

Minutes of Clovelly Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 23 February 2023 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting had been postponed for one week due to the scheduled meeting being inquorate.

Present: Councillor C West (Chairman), Councillors J Davey, D Garnett, C Huxtable, S Perham, N Sanders.

County Councillor J Wilton-Love

District Councillors Mrs Dart and S Harding.

2 members of the public

Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

92. Representations from the public limited to 3 minutes in line with DCC & TDC.
None.

93. Apologies. Councillors Mrs Foster, P Slee, A Tucker.

93. Declarations of Interest.

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

Councillors Sanders and West declared Prejudicial Interests in connection with Minute No. 96.1 – cheques in reimbursement to them for materials relating to planters.

94. Approval of the Part I & Part II Confidential Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 20 December 2022

Approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor Sanders

Seconded by Councillor Davy and unanimously agreed.

95. Reports:

95.1 County Councillor J Wilton-Love:

- Apologies given for missing some meetings
- Additional street light in Wrinkleberry Lane.
- Derestriction Sign.
- The Give Way sign not working at Burscott was spoken about.
- The reply regarding accidents on the A39 was advised.
- The street light by the telephone box at Burscott had not been working for over a year and Councillor West had been informed that specialist material had to be ordered before the repair could be done

Councillor Perham informed that all but two of the newly fitted lights in Clovelly were not working and local people have been reporting this.

Action: County Councillor Wilton-Love to follow this up, as well as the additional street light, the 30mph sign with no derestriction on the back, the Give Way sign at Burscott and the street light by the telephone box at Burscott.

A lot of work had gone into producing a balanced budget for 2023/24, involving an increase in funding for children's services. The latest Ofsted Report showed that positives were being seen but that there should be quicker improvements. Processes is one of the contributory factors that takes a lot of time and money and these are to be reviewed.

There are improvements in recruitment, with 10 vacancies for social workers, a reduction from 56. There are six layers of management above them and they need to be appreciated what they are and what they do, and be left to get on with their job.

Councillor West asked about the general budget and was advised there had been an overall increase of 10.4%, 8.8% of this going on children's services. Council Tax would be increased by 2% and an extra £2 million had been received from central government to deal with potholes throughout the County.

Councillor West asked about potholes, specifically near Beckland Barn, Hartland, which was too deep to drive through, which had been the case for 2 – 3 months. In reply, County Councillor Wilton-Love advised that the processes for road maintenance also have to be sorted out and people held to account for the work done.

Councillor Garnett raised the subject of the accidents on the A39 and the progress being made, as there had been more accidents at this location than are reported.

Councillor Davy had suggested signage showing motor bikes and Councillor West suggested that better signage into the corner is erected.

The What3Words reference is: booklet.cuddled.lump

Councillor Garnett asked if County Council reserves had to be taken to balance the budget and this was confirmed.

95.2 District Councillors.

Councillor Dart had circulated Community Land Trust (CLT) details in connection with funding for affordable housing schemes.

She advised that a CLT would have to be formed and the funding would not cover all expenses.

Action: Councillor West to contact Mr S Watson for more information, with whom he had previously been in contact on this subject.

At a full TDC meeting, Councillors voted in favour of increasing Council Tax by the maximum amount of 2.99%. Councillor Dart did not vote in favour of this. Fees and charges are to be increased, as are monitoring fees for planning applications.

Councillors had agreed the 2023/24 budget, but she did not vote in favour of it.

Business rates for Village Halls: Councillor Mrs Dart advised that much to her grievance, the Chairman did not read out her representations and despite this, her motion to revisit this subject, seconded by District Councillor Harding, was passed and it will be debated again at the Community and Resources Committee.

The vote to remove the 20% rate relief for Village Halls was taken in September, when she was not present. District Councillor Harding did not vote.

It would bring in a further £16,000 to TDC's funds if Village Halls had to pay business rates and bearing in mind that a Village Hall is sometimes the only community asset in the village, and in times of hardship with warm spaces being offered and a lot of fund raising to keep the Village Hall going, this was another tax which would ultimately fall to residents.

Councillor Garnett asked if Clovelly Hall had made representations and this was confirmed as Councillor Dart had contacted all Parish Clerks to circulate her email. Woolsery and Welcome also made representations and an officer from Parkham Allardice Hall spoke to the Committee.

When the item is due to be considered by the Community and Resources Committee, she will advise and encourage more representations to be made.

In real terms, the cost to Clovelly would be £268.88. However, the aim is to get this back to zero.

There is still hardship money at TDC for people to apply from this fund.

95.3 Councillor Sanders. Confirmation given that the defibrillator had been checked.

95.4 Councillor West. Discussion on King Charles III Coronation events.

Coronation mugs were discussed.

The price for 100 bone china mugs were £4.33 each, 20p extra for the gold rim version, £15.00 delivery + VAT.

Proposed by Councillor Perham to purchase 100 mugs with the same presentation wording as had been used for the Platinum Jubilee.

Seconded by Councillor Davey and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to place the order.

Councillor Davy spoke about the picture of the Queen in the Hall and whether this should now feature a picture of King Charles. This would be raised at the next Hall meeting.

Councillor West proposed in principle that two trees should be purchased to commemorate the occasion, and planted in the Playing Field.

Seconded by Councillor Garnett and unanimously agreed.

Action: Councillor West to obtain further details and permission for planting.

Next Agenda: To finalise details of a Big Lunch on Sunday, 7 May 2023 on a bring and share basis and allocate funding towards events, if necessary.

