

KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th November 2023 at 7pm in Kentisbeare Village Hall

Present: Mrs Q Broom (acting Chairman), N Woofenden, Mrs F Ryan, Mrs L Downing, E Southerden, Mrs E Ellicott, M Disney, MDDC Cllr. Cathy Connor and the Clerk. *Due to apologies received from the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman Cllr. Mrs Broom took the meeting.*

132/11/23. Public Question Time: None.

133/11/23. Apologies: Cllrs. N Allan, M Disney and DCC Cllr. J Berry.

134/11/23. Declarations of Interest: None.

135/11/23. The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10/10/23 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

136/11/23. Matters Arising: None.

137/11/23. Co-option of Parish Councillors: None.

138/11/23. Planning & Planning Correspondence/Information:

a) Applications considered by the Parish Council: None. It was noted that 23/01440/MOUT will be included on the next agenda.

b) Results of applications from Mid Devon District Council: None. *Cllr. Mrs Ellicott arrived.*

c) The date of 28/11/23 has been agreed for a presentation followed by question and answer session, as arranged with the agent in respect of the following application: 23/01440/MOUT Outline application with details of access for demolition of existing structures and development of residential dwellings (up to 1,100 dwellings) and elderly accommodation (up to 118 units), village centre uses, primary school, public open space, play areas, wildlife areas, associated infrastructure and landscaping. Land at NGR 304098 107284 Newlands Farm, Cullompton. The Parish Council will agree on a response at the next meeting.

d) Notification received of amended description and additional information in respect of the following application which will be determined by the MDDC Planning Committee on 22/11/23: 23/00636/FULL Change of use of barn to wedding/events venue and retention of access track Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 307827 108901 Pirzwell Ponds, Kentisbeare. It was agreed for Cllr. Southerden to attend the meeting and speak on behalf of the Parish Council, to re-iterate the concerns of the Parish Council as previously submitted at the consultation stage.

e) Culm Garden Village: A meeting of the Delivery Board is due to take place in December.

f) Any other Planning Matters: MDDC Cllr. Cathy Connor recently attended a Landscape Character Workshop at MDDC. Cllr. Mrs Downing joined an online session regarding planning training as delivered by MDDC recently; slides will be circulated to all when available.

139/11/23. Reports.

a) The Clerk: None

b) Reports from DCC & MDDC Councillors: (i) MDDC Cllr. Cathy Connor gave details of free parking in the district in the run up to Christmas. A reminder about the residents' survey which is open until December. Cllr. Cathy Connor attended the Dartmoor National Park Forum recently. (ii) DCC Cllr. Berry: A report was circulated to all, details include – Highways; the road to Sainthill damaged by flooding, has been repaired. Monthly Chill and Chat drop in sessions to start in Kentisbeare Village Hall shortly have been supported by DCC Cllr. Berry. Health and Social Care - the health and care system is under pressure, at the highest level with bed occupancy rates hovering around the 95% rate. There has been a 93% reduction in those waiting for care packages to be arranged. The number employed in care has increased, vacancy rates, absence from sickness and turnover has decreased. The state of the care workforce nationally and regionally can be seen at: www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Home.aspx

RD&E University Health Care Trust has a new CEO - Sam Higginson

Carer Friendly Devon Communities Scheme aims to support local communities to understand the needs of unpaid carers. In 2021 there were approximately 74,500 in Devon. Local Communities are invited to raise awareness of carers and consider what can be done to support them - carer awareness training can be undertaken and communities can join Carers week. To sign up to this initiative visit Devon Carers website. Learning disability training is being offered to DCC Cabinet before making decisions affecting learning disability. Mobile Library Services are being looked at again, as they perform a valuable role in rural areas, in an effort to find ways of retaining them. For the tenth year, DCC Farmwise Devon hosted 1500 children from 30 Primary Schools across Devon to learn more about farming, local food, where it comes from, how it is made and the journey from field to fork.

