

Minutes of Clovelly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 March 2024 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

District Councillors Dart, Harding

4 Members of the public

Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk.

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

134.1 A member of the public spoke about the Net Zero issue, who had addressed the Council at the February 2024 meeting. The details were briefly explained again and the Council was advised that Devon County Council's stance was still awaited together with the response of its legal process.

It was suggested to the member of the public that in order to get more people involved, consideration should be given to organising a Public Meeting.

In summary, Hartland Parish Council has been asked to support and make representations to TDC. It was recognised that Parish Councils are limited in what they can do.

135. Apologies. Councillor Tucker

136. Declarations of Interest
Councillors Phelps and Slee, VF have a Dispensation in matters relating to Clovelly Estate.

137. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes held on 13 February 2024.
Approved and signed as a correct record.
Proposed by Councillor Phelps
Seconded by Councillor Sanders and unanimously agreed.

138. Reports:

138.1 County Councillor J Wilton-Love. Not present, no report sent.

138.2 District Councillors:
A Dart.

- There had been a lot of debate and scrutiny of the budget. Council Tax is increasing by 2.99% which will see an increase of £5.50 per annum on a Band D property.
- Grant money has been given to schools who have signed up to the Schools Book Week via the Appledore Book Festival
- Grants to Village Halls are available.
Councillor West spoke about solar panels on Village Hall roofs where his recent enquiry had been passed to Action in Communities in Rural England (ACRE). District Councillor Dart suggested that he contacts North Devon Plus who will pass on to the correct organisation if they are not the correct one.
- There is a request for suitable car parks to have electric vehicle (EV) charging points. Councillor West advised he was joining a webinar on this subject and churches are looking to do the same thing.
- A complaint had been submitted about rubbish on the A39 and it is hoped that this will be picked up before the Summer. Councillor Mrs Foster advised that she has litter picked in the past and commented that it should be picked up when the grass is mown and it is exposed.

- TDC expects there to be mandatory biodiversity net gain with all Planning Applications.
- There had been a report of street lights at Winsworthy chopped off. TDC are responsible for getting contractors in but Westward Housing own them and must ask TDC to deal with the situation and they are known not to be happy about it. Questions have been raised as to who the stumps belong to.
- There had been a workshop with the consultants about what they need to spend the Levelling-up money on should TDC be awarded a sum from the £20 million available.
- There had been a presentation from DCC on the proposed devolution deal between that authority and Torbay. The details were explained and it was clear that District Councils would not be involved. Given what has been advised by County Councillors, roads are a priority for higher populated areas and if the devolution ends in the same way, it will be of no benefit. There are grave concerns at TDC about the idea and if District Councils are not involved, no funding will be received and it will have to be accepted. The House of Lords requested that there were more people involved but this was overruled by the government. Parish Councils were urged to submit comments by 24 March 2024 when the consultation ends.

S Harding:

- Also spoke about the devolution workshop with the aim of trying to get those involved to see the need for Districts to be involved
- There is to be a Scrutiny meeting when Lendology will be giving a presentation. Councillor West will put an article in the Village News about Lendology.
- An update from Active Torridge regarding leisure centres in Torridge had been received.

138.3 Defibrillator Check – Councillor Sanders.

Checked and in order. Councillor West had put the number inside, replacing the faded details.

Action: Clerk to report to The Circuit.

139. Finance.

139.1 Payments.

The following payments were approved and authorised:

Proposed by Councillor West

Seconded by Councillor Huxtable and unanimously agreed.

Mrs S Squire March Salary £237.60; Expenses £25.90	£263.50
HMRC PAYE March 2024	£ 59.40

139.2 Online Banking – Cllr West. It was necessary to remove former Councillor J Davey and add Councillors R Phelps and P Slee. To enable this to be done, two existing signatories have to sign a form which Councillor West will arrange.

Action: Councillor West to obtain the signatories and send form to NatWest.

139.3 HMRC VAT Reclaim. It was noted that the Clerk has submitted an online reclaim for the period 1/7/21 to 30/11/23 in the sum of £1,185.79. This was gladly accepted by the Councillors and the Clerk thanked for her work.

140. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 13 February 2024.

