

Minutes of Clovelly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 8 February 2022 at 7.30pm by Zoom, due to the higher than national average Covid-19 infection rates in the area and for the safety of all.

Present: Cllrs West (Chairman), Davey, Mrs Foster, Garnet, Huxtable, Perham, Sanders, Slee.

County Councillor Wilton-Love

District Councillors R Boughton (from Minute No. 21/22 – 111.12), Mrs A Dart and S Harding, and Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk.

21/22 – 107 Open Forum. There were no members of the public present and no items had been raised.

21/22 – 108 Apologies. Councillor A Tucker.

21/22 – 109 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Perham has a Dispensation in matters relating to the Clovelly Estate.

21/22 – 110 Approval of the Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14/12/21 were ratified at an in person meeting in Clovelly Memorial Parish Hall car park on 30/12/21.

Councillor Davey asked for it to be noted that the grass cutting he mentioned was near Clovelly Cross. Minute No. 2122 – 099 refers.

21/22 – 111 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

21/22 – 111.1 Clovelly A39 roundabout funding.

The Clerk was about to submit an application form to TDC for funding from District Councillor Mrs Dart's allocation.

The Clerk had contacted Bideford Bridge Trust who suggested a letter of application is sent by 17/2/22 when the request will be considered.

Action: Clerk

The contractor who is going to do the work had been contacted about possible price rises and had advised that as far as price increases, there is little in the way of materials involved, only soil.

He advised that in the Spring, Government legislation will change meaning white diesel must be used in all plant, so this will mean an increase in cost.

Councillor Davey offered to provide the soil. It was advised by District Councillor Harding that there was enough soil under the tarmac to use, and the material required will be screed.

21/22 – 111.2 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Funding.

Trees. Councillor West had spoken to Mr J Rous and an area near the old school had been identified, which was on land owned by the Clovelly Estate. He had sought advice from RHS Rosemoor and The Woodland Trust for the best type to plant and had also spoken to Councillor Tucker who had agreed to plant and look after the trees.

County Councillor Wilton-Love has funding in his Locality Grant allocation for the cost of the trees.

**Councillor West proposed that trees for this area were purchased.
Seconded by Councillor Garnett and unanimously agreed.**

Action: The Clerk to obtain details from The Workshop at Aberfeldy who are producing custom made plaques for The Queen's Green Canopy.

There was a discussion about giving souvenir mugs to children who live in Clovelly. The Clerk was able to show Councillors a choice of two from

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Foster to purchase 50 mugs at a price of £3.25 featuring the Coat of Arms motif and the Platinum Jubilee logo. Seconded by Councillor Garnet and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to order.

Beacon/Bonfire on 2 June 2022 at 9.15pm. There will be a bonfire in the field below the Parish Hall.

Councillor Slee offered to help collect material for this.

21/22 – 111.3 Street Lighting.

Councillor Perham advised that light number 18 had still to be done. Other than that, all the work had been completed.

21/22 – 111.4 Website. The Clerk was continuing to make arrangements for a counter to show on the website.

21/22 – 111.5 DCC Grass Cutting Enquiry. County Councillor Wilton-Love had spoken to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer about this who advised that there were a number of reasons why the work was being done, and could have been a breakdown of communication.

21/22 – 115.a Grass Cutting at Sierra. Councillor West advised that the current contractor did not wish to continue. He had contacted Mr Neil Wonnacott who had quoted a price for two cuts in the Spring and August/September time. The price of the cuts is not mentioned in these Minutes as the Clerk is to ask Mr Mike Baker, one of her contacts, to avoid a flaw in the quotation process.

Action: Clerk to approach Mr M Baker for a quote

21/22 – 111.6 TDC Reserves. It was noted that the details had been circulated to Councillors.

21/22 – 111.7 Potholes / road surface. 6 potholes had been reported along with details of the road breaking up between Clovelly Cross and Stitworthy Cross. This had been resurfaced.

County Councillor Wilton-Love advised that DCC is spending £2m less on potholes but reassured Councillors that most of the cuts in Highways Departments are in areas where there has been improvements which is saving money, rather than physical cuts.

Councillor Slee asked the question 'if a road is so bad that it is not safe for vehicles to travel on, who makes the decision about it'?

County Councillor Wilton-Love advised that DCC would make the decision.

Councillor Slee was referring to the road between West Dyke Farm and Higher Clovelly.

Action: County Councillor Wilton-Love to follow up the reason why it has not been attended to after being reported approximately 12 months ago.

21/22 – 111.8 Additional street light in Wrinkleberry Lane.

The officer who had been dealing with the new lights in Clovelly had advised the Clerk as a result of her enquiry that this was something to which he could

agree or disagree and suggested raising the concern with the local Councillor to follow up.

Action: County Councillor Wilton-Love to make further enquiries.

21/22 – 112 Reports

21/22 – 112.1 County Councillor Wilton-Love.

There is a large deficit in the forthcoming budget and a strategic plan is to be imminently put into place with detailed plans for potential savings. One of the biggest areas of losses is children's care. The 'dragon patcher', a machine that repairs potholes, is being used in more places to save money.

Councillor Garnett spoke about levelling up and where there is certain disproportional depravation.

In reply, County Councillor Wilton-Love advised this was something he had been looking at with central government with a particular emphasis on broadband and could make enquiries about Clovelly being connected with high speed broadband if required.

