

**Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present** – Cllr. Topley (Chair); Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Marriott, Cllr. Gallagher; Cllr. Symons, 2 members of the public; Tamsin Mowat (Clerk)

Meeting opened at 7pm

Agenda item	Action	Owner
<p><b>1) Public Discussion:</b> Parishioner reported potholes near Poole Farm took over a year to be repaired but have done a good job – best repair in 40 years. More potholes have appeared outside parishioner’s property. Inspector from Highways came to check and was told it was surface degradation not a pothole.</p> <p>Parishioner raised concern over Teignbridge car parking fees increasing. Cllr. Purser reported that there has been a restructuring to try and save money - £2.6 million deficit so car parking is an income source.</p> <p>Footpath Warden reported that Pound Lane drains need cleaning and on Neadon Lane there is a safety issue with mud and stones.</p> <p>Spring plate at the bottom of Pound Lane still an issue. A parishioner has raised it with DCC Highways as well.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Gallagher arrived at 19.07</b></p>	<p>Feedback to Ines at Devon Highways and check re. reporting degradation</p> <p>Report Neadon Lane again to DCC but if no response then ask Cllr. Brook to request it on our behalf. Report Pound Lane spring plate again.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>2) Apologies For Absence:</b> District Cllr. Swain and Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce (family illness) – absence approved</p>		
<p><b>3) Declarations of Interest:</b> Cllr. Gallagher declared an interest in a planning application.</p>		
<p><b>4) Minutes</b> of meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 approved and signed</p>		
<p><b>5) Review action points from previous meeting</b></p> <p>a) Clerk’s action points: All in hand except Credit Card application, passwords and play park bench quotes still to be completed due to work on budget being the priority this month.</p> <p>b) Councillors’ action points: Cllr. Topley – Biodiversity Plan and trees for play park; Councillor training - completed; allotment hedge cutting – we need someone to help with the right equipment for inside hedge of allotments (Alex Weaving to cut top of hedge); Parish Volunteer Award Scheme – in progress; celebratory event and thanking everyone who contributes – some form of subtle thank you, report back in January; VE Day celebrations.</p>	<p>Credit card application, passwords and play park bench quote</p> <p>Carry over Biodiversity plan and free trees scheme to February parish plan meeting</p> <p>Check work on allotment inside hedge and quote</p> <p>Parish Volunteer Award Scheme</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr. Topley</p> <p>Cllr. Symons</p> <p>Cllrs. Marriot and Topley</p>

	VE Day celebrations	Cllr. Marriott
<p><b>6) District and County Councillor Reports:</b> summarised here and full report available at the end of the minutes and on the website</p> <p>District Cllr. Purser – issues with Local Authority accounts throughout the country and locally and a two-year back log to be cleared.</p> <p>TDC very short of money so want to sell some assets</p> <p>Council tax will be set shortly – currently limited to 5% rise</p> <p>National Insurance – Govt. will reimburse local authorities for the cost.</p> <p>Cllr. Gallagher commented that accounts for Local Authorities have not been looked at closely and may have been what has led to the challenging financial situation the Local Authority is currently in.</p>		
<p><b>7) Chair’s Report (for information only)</b> - summarised here and full report available at the end of the minutes or on the website: thanks to Anne Mayes for organising drinks for the Snow team who run the gritter, Clerk’s Pension and leave arrangements agreed, Three Parishes’ meeting feedback and Virtual attendance at meetings consultation.</p>		
<p><b>8) PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Planning Applications</b> - Dartmoor National Park has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>DOC/0123/24 3 - Two agricultural buildings, one for livestock and one for agricultural storage Barytes, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7JD – no comments</p> <p><u>Decisions</u></p> <p>0236/24 Westcott Dairy, Bridford – Grant of conditional planning permission</p> <p>DOC/0123/24 3 - Two agricultural buildings, one for livestock and one for agricultural storage Barytes, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7JD - Part Discharged, Part not Discharged</p> <p>0236/24 - Retrospective application to retain engineering works associated with existing farmyard Westcott Dairy Road from Plaston Green to Plaistow Green, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7EJ - Grant Conditionally</p>		
<p><b>9) FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>Expenditure</b></p> <p>Clerk’s salary October - £611.10 SO</p> <p>Clerk’s homeworking expenses - £6 per week SO</p> <p>Clerk’s SIM and data plan - £3.99 DD</p> <p>HP Instant Ink £3.99 by SO to Clerk as paid on Clerk’s own CC</p>	<p>Banking</p> <p>Check and authorise payments</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs. Purser and Marriott</p>

