

Present: Cllr Bright (Chairman), Cllr Crang (Vice Chairman), Cllr Turner, Cllr Reygate, Cllr Sims, Cllr Waldron, Cllr Spivey, Cllr Hodge and Cllr Lane.

In Attendance: the Clerk, C/Cllr Squires and D/Cllr Deed.

Standing Orders suspended

Open Session: 1 member of the public was present but did not wish to speak.

Standing Orders resumed

Reports:

i) **D/Cllr Deed** reported on a transparency issue at MDDC, as reported in the Crediton Courier and Tiverton Gazette, where MDDC had intended to purchase two more properties in Tiverton but had encountered objections due to some people wanting the funds to be spent on providing better services instead. It was noted that previous property purchases were not currently performing as well as had been expected.

ii) **C/Cllr Squires** added to D/Cllr Deeds comments in that the funding to purchase the said properties would come from capital, which cannot be used for improving services, and that income generated from the rental of the properties could be used for improving services. She also advised of a new Director of Environment and Highways, a new Director of Children's Services, and that a scrutiny task group are currently looking into children's services to ensure that the best services possible are being offered. It was suggested that a monthly DCC Highways drop in service may be set up in Thorverton for the public and feedback on this was requested from the PC. Cllr Lane asked whether this could be tied in with the monthly Saturday Market and Cllr Spivey enquired as to when the Upton Pyne road would be resurfaced. C/Cllr Squires replied in that Saturdays were difficult and that no date had been set, as yet, for the resurfacing but it would be done by this tax year end.

D/Cllr Deed left the meeting at this point.

iii) **PCSO Roberts** – no report received.

17/110 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lawson (work commitment).

17/111 Declarations of Interest: none.

17/112 Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 10th October 2017: the minutes were RESOLVED as being a true record of the meeting (Cllrs Spivey and Crang).

17/113 Development:

New Cemetery - A) Cllr Bright reported that the working party had commenced a feasibility study

B) Cllr Lawson was not present to update Council on the planning permission application

C) the Clerk confirmed that the letters to local landowners would be sent out this week

D) John Valentin, AC Archaeology, had offered to make initial enquiries of the Heritage Lottery Fund, at no cost, regarding possible grant funding and it was RESOLVED that he be instructed to do this (Cllrs Hodge and Crang).

Court Barton – A) DCH had advised that the amended S106 document would be ready to forward to MDDC shortly.

17/114 Planning Applications:

1) **17/01716/FULL** Reinstatement of access and farm track to agricultural land at School Lane, Thorverton. The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow a member of the public, being the landowner, to speak who advised that farm vehicles currently have to drive up past the said entrance and reverse into the field or, alternatively, drive all the way to Yellowford Farm, turn round, and drive back along School Lane to get out of the village which was not practical.

Standing Orders resumed. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Spivey that the planning application be objected to on the grounds of road safety primarily. This was seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED.

17/115 Planning Decisions:

1) **17/01034/FULL** Change of use, barn to dwelling, Pitt Farm, Thorverton. Refused.

2) **17/01409/PNCOU** Prior notification for the change of use, agricultural building to dwelling under Class Q, Higher Trey Mill, Thorverton. Accepted.

3) **17/01456/PNAG** Prior notification - reinstatement of farm access track at School Lane. Not permitted Development.

4) **17/01541/PNHH** Prior notification for the erection of an extension at 18 Court Barton Close, Thorverton. Accepted.

- 5) **17/01545/PNHH** Prior notification for the erection of an extension at 4 Cleaves Close, Thorverton. Approved.
- 6) **17/01270/HRN** Hedgerow removal notice – junction of Hulk Lane/School Lane – withdrawn.

17/116 Planning Working Party: Cllr Bright reminded Council that previously it had been agreed that Cllr Lawson would guide the Council on planning matters and that consideration would need to be given as to how applications received after a working party meeting would be reviewed. The Clerk was asked to re-circulate the planning ‘help sheet’ and to add any Conservation Area considerations. Cllr Waldron suggested that a working party, working with Cllr Lawson, could gain a greater understanding of the planning system and it was noted that DALC and MDDC provide planning training. Cllr Waldron proposed that the Clerk make enquires of MDDC, regarding training, which was seconded by Cllr Hodge and RESOLVED.

17/117 Highways:

Hulk Lane – Cllr Bright read out the Opening Ceremony details and it was noted that all Councillors had been invited to join C/Cllr Squires on the planned walk. Cllr Waldron reported his disappointment in that TABSCAP had not yet arranged the planned fund raising events that had been suggested to Council.

