##

## **IPPLEPEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Meeting held virtually by Webex Meetings**

## **On Tuesday 2nd February 2021**

## **In attendance**:

## Coun.Carnell (Chairman) Coun.Farrow

Coun.Mrs.Calland Coun.Mrs.Hutchings

Coun.Palethorpe Coun.Rattlidge

## Coun.Ranjit Coun.Smith

## Coun.Armitage

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## eMiss.C.Freston Parish Clerk

Coun.Dewhirst District/County Councillor

Two Members of the public

120) **APOLOGIES** – Coun.Mrs.Olding (Vice Chairman)

## 121) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – No declarations of Interest

122) **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th January 2021, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

123) **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – A parishioner raised concerns regarding the works that are taking place in Moor Road at Ross Caravan Park. The Parish Council have put in a complaint to the Enforcement Officer at Teignbridge District Council. The Parish Council is waiting for a response and will forward onto the parishioner when received.

124) **CORRESPONDENCE** – Parish Clerk

a) A parishioner that enquired for permission to metal detect at the Recreation Ground and overflow car park was discussed again. It was agreed to only allow access to the overflow car park. The clerk circulated a terms of use to all Councillors who agreed (All unanimous). **Action –** The clerk to contact the parishioner and arrange to get the terms of use signed before any Metal Detecting takes place.

b) An email has been received from the Wildlife Warden regarding Action on Climate in Teignbridge, asking if the Parish Council have appointed a Councillor as the focal point for Climate and Ecological matters. It was agreed that the Wildlife Warden can attend any Parish Council meeting in the future but there wasn’t going to be an appointed Councillor.

c) An email has been received from Teignbridge regarding the felling of trees which are infected with ash die back at Orley Common. The works will be taking place from 1st February 2021 and will take around 4 weeks to be carried out.

d) A resident from Torbryan has emailed regarding the tree works taking place at Orley Common and has also asked if the Parish Council own any land which tree planting could take place on. **Action –** It was recommended that the Clerk reply suggesting they contact Denbury and Torbryan Parish Council to see if they able to assist with tree planting.

e) An email has been received from the Secretary of the Allotment Association regarding the planting of trees around the allotments. Coun.Palethrope will attend the proposed allotment meeting in March 2021.

f) Ipplepen Bowling Club has written to the Parish Council to ask for a letter of support in assisting them with their grant applications to replace their carpeted green. **Action –** Clerk to write a letter of support.

**REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Coun.Mrs.Calland will continue to remain as the representative for the Village Hall Committee.

125) **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – Coun.Dewhirst

**County Matters**

Devon County Council is working with partners to ensure that rapid ’30 minute’ community testing for people without COVID-19 symptoms will soon be available across Devon. Approximately one in three people who have coronavirus do not display symptoms.

A positive or negative result will not remove the need to follow existing COVID-19 measures socially and in the workplace. Employers who have staff and workers who would be eligible for testing are encouraged to register their details. Further information and updates are available on the Devon County Council website.

Critical workers and those in high-risk occupations who still have to attend work, and people who are in contact with vulnerable individuals, such as carers, will be prioritised. Rapid ‘lateral flow tests’, which provide a result within thirty minutes, will be used.

The first testing site will open at County Hall in Exeter towards the end of January, with further sites to open across Devon through February and March. This will support existing testing arrangements and complement the national roll-out of lateral flow tests in some settings such as universities and schools.

Snow showers and freezing conditions swept across Devon in the early hours of Sunday morning. Devon County Council warned of a significant risk of ice on Devon’s roads, particularly into Monday 25th January.

Devon’s fleet of gritters have been working around the clock to treat the County Council’s salting network, but the authority is urging people to avoid all but essential travel.

Gritting will continue throughout Sunday ahead of an anticipated drop in road surface temperatures to as low as -8C across Devon overnight tonight. Conditions are expected to be hazardous for anyone travelling on Monday morning, and there is a severe risk of ice on untreated roads.

During operations, a Devon County Council gritter over-turned near Holne on Dartmoor, highlighting the treacherous conditions. The driver was shaken by the incident but was unharmed. The vehicle has been recovered and the road re-opened.

