

ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at the Pavilion, Atherington at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: 10 parishioners, District Councillor Mrs S Whitehead, County Councillor P Henderson, Parish Clerk.

19. Matters Raised by the Public

It was understood that NWF will be putting a new transport manager in place in the near future. Since the previous manager left, it had been noted that drivers had reverted to their old practice, and not adhering to the one way system.

It was noted that the speed of traffic through the village had not slowed since the introduction of the 20mph speed limit. It was not known when the Community Speedwatch group would start monitoring traffic speed. Cllr Henderson would speak to South Molton police about the matter.

A licensed contractor had been contacted regarding the removal of Japanese Knotweed. He had quoted £200-£250 to spray the plant.

It was noted that the missing streetlight had not yet been replaced. Clerk to contact Highways.

Cllr Henderson reported that there was currently a four year backlog in white lining jobs. To help the situation in the middle of the village it was suggested that signs be placed on the churchyard wall.

It was agreed to contact a contractor to clear the overgrown vegetation near Easter Cottage.

20. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Andrew.

21. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Whitehead declared an interest in planning application 478931.

22. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 21 May 2024

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

23. Matters Arising from the last meeting

There was no update on Lemons Cottage. Cllr Mrs Whitehead offered to contact Planning Enforcement.

24. Co-Option of Parish Councillor

An application for co-option to fill the vacancy on the council had been received from Mr Kiely.

Cllr Ms Norman proposed that Mr Kiely be co-opted. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Lindsay. All in agreement.

Cllr Kiely completed his Consent to Co-option, and took his place on the council.

25. Reports:

1. County Councillor

Cllr Henderson reported that discussions on Devolution for Devon had been on hold due to the election.

The Link Road was nearing completion, and was scheduled to be fully open in October.

There would be a full 24 hour closure of Umberleigh Bridge for traffic for 3-4 weeks from 12 August.

Pedestrian access would be maintained.

2. District Councillor

Cllr Mrs Whitehead reported that the planning department was currently taking four weeks to allocate a planning officer to an application.

The full council were meeting the following evening, when one of proposals lodged by a councillor was the banning of all meat and milk produced being served on council owned premises.

The matter of an unauthorised caravan, decking and sheds was raised. Cllr Mrs Whitehead agreed to investigate, together with another caravan on the High Bickington side of NWF.

It was also reported that substantial concrete foundations had been laid at a property in the village, on which a wooden shed was to be built.

26. Highways

Cllr Henderson reported that he and Cllr Yabsley would be holding a meeting with DCC Highways to discuss a number of items they were unhappy about, including the contractor carrying out inspection instead of DCC Highway staff.

27. Planning Applications

78416 Extensions to dwelling. Orchard Cottage Atherington

It was resolved to recommend approval.

78931 Erection of dwelling and associated works. Crossland Farm Lane To Little Knowle Farm High Bickington

It was resolved to recommend approval.

28. Proposal to Close the Surgery at High Bickington – Update from Cllr Mrs Whitehead

Cllr Mrs Whitehead reported that the closure of the surgery at High Bickington had been approved by the NHS, and that High Bickington Parish Council, together with the County Councillor had not objected to the closure. The parish council were making arrangements to transport patients to Torrington.

It was agreed to send a letter offering the use of Atherington Pavilion as a pick-up centre for prescriptions.

It was also agreed to request the number of prescriptions the surgery prepared for residents of Atherington.

Cllr Miss Brayley offered to enquire into the possibility of a regular bus service to Torrington.

29. Review of Policies

Copies of the Financial Regulations; General Risk Assessment; and Statement of Internal Control had been circulated to councillors. These were re-adopted without change.

30. Finance

Payments:

1. Trim Trail	£2854.80
2. Clerk's Salary (Jun)	£ 100.00
3. Clerk's Salary (Jul)	£ 100.00
4. HMRC (Jun)	£ 25.00
5. HMRC (Jul)	£ 25.00
6. SW Ambulance NHS Trust	£1680.00
7. Mrs J Snooks – Internal Audit	£ 190.00

The seven accounts were approved for payment.

31. Playing Field

The Playing Field AGM was due to be held the following evening.

The provision of new play equipment was being examined.

It was noted that the unauthorised entrance had been removed.

The dog warden had made a number of visits, and had raised concerns over the amount of dog fouling on the grass area used by children. He strongly recommended that dogs should be banned from the grass area of the playing field. He had signs ready for erection and would carry out enforcement work once erected.

It was felt that the dog warden's advice should be followed, and that the matter should be fully discussed at the next meeting.

32. Correspondence Received

1. Proposals for a new woodland at Burriott

Notification had been received that a public consultation was running until 28 July. As part of the consultation, a drop in session was being held in High Bickington Community Centre on 23 July, 4-7pm.

It was agreed to make a response voicing concerns over issues likely to cause a nuisance to nearby residents, mainly the volume of traffic and the lack of on site parking.

2. ACPF Minutes & Finance Report. Noted.

3. DALC Membership

It was agreed to rejoin DALC. The membership fee for the current year was 164.58 incl VAT.

33. Items for the next Agenda

Dogs in the Playing Field; Review of Policies.

34. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday, 20 August 2024

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.