

Minutes of the meeting of Sheepwash Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th November 2019, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Ansell (Chairman); Cllr. Hutchings; Cllr. Ritson; Cllr. Wheeler; Cllr. Crossley; Cllr. Moys; District Cllr. Hurley? County Cllr. Parsons; 8 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk); PC Mandy Brown.

1) Co-option to Council to fill the vacancy.

Christopher Mathews was proposed by Cllr. Ansell, seconded by Cllr. Crossley – all in favour by show of hands. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed in front of the Clerk.

2) Apologies For Absence: None

3) Declarations Of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at Torridge District Council within 28 days of the change. None declared.

4) County & District Councillors' reports -

County Cllr. Parsons declared that Devon CC are in the early phases of budgeting for 2021 which is proving challenging. There is likely to be a 4% increase in council tax from Devon CC. Pilot schemes are around the county at present, looking at ways in which the county can work more efficiently. Officers in the services front line are being allowed to take more responsibility for needed actions. Benefits should be seen from these actions. Partnership working was discussed.

District Cllr. Hurley recently held a democracy week in Torridge involving school officers, councillors and pupils, the idea being to inform teenagers about local democracy. This has generally been very well received. The Floodwatch system was described – the main advantage is that it is a graphic, and when water is rising it starts to report this online. Kivells vs Torridge legal case (sub judice): the judgement is being discussed. Attended the Devon and Cornwall police forum. Considers that the 101 phone system could be better. Please register to vote in the next election. The North Devon rough sleepers initiative has received a grant from Government.

5) Public Discussion – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting, or any matters the public would like the Council to consider on a future agenda. **The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes.**

A reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

Parishioner, remarked on the Remembrance Day service being held in the afternoon in the square. Very disappointed with both the timings and the service. This service is basically a church issue.

Parishioner indicated that since 2008 there has always been a service in the afternoon, not in the morning.

Parishioner indicated that there were no minutes from the last meeting on the noticeboard. Council apologised for this, the board is being repaired.

PC Brown from the Neighbourhood Beat Team updated Council with current items in the Torridge area. An initiative for next year is to take place with local primary schools in the form of engagement with stickers/books/prize draw/.

Currently crime figures are quite low; rural areas are however vulnerable. There are various 'watch' schemes both available and in place. A recent press release about the Herbert protocol (to do with dementia or similar illnesses) about someone who may go missing. It is a basic form completed with permission, details/medicine etc., and kept as part of their care plan. This enables police to have an early insight into where such a person may travel to, if they do go missing. Still encourage people to use the 101 service.

Questioned on neighbourhood watch schemes. These schemes run themselves now. Cllr. Ansell thanked PC Brown for coming to the meeting.

6) Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th September 2019, having been circulated by email were and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Chairman's Report – this is covered in many of the agenda items.

8) Village Hall –

- i. To receive an update on the works to the Village Hall. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Cllr. Hutchings has a quote for the urgent remedial work needed, of approximately £1900. The Bridgeland Trust may be able to help financially towards these works. Other funding streams could be available. Council resolved to authorise a grant of £2,000 to the Village Hall Committee in order to progress these urgent repairs. Proposed by Cllr. Moys, seconded by Cllr. Crossley, all in favour by show of hands.
- ii. To receive an update on the ownership of the village hall. Cllr. Ansell circulated a report on this matter prior to the meeting. Summarised that the hall and park are owned by the trustees of the hall. The Parish Council does not own the Village Hall. Council consider that it is important to establish a project group, who can then decide how to proceed. An open meeting will be arranged so that parishioners can be fully informed. Standing orders suspended for parishioner to speak.
Standing orders resumed.

9) Climate Emergency information – Cllr. Ansell circulated a report to councillors prior to this meeting. This will appear in the Chronicle for all to view and comment.

10) Citizens Advice Bureau – to consider their request for a donation. Cllr Hutchings proposed they apply using our grant form. Clerk to action.

11) Electric Vehicle Charge Points (ECPs) – to commence discussion regarding the possible installation of an ECP in the village to promote tourism. Cllr. Wheeler reported on this possibility. There is a need for Infrastructure to encourage individuals to think electric. The nearest ECP is in Torrington. It is possible to have an ECP for free with conditions, from ChargePoint (subject to survey). This can be discussed by the parish at the proposed open meeting.

12) Volunteer Emergency Telephone System (VETS) Scheme – for discussion. Cllr. Crossley reported. This scheme provides a phone number to those registered with this scheme who are volunteers. This would help anyone dealing with a medical emergency on their own, as somebody from the village would be available to come and help. Like volunteers to be first-aid trained if possible. The scheme is run by Community Heartbeat Trust, who provide the funding for the first year. Further costs approximately £100 for the phone line after the first year. This can also be discussed at the proposed open meeting.

13) PLANNING:

Planning Applications - Torridge District Council has asked for comments from the Parish Council on the following planning applications: None received.

14) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	Employment October & November	£240.00	BACs
	Direct 365 replacement defib pads	£211.19	BACs Clerk
	Cllr. Ritson assorted expenses payable	£66.82	BACs
Income:	Second half precept received end September	£3250.00	DD

Bank Reconciliation and Statement: for information.

Council resolved to accept the finances as above. All in favour by show of hands.

15) Budget 2020/2021 – to consider the budget proposals for the next council year. The budget is currently being worked on and will be presented at the January full council meeting.

16) Play Equipment – to consider if additional play equipment should be installed in the Jubilee Field and the associated costs. On hold until situation clarified.

17) Highways – Cllr. Ansell to report. Steve Brockman of Highways is to get the Skanska team to repair potholes. Devon CC do not support 20mph speed zones, unless they are enforced and enforcement is difficult. Cllr. Crossley asked if making the village environment more attractive would slow down traffic. This has no proven record in other areas.

18) Defibrillator – to receive an update. The new battery and pads should be received very soon as they have been ordered and paid for.

19) Yarn Installation – Community project to decorate the Coronation Tree to celebrate Christmas this year. Council agreed to this project.

20) Parish Plan – to receive updates if available. None available at present.

Meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Items for Information

P3 Newsletter

DALC Newsletter 25 & 27

Resilience forum 27th November

The next Council meeting is on Wednesday, 15th January at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.