140.1 Additional street light in Wrinkleberry Lane. The Clerk had arranged a site meeting for 4/3/24 which was attended by Councillors West, Huxtable, Phelps and Sanders.

Councillor West advised that the nearest power supply was a distance away and would cost £20,000 to connect up. There was the suggestion that the power was

taken from the air ambulance pole and solar lights were also mentioned, and the hire of a generator to power lights when there is a large event at the Parish Hall.

Councillor Sanders suggested that the feed was taken from the Parish Hall and will get a firm price, for which the Parish Hall and Parish Council could perhaps share the cost.

Action: Councillor Sanders to obtain a price to give at the next meeting.

140.2 4 wheelie bins at Burscott Road. District Councillor Harding advised he had arranged with TDC for these to be removed. A relieving thank you from nearby Councillors.

140.3 Presentation on Net Zero by a member of the public at the last meeting – to consider if the Parish Council wishes to promote this item.

There was a discussion on the pros and cons. Councillor Slee spoke about the regulations for farmers and to achieve it, additional expense would be involved. District Councillor Dart advised that in the Devon and Torbay devolution deal, there is money in this to draw down to achieve net zero.

Councillor Mrs Foster felt this subject should not be dismissed and as a Council, it is worthy of looking into it further and keep an open mind.

Councillor West felt that the Parish Council should wait before making a decision until more information is available.

Standing Orders were suspended at 8.38pm to allow a member of the public to speak.

They thought the decision to wait was prudent pending County Councillor Wilton-Love's advice on DCC's stance.

Councillor West had researched websites of County Councils and all had net zero mentioned.

Members of the public attending Parish Council meetings and questioning the issue encourages Councillor to carry out further research.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 8.41pm.

141. Clerk's Actions:

- ❖ Defibrillator Report sent to The Circuit
- ❖ Reported 4 South West Water manhole covers
- ❖ Dealt with payments
- ❖ Has replied to Clovelly Estate regarding the Best Kept Village sign, as directed

142. Planning & Planning Correspondence. There was none to consider or note.

143. Correspondence

143.1 The Pensions Regulator. Correspondence received requiring the re-enrolment of the Clerk in the Scheme regardless of whether there is a Pension Scheme in place or not.

This has been completed by the Clerk and confirmation received.

144. Highways.

Potholes. There is road subsidence near Providence Chapel.

People were encouraged to report potholes and other problems via the DCC website.

145. Matters Raised by Councillors / Clerk.

145.1 Devolution Deal for Devon. The Clerk attended an online presentation given by Devon County Council Officers on 27/2/24 about which Councillors also had the opportunity of attending.

A recording of the presentation was made and circulated to Councillors on 28/2/24 and on 29/2/24, the Devon Association of Local Councils submitted its response to the consultation currently running until 24/3/24, which was forwarded to Councillors on 29/2/24.

The Chairman had asked the Clerk to mention the salient points of the evening who advised that the main concern from those present were the fact that 3 Councillors from Torbay and 3 from Devon were proposed, despite Devon being a much larger area than Torbay, with people feeling Devon should have more Councillors to represent the rest of the County. Also, the fact that Parish Councils had not been consulted.

The Clerk was thanked for attending the presentation.

Proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Mrs Foster and unanimously agreed to submit the following response, compiled by the Clerk:

There was concern that 3 Councillors from Torbay and 3 from Devon were proposed.

As Devon is much larger than Torbay, it was felt that more Councillors should represent Devon.

Parish Councils had not been included in the discussions and many delegates representing this third tier of government were unhappy about this, feeling that the proposals put forward had been made without the voice of Parish Councils being heard, which, it has to be said, form a large part of the local government network in Devon. It was felt important that the view from rural Devon was considered, made up from a majority of villages, hamlets and settlements compared to the towns such as Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington, Holsworthy, Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth, Tavistock, Crediton and the City of Exeter. There are far more Parishes scattered around Devon whose demographics should be taken into account.

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

147. Urgent items raised at the discretion of the Chairman

147.1 Councillor Mrs Foster offered to sponsor a planter near the church.

148. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 9/4/24 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Councillor Slee gave his apologies in advance.

The meeting ended at 8.52pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 February 2024**
- **Payments**
- **Parish Council's response to the Devon Devolution deal**

Chairman

Date