Reports continued:

DCC is working with Devon's eight district councils to support the homeless. Heart of the SW Growth Hub are funding a digital link service that has helped 500 small and medium businesses to grow and become more successful. 95 other businesses have received free help from the Growth Hub's Digital Business Advisers. Small businesses can contact Heart of the South West Growth Hub website to access help.

c) P3 Footpaths and Parish Paths: The possibility of a few winter walks may be considered. The gate at footpath 39 will be replaced and the gate at Bridleway 41 will be reported as requiring repair.

d) The Chairman/Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Mrs Broom reported on behalf of Kentisbeare Village Hall – the committee is looking into options and grant funding for a heat source pump.

e) Any other reports: Cllr. Southerden and the Clerk attended the Blackdown Hills Parishes Network (BHPN) AGM recently - a demonstration of a thermal imaging camera which Parishes can access for two weeks was given at the AGM. BHPN is looking for volunteers for river monitoring. There are grants available for Parishes to access towards electric charging points. A summary of the BHPN response to the NPPF was given – details circulated to all. Cllr. Southerden will join the BHPN on a visit to Hinkley Point next year. A reminder that the AONB questionnaire is open until mid-December.

140/11/23. Highways.

a) Road closures - patching and re-surfacing works will take place along Broad Road from 20/11/23. **b)** Any other matters including items to report - The Culm Catchment Officer made a site visit recently to look at flood solutions.

141/11/23. Finance.

a) The bank balance was noted as at 31/10/23 and Direct Debits taken were noted: EDF £7 on 10/10, Utility Warehouse £41.05 on 31/10. Credits received: MDDC £20,499.50 on 4/10 (precept final instalment), DCC PROW grant £1800 20/10, website advertising 26/10 - £7.50 & 09/10 - £5.00.

b) Payments were approved totalling £2376.69 cheques 2099 to 2107:

-Chq 2099 Kentisbeare Village Hall. Hall hire.

-Chq 2100 Clerk – salary and expenses.

-Chq 2101 Website and e-newsletter.

-Chq 2102 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd. Grass maintenance contract.

-Chq 2103 SMA Services. Payroll provider.

-Chq 2104 MDDC. Bin emptying.

-Chq 2105 Cosmic. Server SSL Certificate re: website.

-Chq 2106 ALCC. Membership for the Clerk.

-Chq 2107 Allotment rental.

c) Renewal of membership to The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) – it was agreed to raise cheque number 2108 for £60.00.

d) Annual grants – cheques were raised as agreed at the precept meeting:

Chq 2109 £2000.00 Blackborough Village Hall.

Chq 2110 £ 500.00 Sainthill Youth Club.

Chq 2111 £ 300.00 Sainthill Baptist Church. Church yard grant.

Chq 2112 £ 300.00 Blackborough PCC (All Saints). Church yard grant.

Chq 2113 £1500.00 Kentisbeare PCC (St. Mary's). Church yard grant.

e) Request for financial help with monthly coffee morning to be held in Kentisbeare Village Hall – it was agreed to pay for hall hire for the first six months initially and to ask for feedback from the organiser. *Payment to be made next month.*

f) NALC salary scales: Notification of an increase in the NALC salary scales backdated to 01/04/2023; employers are encouraged to implement ASAP – agreed.

g) Any other financial matters: As an expected payment it was agreed to pay the contractor for hedging works in the play area - cheque number 2114 was raised for £66.

142/11/23. Kentisbeare Play Area.

a) Update on cycle track: A decision on the application for funding is still awaited.

b) Annual Inspection: The Clerk will arrange for a few minor issues to be dealt with. Devon Air Ambulance will attend the site shortly with reference to the lighting due to an update in software.

c) Any other matters: None.

143/11/23. Christmas Lights: Cllr. Disney and Woofenden to arrange ASAP early in December. Payments for electricity will be raised in January.

144/11/23. Correspondence & Any Consultations. [MDDC Residents Survey](#). Clerks and Councils Direct. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service-residents consultation re: council tax.

145/11/23. Items for information, future agenda items, and dates of future meetings. Future meetings: 05/12/23 & 09/01/24.