Dark Lane –

i) Cllr Bright reported that the Lane had been officially closed by DCC Highways to enable Colin to remove, and cap, the unsafe part of the wall which had now been completed. Thanks were sent to Colin for his work. Steve Tucker, Highways, would re-open the Lane in due course. The MDDC Conservation Officer had advised that any replacement wall would need to be in keeping with the original wall, due to it being in the Conservation Area, and offered a site visit to discuss the matter further after the Engineers Report had been received.

ii) Cllr Lawson had requested updated quotes from two Structural Engineers for consideration at the next meeting.

iii) Due to lack of information on costs an application to the Community Enhancement Fund was postponed.

Replacement lamp post bases – the matter of replacement work around the bases had been escalated by Steve Tucker.

Jericho Street HGV signs – the matter of what process the PC needed to follow had been escalated by Steve Tucker.

Kerb stones and cobbles at Berry Dairy – Steve Tucker had advised that any unsafe areas would be made good, but not necessarily with cobbles, and that he would apply for specific funding in order to replace any cobbled areas needing attention.

Traffic calming – Cllr Sims reported that two Speedwatch sessions had taken place and that another was pending. Cllr Bright referred Councillors to the circulated data on the portable flashing speed signs at a cost of £2,625 plus VAT each. Sharing such a sign with another village, or the Raddon Group, was suggested. C/Cllr Squires recommended that any plans for such a sign be agreed by Highways and that there could be signs available to borrow. After discussion Cllr Bright proposed that the Clerk write to DCC Highways to enquire as to i) what portable speed signs may be available to borrow and ii) what kind of signs would be acceptable. This proposal was seconded Cllr Turner and RESOLVED.

Thorverton Bridge closure – no further news had been received on the closure but it was expected to take place late November/early December. Residents would be advised of the dates by Highways signs around the village.

17/118 Communications:

- a) CPRE Campaign to protect rural England – request to take out membership. Cllr Lane suggested that membership, at this stage, would provide limited value to the PC but that if a Neighbourhood Plan was to be set up then membership could be of use. Noted.
- b) E-mail from Devon & Cornwall Housing (DCH) – enquiry regarding a new development along School Lane comprising of up to 36 residential units and village car parking. Cllr Bright asked for feedback and after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Crang that a response to DCH of ‘the PC has no knowledge of any local housing needs survey having been completed that indicates a need for this number of new houses in the village and that past surveys would support this. The Parish Council, at tonight’s meeting, confirmed that it has no knowledge of any conversation with the landowner on this matter’. This was seconded by Cllr Hodge and RESOLVED.
- c) Letter from an ex resident regarding the history of Hannabusses - this had kindly been answered by a local historian.
- d) E-mail invitation from C/Cllr Squires to Parish Councillors regarding the Hulk Lane Opening event – noted.
- e) Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Newsletter – noted.
- f) State of the District debate (06/11/2017) – noted.

17/119 Section 106 Funding: no response had been received, to date, from MDDC regarding i) clarification on the amount of S106 funding available now ii) expected funding from the proposed Broadlands development iii) how allocation of these funds work. Discussion on public involvement on the spending of these funds was, therefore, postponed. C/Cllr Squires left the meeting at this point.

17/120 Secure Storage:

- a) TAP Funding – Cllr Bright reported that MDDC had granted £600 towards the purchase of a secure store on the Recreation Ground to house the ride on mower
- b) Secure store on the Recreation Ground – Cllr Bright proposed that the working party put together updated recommendations prior to the next meeting regarding the purchase of a secure store. This was seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED.

17/121 Handyman/Road Warden:

- a) the Handyman's report was reviewed and Cllr Waldron proposed that payment for work completed, and materials, be made which was seconded by Cllr Turner and RESOLVED
- b) no further duties were allocated and it was noted that outstanding duties comprise of cutting back the growth behind the Quarry Car Park garages, clearing the debris in the Quarry Car Park, strimming along the road at the Rec, cutting back the Holly bush at the Rec entrance, re-corking the two communal noticeboards.

17/122 Financial matters -

- 1) the following payments were RESOLVED (Cllrs Turner and Spivey):

November	Clerk salary - no tax due		£309.69
	Clerk - expenses	a) MDDC garden waste bin – Jubilee Green - annual renewal £49.00 b) Stationery/postage/stamps/ink £32.59	£ 81.59 (VAT n/a)
	Handyman salary – no tax due	Plus tax rebate of £8.60 (refund to TPC due at quarter end)	£158.60
	Handyman - expenses	Dark Lane wall materials	£ 53.23 (VAT incl.)