 Devon County Council is also working closely with Highways England and Devon and Cornwall Police. Additional resources were deployed to Haldon/Telegraph Hill, and ploughing was carried out on the A380 before 4am to keep the road clear of snow.

Last week saw the start of Devon’s £578.5 million Budget process. Last Monday the Children’s Scrutiny Committee looked at their £158.3 million budget. Members heard that this was a 7.8% increase on the year before, however even with this increase there was over £1/2 million of savings to be achieved in the disabled Children’s service. What is really terrifying is the High Needs Block negative reserve will reach £78 million by the end of 2022 – at this rate it will consume the Council in a couple more years.

On Tuesday, the £282.5 million budget for Adult services had an 8.3% increase taking to nearly half the total budget. £26.2 million of this was to fund increases in demand and inflation. We heard that the Public Health budget had been held at last years rates because we still have not received the Government grand for this part of the service.

Finally, on Thursday at a 7 ½ hour marathon session the CIRS Scrutiny Committee looked at £39.9 million Communities budget (a 0.2% increase), the £40.4 million Corporate budget (a 7.5% increase) and the £57.5 million budget (a 0.5 % decrease). We were staggered that there were to be cuts to winter operations and Highway Network management. We then brought the whole budget together including the Capital budget.

I will report on the debate at full Council next month.

**District Matters**

The Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme for businesses severely impacted by the Tier 2 restrictions is now open for applications. Both rated and non-rated Teignbridge businesses (in any sector) can apply, including businesses that work from home or on a mobile basis. Those who applied for an LRSG for the November 2020 lockdown are welcome to apply for this scheme too.

Grants for the new lockdown period will go live in early February. We are also working on a new ‘grant checker’ that will allow businesses to work out which schemes they are eligible for. In the meantime, we are asking members and officers to signpost businesses to our grant summary table on the website under Business.

Work to remove diseased trees affected by Ash Dieback disease is being carried out along the road edge of Orley Common in Ipplepen throughout February and motorists using the area are being warned of potential disruption to their journeys.

Temporary road closures and traffic management systems will be in operation from yesterday. Orley Road, Torbryan Road and Torbryan Hill will be affected but traffic management plans will be put in place to minimise this. Around 90 trees that are unstable are being removed.

As part of the Council’s Emerging Carbon Action Plan, three grant bids have been submitted with a combined value of £3.1 million over seven sites. If successful, up to 100% grant funding will be awarded to cover decarbonisation projects within Council owned buildings.

• £2.3 million for projects at Broadmeadow Sports Centre, Newton Abbot Leisure Centre and Teignmouth Lido. Proposals include installation of low-carbon air source heat pumps, solar photovoltaics, energy storage, energy metering and building energy management system upgrades. Their combined impact is expected to both reduce carbon emissions by 280 tonnes CO2 per annum and our energy bill costs.

• £676,000 for projects at Forde House including replacing the gas boiler with a low-carbon air source heat pump, building fabric upgrades and electricity supply capacity improvements. These projects are expected to deliver a carbon saving of 86 tonnes CO2 per annum.

• £166,000 for the replacement of gas boiler systems with air source heat pumps at Albany House, Decoy Country Park and Teignbridge Business Centre These projects are expected to deliver a carbon saving of 21 tonnes CO2 per annum.

The Scheme has attracted a high number of applications and awards will be made on a competitive basis. The Decisions on our bids are expected by the end of the month.

A motion calling for a ‘fairer voting system’ and to allowing 16-year-olds to take part in elections has been backed by Teignbridge councillors.

Last month’s full council meeting saw councillors vote by 24 votes to 18 in favour of the call for electoral reform that had been made by Kenn Valley councillor Andy Swain.

The councillor's motion had call for a change in the way that elections are organised from the current first-past-the-post system to a system of preference voting including proportional representation in multi-member wards for local elections as soon as is practicably possible, and that the voting age should be reduced to 16.

In backing the motion, Teignbridge will now write to the Home Secretary, and the Prime Minister urging them to commit to changing electoral law to permit such a move and introduce such a system of voting in any reforms to local government presented to Parliament. We will also write to Teignbridge's two MPs to ask them to call for changes in electoral law to permit such a system and promote the matter for debate in Parliament.

