

Minutes of Clovelly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 10 December 2024 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillor C West (Chairman), Councillors D Garnett, R Phelps, N Sanders, P Slee, A Tucker.
District Councillor Harding.

There was a presentation by North Devon Coast National Landscape (formerly the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

In the question and answer session after the presentation, the following items were raised:

- Wind turbines
- Planning
- Change of name of organisation from the AONB
- Bat and Swift boxes
- Lights at the Atlantic Academy

108. Representations from the public.

108.1 Litter bin at Clovelly Quay. The Clerk advised that she was in email correspondence with TDC who in turn was liaising with Clovelly Estate as regards a quotation from them to make it, as they had expressed the desire that it was in keeping with the area,

Action: The Clerk to contact TDC again and asked them to remind Clovelly Estate, pointing out that funding is available through County Councillor Wilton-Love's Grant allocation which would have to be processed by the end of January as due to the County Council Elections in May 2025, all Councillors would go into Purdah in February and no grant funding would be available during that period.

108.2 Road Warden. No work had yet been undertaken as the appropriate signage was awaited.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had been awarded funding for the signage and a purchase order was being raised so that the money could be transferred to the Parish Council's bank account when the signs would then be purchased, with delivery to the Road Warden.

108.3 A member of the public asked about the situation when the defibrillator door at the Village Hall had been opened and was advised that no one had been identified.

108.4 Copy correspondence regarding the Maritime Innovation Centre / Levelling Up had been circulated to Councillors and noted.

109. Apologies. Councillors C Huxtable, Mrs V Foster and District Councillor Mrs A Dart.

110. Declarations of Interest. None.
Councillor Slee has a Dispensation in respect of matters relating to Clovelly Estate.

111. Approval of the Part I and Part II Confidential Parish Council Meeting Minutes held on 12 November 2024.

The Part I Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor Slee

Seconded by Councillor Sanders and unanimously agreed.

The Part II Confidential Minutes will be signed at the February 2025 meeting as a result of Minute No. 113.3 of these Minutes.

112. Reports:

112.1 County Councillor J Wilton-Love. Not present.

112.2 District Councillors:

A written Report had been received from District Councillor Mrs Dart and circulated to Councillors, as follows:

I attended an ANOB, (or North Devon Coast & National Landscapes) as it is called now, meeting in Hartland with local farmers, which was a consultation on the next 5 year management plan.

It was well attended and a useful evening, finding out about logic behind the new name and what is important to farmers and indeed the ANOB team.

The team will use the feedback and incorporate it into their next plan.

I also attended a local plan working group about the economy and feeding thoughts and objectives into our next 20 year local plan.

Things that were important to all of us, were... an effective education system here in North Devon that enables our young people to be able to learn appropriate skill sets, and further education system and when they leave such education they are workplace ready....it was largely thought that many leave education and are not employable or ready for the workplace environment.

It was revealed that Petroc have appointed a 9 month interim manager to, hopefully, turn it around. He will be invited to our next meeting, along with a few key people in business locally to glean their perspective and views.

We also suggested teaming up with Exeter college to work with them in Northern Devon, even if remotely for some students, given the accessibility of Exeter from many areas around here and lack of transport links.

Then we had a full council meeting, which comprised of a mid year treasury management review, Torridge have had returns on investments of 1 million to date.

We agreed the council tax reduction scheme to bring it in line with new minimum wage figures.

Also we agreed the council tax base for 2025.

It was proposed by our overview and scrutiny committee to introduce a reserve policy, however Torridge already keeps reserves of 10 to 15 % of its net budget, so this was not voted through.

We agreed to add £1,080,000 to the capital program for the Appledore marine maritime slipway improvements.

And we had some scant information on the x links Morocco project. They have agreed to pay £250,000, for our officers time, however the decision is to be made by central government via a development consent order, and is out of Torridge's hands. We must just respond when consulted and a working group of councillors has been set up to do this and ensure the area gains maximum benefits from the project, whilst minimising negative impacts.

We also delegated authority to the head of communities and place, Sean Kearney, to respond on the councils behalf as there is likely to be only 14 day turn around for consultation.

We all requested to be kept better informed on this project and process.

Also, good news regarding the renewed 5 yr housing land supply assessment:

'The updated assessment concludes that the supply of housing from deliverable sites in North Devon and Torridge exceeds the minimum requirement over the next five years (2024 – 2029). The published statement demonstrates a five-year housing land supply equivalent to 5.18 years, which represents 104% of the five-year requirement.'

In licencing we agreed to go out to consultation on the new pavement policy...see on TDC website if you wish to respond.