- 2) it was RESOLVED to reduce the cheque signatories from 3 to 2 (Cllrs Waldron and Turner) in accordance with the 'Governance and Accountability for Local Councils' rules and regulations
- 3) it was noted that GX Accounting had taken over all HMRC PAYE duties
- 4) it was noted that HMRC had cancelled the £100 penalty previously reported
- 5) the bank balance, as at 1st November 2017, was noted to be £46,451.06 before the deduction of earmarked funds of £32,157.15 making the available funds £14,293.91 prior to the above payments and VAT re-claim credit
- 6) it was noted that a VAT reclaim had been submitted for £1,016.32 and that the credit was pending.

17/123 Snow Warden: Cllr Sims reported that all grit bins in the parish were full and that any further grit would need to be applied for at MDDC. The bin at the Sheep Dip would need replacing, when empty, due to it being damaged. It was noted that plenty of salt was stored around the village. Cllr Sims would organise residents to clear any snow, and to spread any grit/salt on village roads, as and when required.

17/124 Recreation Ground: Cllr Sims gave a summary of the recently completed annual RoSPA play inspection report and it was noted that, although no items of equipment had been labelled as high risk, the PC should consider the replacing of three multi-play posts, due to rot, and the removing of the barriers around crocodile swing due to them being within the 'fall area'. After discussion Cllr Bright proposed that the suppliers of the multi-play item, being Playline, be asked to quote for the new posts and that the barriers remain in place for the time being. This was seconded by Cllr Crang and RESOLVED.

Cllr Sims reported that three dead Elm trees needed to be cut down at the Rec, that the trees on the Raddon Road needed the bottom branches cut off to allow for the ride on mower to pass under them, and that there was an additional large dead branch needing to be removed. Cllr Sims proposed that Countryside Tree Services be asked, initially, to quote for the work and this was seconded by Cllr Waldron and RESOLVED. Cllr Sims volunteered to meet with the Contractor.

17/125 Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Bright asked the Council to consider what benefits a plan could bring to the parish, the time it would take to put together, and the costs involved. Cllr Crang suggested that a Neighbourhood Plan Development Order may be more appropriate. Cllr Bright proposed that, for the time being, the matter be taken off the agenda and this was seconded by Cllr Crang and RESOLVED.

17/126 Employee Annual Appraisals: Cllr Turner provided positive feedback on the recently attended Employee Appraisal Training. Cllrs Turner, Crang and Bright, being the Employee working party, had conducted the annual appraisals of the Clerk and Handyman and had thanked both employees, on behalf of the Council, for the work completed over the past year. Training requirements had been identified as a Strimming course for the Handyman and Data Protection and Cemetery Management Courses for the Clerk. Cllr Turner advised that the annual pay reviews were currently being considered by the working party as a separate matter.

17/127 Christmas tree: Cllrs Hodge and Waldron volunteered to arrange the collection of the trees. It was hoped that the erection and decoration of both trees would take place on 29th November and would involve local volunteers.

17/128 Town and Parish Standards Training: Cllr Lane explained that the event had focussed on a review of the Code of Conduct, Councillor Interests, complaint handling and the role of the MDDC Monitoring Officer. Councillors were reminded to err on the side of safety when declaring any interest and to consider public perception of such matters.

17/129 Representative Reports:

TMGT – Cllr Spivey reported that a new Trustee had been elected, a successful maintenance event had taken place at the field, and that the plans for the new bridge were progressing. **Focus** – Cllr Turner had nothing to report.

Raddon Group – Cllr Spivey had not attended the meeting, due to a family incident, but the Minutes had been circulated.

Memorial Hall – Cllr Hodge reported that the recent Craft Fair had been a success in raising funds for the Hall, that several new bookings had been taken, and that the Wi-Fi was up and running. Cllr Reygate reported on the pending Shakespeare event.

School – the School had confirmed to the Clerk that the new boundary fence was due to be erected by the end of this year.

Saturday Market - volunteers for November 11th and December 9th were agreed as Cllrs Lane and Reygate respectively.

17/130 Business at the Chairman's discretion:

1) Cllr Hodge had reported blocked drains at Brook Lodge, Silver Street, to DCC Highways who had replied that this maintenance had been placed on their three year programme

2) Cllr Sims reported that a farmer had ploughed up the fields at Raddon leaving a footpath through the field as required

3) Cllr Spivey reported that a member of the public had mentioned that at a recent PC meeting they were unable to hear what the Cllrs were saying. It was suggested that Cllrs should face any members of the public attending future meetings. Cllr Spivey also reported that some of the Quarry Car Park garages were in need of maintenance and it was agreed to put this matter on the next meeting agenda. Cllr Turner volunteered to review the Lease prior to the meeting

4) Cllr Bright reported that the PCC are to remove one of the Holly trees in the Churchyard, along Dinneford Street, which will help with reducing the amount of leaves falling into, and blocking, the leat going forward.

17/131 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on December 12th 2017, 7.30pm, at Thorverton Memorial Hall.

17/132 The meeting closed at 9.52pm