Alistair Dewhirst

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126) **PLANNING** – Coun.Farrow

**To consider the following planning applications:**

**20/02220/HOU -** Demolition of existing Squash Court building to be replaced with proposed ancillary accommodation building at The Priory, 33 Paternoster Lane.

Coun.Farrow proposed no objections to this application providing the proposal is ancillary to the main building; Coun.Carnell seconded (All unanimous).

**21/00067/FUL –** Fell one sycamore at Windmill Brake, Beech Trees Lane.

Coun.Farrow proposed no objections to this application providing that two additional trees are planted in their place; the applicant is mindful that it is the nesting season and take into account the spread of the tree and its affect on adjacent trees during removal; Coun.Smith seconded (All unanimous).

**TO NOTE:** Tree Preservation Order took effect provisionally on 8th January 2021 at Ross Park Caravan Park, Moor Road.

127) **AMENITIES** - Coun.Palethorpe

The Minutes of the Amenities meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2021, were approved and taken as read.

a) Solar Panels- Mill Centre

We have one quote for the installation of Solar Panels on the Millennium Centre which would provide 6kwh of power sufficient to provide for the Mill Centre and Recreation Toilet block. The power would be provided via an inverter and an automatic changeover switch to mains in the event that it is required. This will be further investigated and brought to full council in March.

b) HMS Ipplepen

The boat has now been installed and has undergone foul weather sea trials including being snow bound. Our thanks to Coun.Dewhirst for his contribution. It looks as if it is already a popular addition to the play equipment and will encourage imaginative play.

c) Bench - Beech Trees Lane

The bench in Beech Trees Lane was removed due to corrosion of the legs. A new bench funded by Councillor Dewhirst has been ordered. Coun.Palethrope proposed that the new bench is installed by the bus stop outside Caunters Close and the bench that is currently there, replace the bench in Beech Trees Lane (All unanimous).

 d) Gritting - Hand Gritter

During the cold spell it was necessary for safety of residents to grit footpaths and roads in the village. The Parish Council gritter was used to grit roads around the village and a hand walk behind footpath gritter on loan from Coun.Carnell.

In order to prepare for future cold spells, it was recommended that the Parish Council purchase a hand walk behind footpath gritter the cost of which would be in the region of £200. Coun.Palethorpe proposed to allocate £200 to purchase a new hand walk behind footpath gritter, Coun.Smith seconded (All unanimous).

e) Skate Park

We have now formed a Skatepark Project Group with residents who attended the amenity committee meeting. Coun.Palethorpe contacted Skate England and Maverick Skateparks who have an excellent reputation across the South West in both constructing wheel activity parks (new name for skateparks) and also advising on accessing funding.

Coun.Palethorpe and Coun.Rattlidge met with Mr Russ Holbert from Maverick Industries and Skate England on site. Mr Holbert will in due course send us a report of his findings and options for the skate park replacement.

Coun.Palethorpe arranged to meet with Mr Chas Hampson who Skate England recommended as a specialist in metal skatepark construction and repairs. Mr Hampson also works closely with ROSPA who have specialist skatepark inspectors.

Coun.Palethorpe will report back to Council on advice and options available for discussion and decisions on taking the project forward.

f)Tree - Toddler Play Area

Coun.Mrs.Hutchings - has sourced a replacement tree with the option of either a Kansan (pink) or Shirotae (white). It was agreed for Coun.Mrs.Hutchings to organise and purchase a Kansan tree at £40.00 from Walter’s Nursery (All unanimous).

g) Picnic Benches.

The damaged picnic benches have been removed from the Recreation Ground and unfortunately are beyond repair.

The memorial nameplate was removed from the damaged bench and has been fitted to one of the benches in the toddlers play area.