**96. Finance: NatWest Current Account as at 10/2/23: £2,747.19
NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 31/1/23: £8,968.26**

**96.1 Payments. The following payments were approved and authorised:
Proposed by Councillor Garnett, seconded by Councillor Sanders and unanimously agreed.**

Mrs S Squire January & February Salary & expenses	£302.05
HMRC PAYE January & February	£184.00

Councillors West and Sanders declared a Prejudicial Interest, left the room and did not take part in the discussion, decision or voting thereon.

Proposed by Councillor Perham that Councillor Davy, Vice Chairman, Chair this part of the meeting. Seconded by Councillor Huxtable and agreed.

**Proposed by Councillor Garnett to approve the payments.
Seconded by Councillor Huxtable and agreed.**

Councillor West) Reimbursement for planters /	£ 26.00
Councillor Sanders) / bulbs	£144.27

Councillor Garnett asked for it to be minuted that thanks are expressed to Councillors West and Sanders for the work involved with the planters.

Councillors instructed Councillor West to sign his cheque, being a cheque signatory.

96.2 Bank Account. No further progress had been made.

Action: The Clerk to contact a Councillor in another Parish for the relevant contact details who had recently dealt with NatWest regarding online banking, and had been successful in setting this up.

96.3 2023/24 Precept & Budget. The relevant Precept form had been sent to TDC.

96.4 Ministerial Announcement. Parish Councils Precept requests will not be capped.

96.5 Organisations requesting grants. The Clerk has obtained clarification of those who wished to apply for a grant.

**Proposed by Councillor Garnett to give each organisation the sum of £125.00.
Seconded by Councillor Huxtable and unanimously agreed.**

97. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 20 December 2022

97.1 Clerk's Actions.

- Highways contacted regarding the non working Give Way sign and failed street lights at Burscott. The County Councillor had also been contacted and this item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Accidents between Clovelly Cross roundabout to Bursdon Moor. Highways had been advised of the correct location. This issue had also been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Request for a defibrillator halfway down The Street. A reply was awaited from Mr J Rous.
- Sponsorship of Village Planters. Councillor West advised that Clovelly Estate would sponsor a planter and provide plants. The Merry Harriers had asked for further details but did not reply. The Milky Way, Clovelly Soap and Clovelly Lakes to be approached again.
- Grit salt and grit bins. A request for a replacement or new grit bin must go through the County Councillor for support as there is no funding at DCC for them, and they have to be procured via a Locality Grant.

Action: The Clerk to check with Councillor Slee about the amount of salt he has left and enquire if he would be willing to take on the role of Snow Warden, with the training provided by DCC.

- Potholes had been reported. It was noted a pothole was forming in the road outside the Village Hall which had white paint around it. The centre of the road was opening up but the defect was not yet large enough to report.

97.2 Sedan Chair. Councillor Perham reported this had been repaired.

97.3 Bench to commemorate airmen who died in crash. The concrete pad had not yet been done.

98. Planning.

Ratification of a response for three Planning Applications received between meetings, namely:

1/1144/2022/FUL General Application and 1/1145/2022/LBC Listed Building Application for replacement single storey rear extensions at Court Dairy Cottage, Clovelly.

1/1201/2022/LBC - Listed Building Application for demolition of rear extension and internal alterations at 11 High Street, Clovelly.

A response of 'no objections' had been submitted to TDC Planning Department.

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

Planning Correspondence: The following TDC Decision Notice was noted: Approval for 1/1144/45/2022/LBC Replacement single storey rear extensions at Court Dairy Cottage, Clovelly.

99. Correspondence.

99.1 Councillor West signed a letter to the Clerk confirming details of her salary review undertaken at the budget setting meeting on 20 December 2022.

99.2 Councillor Davy spoke about a communication which the Clerk had circulated regarding solar panels.

100. Highways. No details discussed at this point as all items had been covered earlier in the meeting.

111. Matters Raised by Councillors / Clerk

111.1 Clerk's Training: Preparing for Elections on 24/1/23. Report circulated separately and noted.

111.2 Councillor Garnett – Torridge Area Advisory Meeting. The proposed meeting had been cancelled due to lack of numbers indicating attendance. It was felt that everyone should be advised of future meetings in good time.

111.3 Councillor Perham advised that the communication company Airband, had removed cobbles from The Street for cables to be installed. There is now a problem as insufficient filling has been put in and the cobbles will start to dip and it is considered this will present a safety hazard for the thousands of visitors who come to Clovelly.

Action: The Clerk to write to Airband and Clovelly Estate with County Councillor Wilton-Love copied in, expressing the Parish Council's concern over the poor workmanship.

111.4 Councillor Perham advised there is a tree growing out of the bank behind Kingsley Cottage, just before the fountain. If this fell, it would take half of The Street with it.

Action: The Clerk to write to Clovelly Estate and Highways with County Councillor Wilton-Love copied in.

111.5 Councillor West had obtained a quotation for grass cutting from the person who did this work in 2022.

He had quoted £365.00 to cut the grass in the areas previously agreed, with an additional charge of £140 for a full day and £80.00 for half a day should any work in addition to the contract be required.

Proposed by Councillor West to accept the quotation.

Seconded by Councillor Sanders and unanimously agreed.

Action: The Clerk to advise Mr N Wonnacott that his quotation had been accepted for 2023.

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

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

114. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 14/3/23 in Clovelly Parish Memorial Hall on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting for which there will be a separate Agenda. 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.54pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Part I and Part II Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 December 2022**
- **Purchase of 100 bone china with gold rim Coronation mugs**
- **In principle, two trees to be purchased for planting to mark King Charles III Coronation**
- **Payments**
- **The eight Organisations who had requested a grant for 2023/24 be each given the sum of £125.00**
- **Ratification of three Planning Applications where the response was considered between the December 2022 and February 2023 meetings**
- **2023 grass cutting quotation of £365.00**

Chairman

Date