

PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Baxter Hall on
Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs present: I Fisher (Chair), M Busby (Vice Chair), A Hunkin, D Kelsey
J Harris, J Richards, DCllr R Wiseman, CCllr A Saywell, F Lowe (Clerk),
C Richards (Torrington 100), T Russell (Air Ambulance), 1 member of the public

33. **Presentation** by Catherine Richards for Torrington 100. It was explained that this was a pilot scheme over 16 villages relating to community well-being. A link worker is available in both Castle Hill (Torrington) and Hatherleigh GP surgeries to prescribe non-clinical activities. Better social/physical/financial activities lead to better mental health meaning fewer prescribed medicines and visits to GPs. There is a fund to support new or ongoing activities which encompass all to improve the community, and help with applying for funding. Currently the group is getting ideas either to improve or identify vulnerability. It was agreed that the **Clerk would be sent information by Catherine to send out to the village groups**. If any wish to pursue this further, Torrington 100 will meet to discuss further. Catherine Richards left.
34. **Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site** Toby Russell attended to discuss further the proposition of installing lights on the Recreation Ground. Although there is a landing site at Merton, the Clinical Team feel that it could improve patients' chances with a closer site to Petrockstowe. The PC would have to cover the cost of equipment but the labour costs would be met by the Air Ambulance. This would be the designated site to be used during the hours of darkness (and if appropriate during daylight hours). The running costs of 300w is 15p for 4 hours and there is a standing charge of £5.24 per year for the switching unit. It would be a community asset and the PC would have to include it on the insurance schedule. There would be help with applying for grants and a letter of support. T Russell left, and the PC decided that they would proceed with this application. **Cllr Fisher agreed to be the main contact**. Lord Burnett would need to be contacted to give permission.
35. **Apologies of Absence**. Cllr Jeffs is away. DCllr Hurley is at another meeting. PCSO Baker sent an out of office implying that she would not be able to attend.
36. **Declarations of Interest**. None.
37. **Public Session**. None.
38. **Approval of Minutes**. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 17th September and the Planning meeting of 18th October 2019, having been previously circulated were approved and signed by Cllr Busby as a correct record.
39. **Correspondence**. Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed from 12th September to 13th November 2019 inclusive and had no comments.
40. **Matters arising from previous minutes**.
 - a. **Phone Box**. Carried forward
 - b. **Work at Petrockstowe Station**. The work should start on 6th January 2020.
 - c. **Repairs to Bus Shelter**. Michael Harris has been unable to complete due to family matters. Dorian is to be asked to quote by **Cllr Fisher**.

Initials of chair

- d. **New Grit Bin.** Cllr Saywell has funded a new bin which will be sited near the bridge on Aish Hill. The Clerk has requested a top up of bins which need it.
- e. **Recreation Ground signs.** A quote has been received from Wizard Signs to provide 2 off 600 x 400mm, red writing on white background signs to be sited below the current signs asking dog owners to clear up after their pets, stating "Failure to do so could result in a fine of up to £1,000 and being prohibited from using the Recreation Ground in the future. Petrockstowe Parish Council." The cost is £42.18 plus £8.44 VAT (to be reclaimed). All were in favour, and the **Clerk was asked to proceed.**
- f. **Website Accessibility.** There is a new directive stating that all public sector websites must be accessible to people with impaired vision, motor difficulties, cognitive impairments or learning disabilities and deafness or impaired hearing. The Clerk has been working with the webmaster, Dee French, to check if the village site can be made compliant. Dee feels that this is beyond her knowledge, and suggested that the website be hosted by TDC, however TDC no longer offer this service. TSO Host will not advise on the current contract, but would offer partial advice if the service level was increased. Cllrs Saywell and Wiseman are unaware of this directive and the **Clerk will send** the information that she has to them. Following a discussion, it was agreed that **Cllr Wiseman will make enquiries of TDC**, and that the website will continue to be used as it is currently. D French left.

41. **Current Business.**

- a. **Preparing for a national bereavement.** Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would source a Book of Remembrance, which would be put into the church and then archived in the Parish archiving, and that flowers (without cellophane) could be laid around the war memorial.
- b. **Council motion request re national community energy campaign.** Following a discussion, while cllrs are in favour of this, there is very little that Petrockstowe PC can do.

42. **Planning** for information only.

- a. **Decision.** Ref: 1/1171/2018/FUL dated 18th October 2019 Proposal: Conversion of the Old Stables into residential accommodation (Building 3) (Amended red edge) at Building 3 Berry Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**
- b. **Decision.** Ref: 1/1172/2018/LBC dated 18th October 2019 Proposal: Conversion of the Old Stables into residential accommodation (Building 3) (Amended Red edge) at Building 3 Berry Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon **GRANTED**
- c. **Decision.** Ref: 1/0616/2019/FULM dated 5th November 2019 Proposal: Building for storage of grain, farm machinery and agricultural produce at Land at The Old Station Yard, Petrockstowe, Devon. **GRANTED**
- d. **Decision.** Ref: 1/0859/2019/AGMB dated 6th November 2019 Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 2no. dwellings under Class Q and associated operational development at Hallwood Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**

43. **Councillors Reports.**

- a. **PSSC.** Fertiliser has been spread on the cricket square, the exterior of the bar has been painted and the caravan and old shed have been removed. Wild flower seed has been sown and the water pipes drained. Equipment will be stored and the hedges cut soon.

- b. **Baxter Hall.** The work on the roof is completed. The cost was just covered and there will continue to be fundraising to replace the fire door and repair/replace external render. This will be known as the property fund. There was a generous donation from a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous. The Punch, Ploughmans and Pudding evening will be on 7th December.
- c. **Footpaths report.** There is a concern that some trees by the Tarka Trail are now unprotected following on from recent felling. **Cllr Richards to provide further details to the Clerk to forward to highways.**
- d. **County Report.** Reminder that night closures on the A3124 are continuing. DCC is also set to receive £15m for for Social Care, dependant on outcome of the election, some will be from an increase in Council Tax. The Fire Service have postponed their meeting to January; however it will not have a direct impact on Torridge.
- e. **District Report.** There has been a lot of press interest in the cattle market at Holsworthy recently and the leader of TDC is working to repair the relationship with Kivells going forward. A reminder that you need to register to vote now; and by 26/11 for postal votes and 4/12 for proxy votes. There is a joint scheme with North Devon to provide shelter for Rough Sleepers, which will trigger with a yellow alert from the Met Office. Volunteers are wanted. There is an electric van in the refuse fleet. TDC have given £1.2m towards a £2m project to build the Burrows Visitor Centre. The new Waste & Recycling scheme started approx. a year ago and recycling rate is up to 51% with an increase to 4,000 tonnes of residential waste as there are more residents. None of which goes to landfill, it all goes to the incinerator at Marsh Barton. Cllr Richards asked if planning notifications are sent to adjoining properties. Cllr Wiseman replied that it depends on application class, ie Class Q is permissible development so not sent. Cllr Richards advised that the drains on Aish Hill need clearing, Cllr Saywell will ask if jetting can be done.

44. Financial Items.

- a. **Finance report.** This was given to all cllrs for information.
- b. **Precept.** This needs to be set in January and requests have been received from BH, Cemetery, Citizens Advice and Okehampton District Transport Community Group. **Clerk to check powers** to give to these organisations. Cllr Harris left.
- c. **Approved:** North Devon Records Office £50.00 (transfer)

If required, a Planning Meeting will be held on 17th December 2019 and the Parish Council Meeting is on 21st January 2020 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs Saywell and Wiseman left as the meeting went into Part 2 at 9.37pm.

Chairman Date

Initials of chair