

ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 August 2022 at the Church Hall, Atherington at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Ms C Norman (Chairman), A Boyce and Miss J Brayley.

In attendance: 8 parishioners, District Councillor R Jenkins, Parish Clerk.

51. Matters Raised by the Public

1. It was reported that there were numerous blocked drains in the village. Although many of the gullies had been cleared the drains had not been jetted, thereby not curing the problem. There was a danger that the force of the water could force some of the gratings to lift.
2. Some parishioners had requested sight of the accounts for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was noted that these were not yet available, but that preparation was believed to be in hand.
3. It was noted that the hedge at Bonds Farm was overgrown and in need of cutting. The Chairman agreed to contact the owner.
4. It was reported that some of the signs in the village had become obscured by vegetation, in particular on the conservation area..
5. A number of local residents were reported to be interested in reforming the Conservation Area group.
6. The Clerk agreed to circulate the minutes of the Playing Field Committee meetings to councillors.
7. Cllr Miss Brayley to report the presence of Japanese Knotweed in the village to Highways.

52. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs J Andrew and Mrs R Large.

53. Co-Option of Parish Councillor

Deferred to the next meeting.

54. Declarations of Interest

None.

55. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 26 July 2022

The Minutes of the last meeting was agreed and signed as a true record.

56. Matters Arising from the last meeting

Min. 38. Approval had been given for the defibrillator to be placed on the churchyard wall. Due to the deadline date for the defibrillator to be moved, it may be necessary to re-site it before the electrical connection can be made. Cllr Boyce to chase up the electrician.

57. Reports:

1. County Councillor

None - County Councillor not present, no report received.

2. District Councillor

Cllr Jenkins reported that although North Devon Council had agreed to empty rubbish bins placed in lay-bys, it was unable to supply them. As Cllr Henderson had originally offered to provide two bins from his Locality Grant funding, he suggested that the parish council proceeded in this manner.

Then Clerk updated the meeting with the news that in early August DCC had suspended all Locality Grants, due to the council's predicted £30m overspend. DCC was looking to reduce spending wherever possible, in order to balance the books.

This was hopefully only a temporary measure for this financial year.

58. Rubbish Bins

Already covered under previous item.

59. Churchyard Wall

It was reported that the church was still awaiting the invoice for the repairs, which had attracted many comments on the high standard of workmanship. It was noted that the work had been done within budget.

60. S106 Agreement

Cllr Miss Brayley was still awaiting a response from NDC.

It was noted that Mr Bagley, who was now dealing with the application at NDC, was aware that the gas tank had not been installed in accordance with the approved planning application.

61. Highways

Concern was expressed over the increase in number of vehicles, especially HGVs using Barnstaple Hill. It was considered that the signage was not positioned where HGV drivers could see them, and of un-appropriate size.

62. Planning Applications

None received.

63. Finance

Payments:

1. Clerk's Salary & Expenses £125.95

The account was approved for payment.

64. Playing Field

The Playing Field committee had thought that it would be beneficial for them to hold a special meeting with the parish council to discuss the relationship between the two bodies, and to agree new Terms of Reference. Councillors did not consider that a separate meeting was necessary, and that the matter could be dealt with at a normal council meeting.

It was noted that a public meeting was due to be held on 14 September to hear views from the public on the proposed new name change, and any concerns over the new Constitution.

It was agreed that both the old and proposed constitutions should be published in the next edition of the Argus. The parish council agreed to pay the additional printing cost due to the extra pages

It was agreed that, to save any confusion, the new constitution would change the word 'charity' for 'organisation' or similar.

The Playing Field AGM was due to be held on 14 September.

September was due to be very busy, with several events being planned.

65. Correspondence Received

1. Copies of the minutes of meetings of the Playing Field Committee for the past year. to be circulated to councillors.

66. Items for the next Agenda

Playing field constitution; Re-siting of Defibrillator; 20mph speed limit in the Village; Co-Option of Parish Councillor; S106 Agreement

67. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday, 20 September 2022.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:32pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date