

Minutes of Clovelly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 11 February 2025 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillor C West (Chairman), Councillors C Huxtable, R Phelps, N Sanders, P Slee, A Tucker.

District Councillor S Harding during Minute No. 123.1

3 Members of the public

123. Representations from the public limited to 3 minutes in line with DCC & TDC.

123.1

A resident spoke about the Play Park, noting that the equipment looked tired and asked if it could be updated with additional items such as a slide, wobbly bridge and springer ride.

It was noted that the equipment belonged to the Parish Hall, rather than the Parish Council.

The Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee, a Parish Councillor, suggested that they have a site meeting to discuss the matter further. He added that the Play Area Inspection carried out in 2024 classed the risk of the equipment as medium, with no problems highlighted.

The Parish Hall Chairman will then put the representations to the Parish Hall Committee, and then to the Parish Council

District Councillor Harding will speak to an officer at TDC to find out if there are grants available.

The Clerk recommended that a consultation was carried out which would back up the need for new equipment when applying for grant funding.

124. Apologies. Councillors D Garnett and Mrs V Foster; District Councillor Dart.

125. Declarations of Interest. None.
Councillor Slee has a Dispensation for matters relating to Clovelly Estate.

126. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes held on 10 December 2024.
Approved and signed as a correct record.
Proposed by Councillor Slee.
Seconded by Councillor Phelps and unanimously agreed.

127. Reports:
127.1 County Councillor J Wilton-Love. Not present.

127.2 District Councillors:
The following written Report for January had been received from District Councillor Dart.

HERE IS MY UPDATE FOR YOU UP TO THE END OF JANUARY:

The following decisions were taken at community resources committee on 20th Jan.

2024 Update to Torridge District Council's Carbon Footprint

Resolved:

That the 2024 update of the Carbon Footprint for Torridge District Council be approved for publication.

[this was not a very positive report, a discussion followed as to should our target deadline remain, or move....I felt that by 2030 the council may well not exist in its current form thanks to the governments devolution plan, therefore it was largely not relevant!]

Victoria Park Nurseries

Resolved:

That the submission of a planning application to renovate/convert the garages at Victoria Park Nurseries be approved.

Torridge District Council - In-House Money Advice Service

Resolved:

That the 12 month in house money advice trial scheme for Torridge District Council be approved.

[This is for in person debt advise , for such persons that struggle with internet or phones, and will be under taken via a body called "navigate "whom are best placed to undertake it.

Yesterday we were notified that a Torridge councillor who was subject to court action, had this result:

Cllr Ford

Imprisonment: Committed to prison for 18 Weeks.

Restraining order made for the defendant in the following terms:

1. Not to contact Staci Dorey directly or indirectly (except when attending Council Meetings whilst acting in his capacity as an elected Councillor).

2. Not to use threatening, abusive, intimidating or insulting words or behaviour (Including via electronic means such as telephone or email) towards any Council Officers or Councillors.

3. Not to contact Staff or officers of Torridge District Council by electronic means (including not to telephone or email), unless it is the officer designated by the Council for official Council business.

4. Not to be within 100 metres of Torridge District Council Offices at Riverbank House, Bideford EX39 2QG.

This order lasts until 28/01/2029.

This order is made on conviction.

Leonard Ford is ordered to pay costs of £685.00 to the Crown and a surcharge of £154.

And here are the decisions from the Budget special Community and resources committee on 27 January, 2025.

Miscellaneous Fees & Charges

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation for the Beach Hut fee to be increased in line with inflation be approved.

(Vote: For – 9, Against – 1, Abstention – 0)

That the recommendation for the fee on the reserved bays at Windmill Lane, Northam be increased incrementally to £525.00 over the next two years.

(Vote: For – 8, Against – 2, Abstentions – 0)

That the recommendation for Bone Hill Car Park to have a period of free parking from Saturday midday to Monday 8am, to bring in line with The Pill, Bideford, Torrington and Holsworthy, be approved.

