to go with the plant based motion.

Two working groups have taken place with councillors to impart the expectations of the next twenty years local plan. The stark reality is that the government expectation is for 26,140 dwellings to be built out in Torridge.

Last local plan the expectation was 17,000, so a huge increase.

As councillors our huge concern is the lack of infrastructure currently, to support that growing population, and how we plan to accommodate that housing, where and how we build communities and environments robust enough to suit all types of the population, young, old and a robust economy to support the working age...not to mention the education system, which is currently left wanting in North Devon, with Exeter college, able to draw considerably more funding than Petroc, however our young people unable or struggling to travel to Exeter NHS, dentistry etc, quality of roads infrastructure, water supply, sewerage... the list of concern goes on....all need to be robustly accommodated within the local plan and the key element ...Affordability of housing also needs to be addressed..All ongoing...

We have had it confirmed by this government that the devolution deal for Devon and Torbay will go ahead excluding Plymouth who have not wanted to be part of it. Where this will leave us here in Torridge I really am not sure, and we will have to wait and see. As I understand it, Torridge do not have a place on the board!

On a positive, Active Torridge are proposing turn the old library in Bideford into a gym, with the Town Hall building being refurbished at the same time and a hot desk area to be provided.

Holsworthy swimming pool will have a new roof with solar and an air source heat pump, largely sourced via a grant.

There will be all weather play zones built at Bideford, Holsworthy and Torrington, using £105,000 from the rural England prosperity fund.

The cost per site is £275,000, 75% funded by the football foundation, in Holsworthy, and other contributions coming from Torrington town and lands and Town councils.

Sites were put forward by Winkleigh, which were deemed unsuitable.

And finally, Torridge have appointed a Green Energy Officer to North Devon Plus to take forward the Appledore Green Innovation Centre.

Fiona Henderson has joined North Devon Plus, the business support partner for Torridge and North Devon Councils as the Clean Maritime and Green Energy Officer. Fiona has already started working on impactful projects, including the development of the Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre, which is set to emerge as a cornerstone of the South West's maritime potential and a leader in the pursuit of a sustainable green energy future, and the North Devon and Torridge Green Hydrogen Route Map, setting out the potential future supply and demand of green hydrogen in the area.

Fiona, originally from Devon, is excited to bring her extensive knowledge and expertise to the new role. Fiona honed her skills as an environmental consultant in the private sector, working on large scale energy projects.

The aim of Fiona's role is to promote sustainable practices within the maritime sector and the green energy industry including, but not limited to, clean propulsion, seaweed, environmental intelligence, and wider floating offshore wind-related technologies.

Fiona is passionate about improving the social and economic opportunities in North Devon, as well as protecting the environment by reducing carbon emissions and accelerating the transition to renewable energy sources. She feels strongly about creating training opportunities and new skilled jobs for young people and those looking to change to a *greener* career in North Devon.

Fiona recently played a major role in organising the North Devon and Torridge Maritime Network event in October held at the Royal George in Appledore. The event was a great success, and the North Devon and Torridge Maritime Network will now hold quarterly local events aimed to enable maritime related businesses to meet, share information, and learn about technological advancements and innovation within the industry.

- 96.3 Defibrillator Checks – Councillors Sanders and Phelps.** In order.
Action: Clerk to report to The Circuit.

97. Finance.

- 97.1 Payments. To approve the following payments.**

Proposed by Councillor Slee.

Seconded by Councillor Garnett and unanimously agreed.

Mrs S Squire November salary £237.60. Expenses £3.00 **£240.60**

- 97.2 Online banking.** There is no further information to give at the present time, except that the matter continues to be progressed.

- 97.3 To set the 2025/26 Precept and Budget** which included a review of the Clerk's salary under Part II Confidential.

After much discussion concern over raising Precept from some Councillors,

Proposed by Councillor West to increase the Precept by £250.00, from £4,500.00 to £4,750.00.

Seconded by Councillor Tucker and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to advise TDC.

Proposed by Councillor Tucker that Grants of £100.00 each are awarded to the following Organisations. All organisations who had applied had send an email of request and a copy of the latest set of accounts to comply with criteria.

- 1. Citizens Advice**
- 2. Clovelly Archive**
- 3. Hartland AFC**
- 4. North Devon Record Office**

Organisations not receiving a Grant in 2025/26 were:

1. Twinning
2. Women's Institute
3. RNLI

On the grounds that they all seemed to have sufficient funds.

The Chairman requested members of the public and District Councillors to leave the room while the Clerk's salary was reviewed under Part II Confidential, and separate Minutes relate to this.

Action: The Chairman to advise the Clerk in writing of the outcome of the review.

The District Councillors left the meeting at this point.

98. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 8 October 2024.

- 98.1 Litter bin.** County Councillor Wilton-Love is willing to give a grant and before an application is submitted, a written quote from Clovelly Estate is awaited.

- 98.2 Parish Council Website.**

At the last meeting, Councillors agreed to have a .gov.uk website, but at that time, additional charges had not been advised and therefore not known and this also applied to the cost for individual Parish Council emails.

There was a short discussion with Councillors feeling individual emails are not required and it was unnecessary to change the Council site to gov.uk considering the minor matters we deal with.

- 98.3 Emergency Plan.** Reply from Devon Communities Together with offer of help to produce a document. This item was held over for the time being.

98.4 Notice Board. District Councillor Harding advised the matter was in hand.

99.5 Rural Housing Survey. Deferred to the December meeting.

100. Clerk's Actions:

Followed up signage/tarmac for Road Warden with DCC; reported vehicles in laybys; requested Net Zero answer to question; informed Remembrance Day organisers that Cllr Huxtable would be laying a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council; Defib Report sent to The Circuit; submitted planning application response; dealt with payments; requested Highways to renew reflective tape on posts and fix sign. Replies where appropriate will be given.

101. Planning & Planning Correspondence. There were no items to discuss/note.

102. Correspondence.

102.1 Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. Open Consultation enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings.

Details circulated to Councillors on 26/10/24.

102.2 Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS) Update. Email advising that the planned roll-out of broadband in the Parish under the Connecting Devon & Somerset Programme will not be going ahead. The email was circulated to Councillors on 4/11/24.

103. Highways.

It was reported that some potholes have been done but there are more to do.

The white lining needs to be re-done on the B3237 down to Clovelly from the A39 and a reminder regarding the tape on the post at the narrow of the B3237 by Turnpike Close.

Also chase up the resurfacing of Wrinkleberry Lane as we had some people tripping up during the Bonfire night.

Action: Clerk

104. Matters Raised by Councillors / Clerk. None.

105. Any matters raised under Public Participation for further consideration. None.

106. Urgent items raised at the discretion of the Chairman. None.

107. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 10/12/24 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

There will be a presentation by North Devon Coast National Landscape (formerly the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) at the start of the meeting, to which all are invited, which the opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

Summary of Decisions:

- Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 October 2024
- Payments
- 2025/26 Budget and Precept – to be increased from £4,500.00 to £4,750.00.

Chairman

Date