Season's greetings to you all!

District Councillor Harding advised that in addition to Councillor Mrs Dart's Report, who had attended the same meetings as he had, there was funding for people in hardship available from TDC who were also lobbying the government on behalf of farmers in relation to Inheritance Tax proposals and the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Payment.

Councillor West asked for an update on the following:

- **Innovation Centre.**
- **Answer: £18 million has been set aside for it, various Universities will be involved, together with private companies and Harland and Wolfe**
- **Offshore Seaweed Farm**
- **Answer: It is working and expected to be harvested in April**
- **White Cross Wind Farm**
- **The application has not yet been determined. It needs infrastructure to deal with it, the same as the XLinks project to bring electricity from Morocco**

Councillor Slee spoke about the feed for farms which used to dock in Plymouth, now docking at Appledore which is saving farmers between £200 and £300 per month. TDC charge ships for docking which is resulting in extra income for the local area.

112.3 Defibrillator Checks – Councillors Sanders and Phelps. In order.

Action: The Clerk to report the status on The Circuit.

113. Finance.

113.1 Payments. The following payments were approved and authorised:

Proposed by Councillor Tucker

Seconded by Councillor Slee and unanimously agreed.

Mrs S Squire	December salary £237.60. Expenses £21.60	£259.20
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113.2 Online banking. The Clerk advised that there was no further information to give at present.

113.3 2025/26 Precept and Budget.

Councillors had agreed on the 2025/26 Budget and Precept, including a review of the Clerk's salary at the November meeting.

However, it had since been identified that some figures required amendment and the revised details had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting to study.

Proposed by Councillor West that the revised 2025/26 Budget was approved and that the 2025/26 Precept was, as previously agreed, £4,750.00.

Seconded by Councillor Garnett, all agreed.

114. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10 November 2024.

114.1 Litter bin. Covered under Minute No. 108.1.

114.2 Emergency Plan. There is to be a presentation by Devon Communities Together at Woolsery in March where neighbouring Parishes will be invited.

114.3 Notice Board. It had not been possible for District Councillor Harding to deal with the refurbishment.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Tucker for cutting the vegetation around the base.

114.4 Rural Housing Survey. District Councillor Harding advised that she had a meeting planned with a person from Cornwall who is a provider and will make enquiries on behalf of Clovelly. He also had a meeting with the Head of TDC Planning.

115. Clerk's Actions:

- **Road Warden.** Details of the insurance cover had been checked and the details circulated at the meeting. Information on the DCC website stated:

In the unlikely event of a claim, DCC will cover the public liability aspect of insurance for voluntary work on the public highway or footway, providing it is undertaken in a safe manner according to DCC advice. This, for example, would cover any claims by third party as a result of works, which the county council would defend if works were done in accordance with DCC advice.

DCC will not provide any other form of insurance cover for this activity which must be undertaken at the volunteers own risk. So, for example, any damage to one's own person, property or vehicle would not be covered. If vehicles are to be used (for example farmers) then they must ensure that the vehicle is suitably insured for any activity undertaken – if in doubt, owners should check with the vehicle's insurer.

If a local council decide to employ a contractor to undertake any works for them then the County Council's public liability insurance will not apply – it only applies to volunteers under this scheme.

We advise any parish and town council, who are interested in undertaking any self help work, to discuss their insurance requirements with their current insurance provider.

- **Reported defibrillator status to The Circuit.**
Councillor West had received an email from The Circuit advising that the status had not been updated and it was clear that there had been miscommunication somewhere. The Clerk had advised The Circuit accordingly.
- **Made suggestions regarding the potholes at Wrinkleberry Lane and if this was something that the Road Warden could do.**
Action: District Councillor Harding will check with County Councillor Wilton-Love if it is DCC's intention to repair the potholes that have already been reported.

116. Planning & Planning Correspondence.

There were no planning applications to consider.

116.1 Planning Correspondence: The following TDC Decision Notice was noted: Approval for Application 1/0761/2024/LBC – Internal alterations, secondary glazing with associated works – Clovelly Court, Clovelly.

117. Correspondence.

Numerous emails from National Grid had been forwarded to Councillors giving an update on electricity failures and connections during and after Storm Darragh.

118. Highways. At Slerra, street light numbers 12 – 14 are not working.
Action: Clerk to report to DCC.

119. Matters Raised by Councillors / Clerk. None.

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

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

122. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.47pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **The Part I Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 November 2024**
- **Payments**
- **The revised budget for 2025/26 due to necessary amendments following the November 2024 meeting**

Chairman

Date