<p>RBL Wreath for Remembrance to Tamsin Mowat as paid by CC - £24.49 BACS  Cllr. Topley food and drinks for Three Parishes' Meeting - £48.29 BACS  Clerk's pay: National pay award backdated pay increase from April 2024: April to July £39.04 and August-October £54.90 so total of £93.94 back pay - BACS and from November onwards monthly salary increases to £629.40 per month – Clerk to amend Standing Order and update PAYE</p> <p><b>Income</b>  Allotment rents received:  £45 BACS  £15 BACS</p> <p>Bank Reconciliations and Statements for October 2024.  <b>Council resolved to accept the accounts</b> - Cllr. Topley proposed and all agreed.</p>		
<p><b>10) Budget</b> – discussed item by item and issues noted and resolved.  Election contingency – factor in for 2026/7  Allotment rents – consider increasing allotment rents for 2025/6 – Clerk to add to June agenda. Deer fencing issue needs to be resolved.  Precept – could request to raise by 10% potentially but need to consider all figures once finalised.</p>	<p>See detailed budget for queries and issues to resolve – cross check against headline budget and resolve two sets.  Circulate to Councillors for consideration and carry over Budget and Precept items to January's agenda.</p> <p>Deer fencing – ask Andy Swain about funding</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>11) Precept</b> – move to January and resolve to accept once all figures settled and agreed</p>	<p>Resolve queries and send revised budget to Councillors ahead of the January meeting.</p> <p>Prepare Q3 expenditure figures and revise end of year predictions in Q4 – plan in for January's meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>12) Policies:</b>  a. Gift policy – agreed and approved  c. Absence and apologies policy – agreed and approved</p>	<p>Add date approved to bottom of both policies</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>13) DNPA campaign for 20 mph speed limits</b> in towns and villages across Dartmoor – rep. needed for meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately, no one able to attend. Cllr. Purser is going to the DNPA Forum meeting in November.</p>		

<b>14) Gritter servicing</b> – considered options and agreed every three years as money to be put aside in the budget and annually just keep clean and washed by gritting team.		
<b>15) Annual Parish Meeting</b> – consider timing and format for 2025 and agree – postpone to January	Add to January agenda	Clerk
<b>16) Clerk’s report (for information only)</b> Budget Locality funding application for Acorn update Allotment rents Skip service update Butts Close parking update Letter in support of Battery Safety Bill sent to Baroness Jones Fete and clothing bank cheques paid in Response from Stagecoach received to say they are considering our request for an afternoon service back to Exeter Public toilet consultation by TDC		
<b>17) Councillors’ reports and meetings attended (for information only)</b> No reports this month		
<b>Items for Information</b> - The next council meeting will be on <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7pm</b> in the Village Hall. Note that there is no meeting in December.		
<b>Email information</b> DALC bulletins - up to #50 NALC bulletins DNPA Planning applications DALC training Gift policy Absence and apologies policy Draft 2025/6 budget documents		
<b>Meeting closed at 8.58pm</b>		

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Bridford Parish Council

Cllr. Purser’s report November 2024

Full council meeting last Tuesday; issues with Local Authority accounts throughout the country: last two years of accounts (21/22 and 22/23) not been signed off so large backlog but accepted that they are fine – full audit due for 23/24. Very lengthy documents. TDC very short of money so want to sell some assets including Old Forde House – Grade 1 listed and expensive to maintain and more working from home. Lido

in Teignmouth was debated. Dawlish Brook silted up and needs attention but money limited. Council tax will be set shortly – currently limited to 5% rise and Government settlement for more money to local councils but unclear where it will go. National Insurance – will reimburse local authorities for the cost. Cllr. Gallagher commented that accounts for Local Authorities have not been looked at closely and may have been what has led to the challenging financial situation the Local Authority is currently in.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024

The Clerk's pension, to which she is legally entitled, has been agreed with a decision made to go with NEST; costs to the council as employer will be identified in the budget agenda item at tonight's meeting. Unpaid parental leave and carer's leave entitlement have been discussed and agreed.

We had a very successful gritting team thank you gathering yesterday lunchtime at the Bridford Inn, refreshments provided through the Chair's allowance and a generous £50.00 donation from a parishioner. We have three new volunteers. Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers.

We had several complaints from villagers about farm lorries coming through the village late into the night, waking some people up; the disturbance proved to be short-lived and no action was thought to be necessary, especially since Bridford is a mixed rural area.

The hedges have all been cut along Pound Lane. Feedback from parishioners is that there is much relief. I would like to thank those living along Pound Lane who were co-ordinated by Alex Weaving to allow their hedges to be cut at the same time; it is really appreciated.

We hosted a successful Three Parishes meeting; it was interesting to share issues of common concern. As a result of the meeting, Dunsford has agreed to share their Emergency Plan with us. Once their plan comes, I will complete work on ours which is nearly ready and circulate it hopefully in time for the January 2025 Meeting.

Dark Skies was also discussed at the Three Parishes Meeting. There are proactive and knowledgeable people leading this work in Dunsford. As a result of discussion, I have contact with a named parish councillor from Dunsford and have asked Joseph Dunkley to be our Parish Council link. He has kindly agreed and contact has been made. I will therefore transfer the lead on this to Joseph but keep in touch with him on the issue.

I hope to have our Gifts, Giving and Donations policy ready for January as well as our policy for claiming Travel Expenses.

As we have seen from DALC, the government has announced a consultation on allowing parish councils to use virtual attendance at council meetings. The consultation has a closing date of December 19<sup>th</sup> 2024. As we have a full agenda today and no meeting in December, I think it best if those of us who are interested complete the consultation independently:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings?utm\\_campaign=Chief%2Bexecutive%2527s%2Bbulletin%2B-%2B25%2BOctober%2B2024%2B%2528Special%2Bedition%2529&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings?utm_campaign=Chief%2Bexecutive%2527s%2Bbulletin%2B-%2B25%2BOctober%2B2024%2B%2528Special%2Bedition%2529&utm_medium=email)

We can then discuss on a future agenda when more concrete information becomes available.