(Vote: For – 7, Against – 2, Abstentions – 1)

The fees at Castle Hill work hub, Torrington, are not increased

(Vote: For – 9, Against – 1, Abstentions – 0)

That the recommendation for the all day charge at Well Park car park, Holsworthy, and the Torrington equivalent, to be an incremental increase in line with inflation, be approved.

(Vote: For – 7, Against – 1, Abstentions – 2)

That the recommendation in the report be approved along with the previously agreed amendments.

(Vote: For – unanimous)This approved all the other fees and charges.

Budget 2025/26, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 - 2029/30

RESOLVED:

That the following recommendations be approved and noted, and recommended to Full Council:

- a) Torridge's Band D Council Tax for 2025/26 be increases by (2.99%) from £189.50 to £195.17 per year
- b) Torridge's Net Revenue Budget 2025/26 is £12.109m
- c) The contributions to the Council's reserves as outlined in paragraph 11.4 are approved.
- d) That in light of the risks to the Council's finances identified within the report that the Member Working Group continue its work to bring the Council's budgets back into balance.

That members note:

The Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) assurance of the robustness of the budget 2025/26 set out in section 13 of the report

Note the assumptions and forecast applied to develop the MTFS outlined in section 9.

(Vote: For – 7, Against – 1, Abstention – 1).....I was the one and only councillor who voted against this!

Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2029/30

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation to update the Capital Programme with the four new projects as stated in the report be approved and recommended to Full Council.

(Vote: 7, Against – 0, Abstentions – 1).....I had to leave the meeting, so missed this vote

Other news:

LOTS OF COSULTATIONS ONGOING RE DEVOLUTION AMONGST ALL POLITICAL BODIES NATIONALLY.....I am unconvinced that this will be in the best interests of residents, particularly in rural sparsely populated areas.... See below for link to the white paper on this.

TORRIDGE HAVE HAD TO RE CALCULATE THEIR 5 YR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY ACCORDING TO NEW CRITERIA AND NOW DONT HAVE ONE!

STRENGTHENED ROBUSTNESS FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN NATIOINAL PARKS THOUGH.

S Harding.

There was a lot of discussions regarding a number of topics, including Devolution.

Due to the government's new housing targets being altered, TDC has no longer got a 5 year housing supply.

He has an upcoming meeting with a housing supplier regarding social housing. Westward Housing has stopped taking on projects.

Councillor West spoke about a number of emails from a member of the public in connection with Appledore Dock, all of which were noted.

127.3 Defibrillator Check – Councillors Sanders and Phelps. In order.

Action: Clerk and Councillor Phelps to submit the Report to The Circuit.

There had been email correspondence with South Western Ambulance Service Trust where the defibrillator at The Street had been decommissioned so that it could be registered with The Circuit by South West Ambulance Service Trust and additionally, Councillor Phelps who will be checking it on a monthly basis, and the Parish Clerk who will act as a back up, had been invited to be a guardian with their details registered with South West Ambulance Service Trust.

128. Finance.

128.1 Payments. To approve the following payments.

Proposed by Councillor West.

Seconded by Councillor Tucker and unanimously agreed.

Mrs S Squire February Salary £237.60; Expenses £21.85	£259.45
Protect Signs. Chapter 8 signage for Road Warden use.	£610.88

The payment for January 2025 was approved.

Proposed by Councillor Slee.

Seconded by Councillor Huxtable and unanimously agreed.

Mrs S Squire. January 2025 Salary £237.60; Expenses £2.00.	£239.60
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128.2 Online Banking. The Clerk had spent considerable time on this matter.

Details were required of the signatories to be included (Cllrs West, Phelps, Slee and Tucker) for the matter to proceed.

Action: Clerk to pursue a new account.

128.3 Grass Cutting. To agree the areas to be cut for a quotation to be obtained from Mr N Wonnacott. The areas were:

- Path from the Stoop to below telephone box
- Around seats 2 in Sierra, Turnpike and halfway down Sierra
- Sweeping Wrinkleberry Lane annually.

Proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Tucker and unanimously agreed.