21/22 – 112.2 District Councillors:

Councillor Boughton. He is on the internal overview and scrutiny committee who have approved that Council Tax is increased by £5 on a Band D property. The proposal will now go for approval to full Council.

Councillor Garnet enquires about TDC reserves and was advised that these would not be affected as they are earmarked separately.

Councillor Mrs Dart. There had been a meeting of the community and resources committee where a presentation of the budget was given. She was one of three Councillors who voted not to support the proposed increase in Council Tax. She could not justify an increase to go into reserves for the purchase of vehicles in 2030.

The meeting can be seen on YouTube.

A Torridge District Councillor has had to be censured which has affected all Councillors and members of staff.

There have been cases of bird flu in Alverdiscott and the recommendation is that birds are continued to be shut in.

She knew of a person who had small tractors to access an area for a Platinum Jubilee bonfire.

Councillor Harding spoke about the proposed rise in Council Tax adding that TDC had funding for hardship cases.

21/22 – 113 Planning and Planning Correspondence.

There were no Applications to consider or correspondence to note.

21/22 – 114 Correspondence.

Various emails from Agencies had been forwarded to Councillors.

21/22 – 114.1 20's Plenty Campaign.

Literature had been forwarded to Councillors including an email from County Councillor Henderson (Chulmleigh and Landkey Division).

County Councillor Wilton-Love advised that DCC is now accepting applications from towns and villages who have expressed an interest in progressing a 20mph zone.

Action: Next Agenda to include speed of traffic at Sierra.

21/22 - 115 Finance

Balances: Not available as NatWest had not sent Statements.

21/22 – 115.1 Payments.

The following payments were approved and authorised.

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

	Ch.No.	
Mrs S Squire Salary and expenses	1021	£120.88
HMRC PAYE	1022	£ 73.60

Cheque No. 1020 had previously issued between meetings for S Harding in respect of grass cutting for the 2021 season.

21/22 – 115.2 Bank Account. The issue was still ongoing.

21/22 – 116.2 Internal Audit.

The Clerk had contacted the Devon Air Ambulance who had advised that it would be up to the Parish Council to contact MAT Electrics, the company who installed the lighting column, to carry out a service.

Action: The Clerk to request a quotation from MAT Electrics.

Regarding the 2022/23 internal audit, the Clerk had obtained a quotation from IAC Audit and Accountancy Services which was the same price as previously paid, £100.00 and easier to work with.

Proposed by Councillor Davey to appoint IAC, seconded by Councillor Slee and unanimously agreed.

21/22 – 117 Highways. No issues were raised.

21/22 – 118 Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk

21/22 – 118.1 Councillor Perham – Affordable Housing. He felt this should be progressed as people currently renting were fearful of losing their home.

Councillor West explained the problem regarding sufficient members of the Parish Hall Committee to vote in favour of the area identified to be used for affordable housing. When and if it happens, it would still be several years before anything happened. It was appreciated that desperate people do not wish to leave the village, but this may be a reality in the future.

Councillor Garnett suggested that Councillor Perham explains that the Parish Council is fully in favour of the project but because of charity laws, the Deed drawn up for the Parish Hall means that a change of uses has to be agreed by the Hall Committee and the Charity Commission.

The majority of Councillors supported the project.

Councillor Slee suggested that the new Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee raised this issue at the next meeting on 14 February.

Councillor Sanders, also the Chairman of the Hall Committee stressed the importance of people attending the Annual General Meeting and he would like to think there was enough support for the affordable housing for the Committee to support it.

21/22 – 118.2 Councillor Perham – Electric Vehicles Charging Points

With more electric vehicles being purchased, he felt a charging point should be considered at the Parish Hall.

Councillor Sanders, Chairman of the Hall Committee, advised that arrangements were being made for electricity to be installed so that Football Club floodlights could be erected to encourage younger players.

Action: Councillor Sanders to obtain quotations for charging points.

Action: Councillor West to send details from Pass UK. To be an item on the March Agenda.

21/22 – 118.3 Councillor Garnett – Proposed bench at Airman's Memorial

Councillor Slee questioned the health and safety aspect.

Action: County Councillor Wilton-Love will check with Highways if it is considered that a bench could be sited there.

Action: Councillor West to obtain prices for benches.

21/22 – 118.4 Councillor Garnett – Painting of old phone box which would be used as a plant swap area.

Action: Councillor West will invite Neil Wonnacott to provide a quotation.

Action: The Clerk to obtain details from the dedicated website where authentic supplies can be obtained, such as replacement doors, glass, hinges and the correct shade of red paint.

21/22 – 118.5 Parish Clerk – Report on planning training 'Material Planning Considerations' circulated to Councillors. Noted.

21/22 – 119 Urgent items raised at the discretion of the Chairman

The finger post to Burscott at Turnpike is rotten and the whole structure requires replacing in a like for like material (wood).

Action: The Clerk to obtain a quotation from JAG Signs in Holsworthy.

21/22 – 120 Date & time of next meeting:

Tuesday, 8 March 2022 in Clovelly Memorial Hall at 7.30pm subject to Covid-19 infection rates – government guidelines.

The meeting ended at 21.02pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- Trees to be purchased to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- 50 mugs to be purchased to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee for the children of Clovelly
- Payments
- IAC Audit and Accountancy Ltd to be appointed for the 2022/23 internal audit

Chairman

Date