The two new picnic benches to replace the damaged ones have now been built and are to be stored until the Spring when the weather has improved when they will be delivered to the Recreation Ground.

h)Trees - Orchard

My grateful thanks to Mabel Cheung who has been in contact with Devon Wildlife Trust and has put us in contact with Rosie Cotgreave from the trust. We have agreed to accept the kind offer of a signature tree and a number of other trees (approx 100) of differing varieties. It has been suggested it would be sensible to delay the purchase of fruit trees for the orchard until later in the year. Clearly the Parish Council would if possible like the planting of trees to be a whole Community event, however given the current Covid restrictions this is not possible at this time

i) To discuss and approve various play park equipment repairs for the Recreation Ground Adventure Trail and Toddler Play Area shelter - Coun.Palethorpe contacted three different companies to quote on the various play park repairs.

Tender A - £5,970.00 + Vat.

Tender B - £17,950.00 + Vat

Tender C - £675.00 which was only for removing two items of equipment.

**RESOLUTION:** Coun.Palethorpe proposed that we accept items 1, 4, 5 and 6 on Tender A, seconded by Coun.Mrs.Calland (all unanimous). These are to replace (1) the Traversing Wall, (4) the swinging log steps, (5) remove the shelter in the under 8’s play area and (6) remove the climbing frame and net which are all high risk on the Play Park inspection report. The replacement of the shelter will be discussed at a later time. The clerk advised that the successful tender was Outdoor Play. **Action –** The clerk to contact Outdoor Play to let them know they were successful.

128) **FINANCE & PERSONNEL** – Coun.Smith on behalf of Coun.Mrs.Olding

**Balance No. £ 84,790.71**

**Received:**

Mill Centre – Rent £ 55.00

DCC – Repayment of Litter Picking Equipment £ 80.00

DCC - Urban Grass Cutting 2020/2021 £ 1,360.00

DCC – Repayment for new Bench at Beech Trees Lane £ 862.00

ICC – Rent £ 112.50

**Balance: £ 87,260.21**

**Invoices Received and Approved: £ 15,341.74**

**Balance £ 71,918.47**

**Reserve Account Balance £60,898.47**

**Overall Total £ 132,816.94**

**Items discussed:** Nothing to discuss

129) **HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY** – Coun.Smith

a) The meeting due to be held on 14th January 2021 was postponed.

b) The steps have been repaired on the footpath at the rear of Fermoys.

c) The steps on the footpath that leads from Dainton across to Bickley need repairing and has been reported ti the Public Rights of Way Officer who will visit in due course.

d) A large fallen Oak tree was reported on footpath 5. Coun.Smith spoke to Stonecombe Quarry who arranged for the tree to be removed.

e) Coun.Smith will be submitting the P3 Survey in due course.

f) A road closure in Croft Road for one day on Friday 12th February 2021 is to facilitate BT Openreach Fibre cabling works with no excavation.

g) Coun.Smith is going to arrange a meeting (virtually) with the landowners to discuss the A381 Footpath.

\*\*\*\*Coun.Dewhirst left the meeting 21.10pm\*\*\*\*

130) **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** – Coun.Rattlidge

Coun.Rattlidge is awaiting a response from DCC who are carrying out the Habitats Regulations Assessment and will report back at the March meeting. Coun.Rattlidge has received a letter of acceptance from TDC for the Community Right to Bid. Only one Councillor responded to Coun.Rattlidge’s request at the January meeting about their thoughts to look into the enhancement of the War Memorial. It was unanimously agreed that Coun.Rattlidge get funding of between £300 - £500 for designing a plan/drawing and will report back at the March meeting.

131) **NEWSLETTERS**

It was agreed to suspend the newsletters for the time being. (All unanimous)

132) **PLATINUM JUBILEE – 2nd – 5th June 2022**

It was proposed that a Councillor be designated to Co-ordinate along with the Beating of the Bounds. **Action –** Clerk to speak to Coun.Mrs.Olding.

133) **SUGGESTIONS FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY SPEAKER**

It was unanimously agreed to cancel the Parish Assembly for 2021 due to the current circumstances.

134) **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – No comments.

Coun.Rattlidge informed the Parish Council that the Councillor Advocate Scheme will be holding regular Zoom meetings each week and will report back at the March meeting.

135) To note the date of the next meeting: **Tuesday 2nd March 2021**

Meeting Closed at 21.36pm