Tuesday 7th September 2021, 7pm at Broadwoodwidger Community Hub

Those in attendance: Cllr James (Chairman), Cllrs Worden, Stratton, Hawken, Crocombe, Perkin, Clerk.

Members of the public present: 4

5391. Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Nobbs, Wonnacott, District Cllr Watson, Ros Davies – Parish Paths Liaison Officer

5392. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman declared that interests be raised as they arise.

5393. Public Open Question Time

Members of the public had attended the meeting to express their opinions and frustrations in relation to poor road conditions within the Parish, particularly between Beckett Cross and Ashmill. The members of the public had already received a copy of the latest correspondence between Council and Cllr Stuart Hughes of Torridge. Their shared view was that the road is completely unacceptable, dangerous and it is astonishing to see other roads repaired ahead of this one. The Chairman responded to explain that Council is doing all it can to press Torridge and Devon Highways for an acceptable response and plan of action and will continue in this way. The members of the public will be copied into all future correspondence relating to this matter. All members of the public left the meeting at the close of this discussion.

5394. Police Report

The rural policing update for July and August shows one attempted burglary, one communication offence, one harassment without violence and one use of threatening/abusive/insulting words or behaviour within the Parish.

5395. County Councillor Report

No report received.

5396. District Councillor Report

No report received.

5397. Public Rights of Way - Parish Paths Liaison Officer

Postponed until next Council meeting due to the officer being unable to attend.

5398. Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held 28th July 2021 were previously circulated, no adjustments needed, proposed by Cllr Crocombe and seconded by Cllr Hawken, carried nem.com

5399. Matters Arising

None.

5400. Planning

The response received from Cllr Stuart Hughes to concerns raised regarding poor road conditions was discussed. The Clerk will write a reply advising that Council is still unsatisfied with the response received, noting that members of the public had attended a Council meeting to express their dissatisfaction and to demand more is done. The Clerk will specifically mention the road from Beckett Cross to Ashmill confirming how many properties and businesses are on the road. In addition, a mention of the road into West Week will also be raised due to its poor condition. The Clerk will copy Cllr Morrish and Cllr Watson into the correspondence along with MP Sir Geoffrey Cox. The Clerk will also write to couriers who frequently use the roads to ask if they would like to provide any comments or submit their own complaint to strengthen the case.

5402. Use for redundant telephone boxes

Residents at Dubbs Cross do not want the telephone box to be moved, they have suggested they may be able to paint it to improve its condition. Council will consider moving the telephone box situated at Cross Green into the Village instead. Council will check whether it still has an electricity connection and the possibility of moving it.

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A discussion was held regarding what type of event to hold and a Tea on the green was thought to be a good option to involve all the community. The Clerk will post a notice on the Parish website and noticeboards to see if any Parishioners would like to be involved with the organisation of the event. Cllr Stratton will purchase a flagpole. The event will be added to the January Agenda to make full plans at that time.

5405. Accounts due for payment.

Clerks Wages - £264.16

Clerk Expenses (Printer Cartridge) - £32.15

Parker Maintenance (telephone box restoration) - £678.90

Mihi Digital (Website expenses) - £174.00

Accounts proposed by Cllr Stratton, seconded by Cllr Crocombe. Carried nem.com.

5406. To Receive Correspondence

A member of the public had sent an email with some questions regarding public rights of way within the Village and maintenance of them. Council sought advice from the legal department at Torridge and will send the following response:

A grant request has been received for maintenance of the Churchyard. Council agreed to award £1600 towards the upkeep. Proposed by Cllr Stratton and Seconded by Cllr Hawken, carried nem.com.

5407. Clerks 12-month Appraisal

The Clerk confirmed that the hours of work are sufficient and suitable to complete all necessary duties. Councillors are happy with the work of Clerk and she has completed the 3 Clerks Essential courses. The hourly rate of pay will be raised to £11.

5408. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

5409. Clerk's Report

The Natwest online banking is now up and running. The Clerk will test the payments by bank transfer to see how this works with two-person authorisation.

5410. Exchange of Information

None

5411. Next meeting to be held in the Hub on Tuesday 19th October at 7pm

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