Action: The quotation to be agreed at the March Parish Council Meeting.

128.4 VAT. £659.73 has been reclaimed from HMRC for the period 1/12/2023 to 31/12/2024.

129. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10 December 2024.

129.1 Litter bin. Two bins are to be made by staff at Clovelly Estate and the invoice will be supplied by the beginning of March.

TDC has agreed to collect the refuse.

Action: The Clerk to clarify if TDC will empty the new bins or if they will expect Clovelly Estate staff to do this.

130. Clerk's Actions:

- ❖ Defibrillator Report sent to The Circuit
- ❖ Dealt with payments
- ❖ Road Warden Signage / funding application to cover the cost.
- ❖ Emergency Plan Meeting – 3/3/25 in Clovelly Parish Hall.
The hire of Hall fee to be split 50/50 between Clovelly and Woolsey Parish Councils.

Woolsery Parish Council to supply a back up, as the Parish Clerk will be on leave. Councillor West agreed to be the Clovelly Parish Hall contact, and he suggested supplying tea and coffee.

131. Planning & Planning Correspondence. None.

132. Correspondence:

132.1 A consultation on Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for Local authorities in England, which closes February 2025. *Noted.*

132.2 Email regarding safety of Lithium ion batteries campaign.

Circulated to Councillors on 20/1/25.

Councillors supported the campaign.

Action: Clerk to respond to the email and ask Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP to support the second reading, as requested in the email.

132.3 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Consultation – Automatic Fire Alarms.

Consultation ends 9/4/25. Email circulated to Councillors on 20/1/25.

Proposed by Councillor West to respond as a Parish Council.

Seconded by councillor Slee and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

132.4 Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of World War II ending.

Councillors discussed emails circulated to Councillors in connection with marking this (bonfire, street items).

Proposed by Councillor West to purchase 12 lamp post signs (3 packs of 4 signs for poles) at a cost of £56.99 plus delivery.

Seconded by Councillor Tucker and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to place the order and ask for a pro-forma invoice to be agreed at the March Parish Council meeting.

132.5 XLinks Morocco UK- Power Project. Although Clovelly is not affected by this scheme, Councillors had been sent details of this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and the consultation which was currently running.

The final decision on the application is to be decided by the Secretary of State, and the documents were noted.

132.6 Devon Association of Local Councils. Nominations for Royal Garden Party. *Noted.*

133. Highways. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had asked if the grit bins had been refilled, but this information was not known.

Action: Clerk to advise.

The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had requested a list of 10 roads in the Parish which were considered to be in bad condition.

Action: The Clerk to reply that all roads were in a bad condition, and the following were specifically identified:

1. Velly Lane between Clovelly and Lighthouse Cross
2. Wrinkleberry Lane
3. The main road to Clovelly after turning off from the A39, particularly at Sierra
4. Clovelly to Burford and beyond
5. West Dyke to the B3248 on the Hartland Road
6. Slade to Downland Farm
7. Kennerland Lane on the border with Clovelly
8. From the Parish Church to white railings, Clovelly
9. Road to Clovelly Harbour from white railings
10. Lighthouse road – the drain has started to collapse by about 4", 100 yards in from Lighthouse Cross
11. The road from Providence Chapel to West Dyke is subsiding

Regarding where the road narrows just past Turnpike Close, the signage is not clear with no priority right of way information.

Action: The Clerk to provide the 11 areas identified and ask for priority signage at the road narrows on the road leading to Clovelly.

134. Matters Raised by Councillors / Clerk.

134.1 Clerk's Leave. 20/2/25 – 3/3/25.

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

136. Urgent items raised at the discretion of the Chairman.
Thanks to Councillor Tucker for clearing round post box and sign.

137. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 11 March 2024 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 December 2024**
- **January and February 2025 payments**
- **Areas of grass cutting for a quotation to be provided for the 2025 season**
- **Clerk to complete the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on automatic smoke alarms, on behalf of the Parish Council**
- **Purchase of 12 lamp post signs to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day and the ending of World War II at a cost of £**

Chairman

Date