

TALATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING OF TALATON PARISH COUNCIL** held on **WEDNESDAY, 6th MARCH 2024 at 7.30pm**. The meeting was held at the **PARISH HALL, TALATON EX5 2RG**

PRESENT: - Cllrs P Lenehan (**Chair**), G Hawkins (**Vice-Chair**) K Walker, M Gray, S Wood, A Peters, R Bos; DCC Cllr I Chubb and the Clerk (Mrs C McIntyre)

PUBLIC FIFTEEN-MINUTE OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present. However EDDC Cllr Chubb provided an update re DCC matters including attendance at the Development Management Committee and Public Rights of Way Committee meetings. Last month DCC agreed its budget which would increase council tax by 4.99% (the same rate as EDDC). He gave a warm endorsement of DCC's new CEO. He mentioned devolution re DCC and Torbay councils and the likely benefit of receiving more money from central government, if this was to proceed. Highways would have more money earmarked from the budget

24/03/01

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

EDDC Cllr Richard Jefferies. (Cllr Jefferies had sent in a message advising that EDDC at a Full Council Meeting had had a vote of no confidence in South West Water after a series of pipe failures and sewage overflows in the area).

24/03/02

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF 7th FEBRUARY 2024 AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE SAME BY THE CHAIR AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the meeting of 7th February 2024 be approved as a true and correct record. They were signed by the Chair *Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by the Vice-Chair*

24/03/03

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were none`

24/03/04

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED): TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

It was **RESOLVED** that Item 13 (the Moor) be discussed in Confidential Session due to the potential legal issues

24/03/05

FINANCE: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ITEMS I – III

i. Approval of accounts for the period 1st – 29th February 2024 including Petty Cash

NAME OF ACCOUNT/PETTY CASH	BALANCE
Community (Current)	£981
Business Premium (Reserve)	£11,123.78
Petty Cash	£13.22

ii. Approval of the March 2024 Payment Schedule

CHEQUE NUMBER/B ACS	PAYEE	DETAILS	COST	VAT	TOTAL
Bacs	HMRC	Income Tax	79.00		79.00
Bacs	Employee	Salary Feb/March (Net)	316.46		316.46

Initials.....

Bacs	Employee	Expenses from 1/11/23 - 31/3/2024 including annual home allowance	251.12		251.12
Bacs	Mrs C McIntyre	Repayment of cost of paint for telephone box and cost of A4 paper	60.83	12.16	72.99
		TOTALS	£707.41	£12.16	£719.57

iii. Transfer of funds (£500) from the Business Premium to the Community Account

iv. Update re Vision ICT cheque

The Clerk advised that the invoice had now been cancelled by Vision ICT in view of the two cheques sent by the Council not being received by Vision ICT

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Items 1 – iii *Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by the Vice-Chair*

24/03/06

CORRESPONDENCE

a. Items of correspondence distributed to councillors

The following correspondence was noted:-

Support from a parishioner re Climate & Ecology Bill

EDDC - Notification that the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to EDDC and the consultation is open until 12th April

b. Items of late correspondence

There were no items of late correspondence

24/03/07

CONSIDERATION OF AN EMERGENCY PLAN AND GRANTS AVAILABLE

There was some discussion but it was subsequently **AGREED** not to pursue a Plan at the moment

24/03/08

TO DECIDE THE FORMAT OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGED WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL - 7 - 7.30PM

After much discussion it was **AGREED** to implement the following:-

i. to try to get more people to attend the meeting, by advertising it in more detail and to explain what happens at this type of meeting

ii. offer refreshments again – supplied by councillors

iii. draw speakers at random at the meeting (other than the Council chair) so the order of speakers can't be guaranteed.

iv. all speakers to provide a written report to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Each report to be read out by the speaker (or other person from the organisation)

v. implement a 3 min rule per speaker but offer Q & A (discretionary) to make the evening more interactive

vi. the invitation to groups should be extended to their members, not just the speaker

vii. use a microphone and the Loop system (if available)

The list of proposed attendees provided by the Clerk was agreed

24/03/09

CONSIDERATION OF EDDC'S 2024/25 CHARGING RATES FOR THE EMPTYING OF DOG BINS IN THE PARISH AND TO MAKE A DECISION ACCORDINGLY

Correspondence had been e-mailed to all councillors. The Council **AGREED** to continue with the existing arrangements for the emptying of the two bins weekly. It was noted that in 23/24 the cost of the dog bin emptying service was £220 plus vat per annum. For 24/25 the cost will be £318.24 plus vat per annum and for 25/26 the costs would be increased by EDDC to approx. £418 plus vat. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the 24/25 increased costs of £318.24 per annum plus Vat. In addition it was **AGREED** that an article be placed in the Calendar advising about the costs and requesting that it would be helpful if persons took their dog poo home if they were not in the vicinity of a dog bin (it was noted that New Town Straight

Initials.....

currently had a dog fouling problem) *Proposed by Cllr Bos and seconded by the -Chair*

24/03/10

ALLOTMENTS UPDATE (INCLUDING THE GROWING OF PUMPKINS, H & S TRAINING COURSE, THE OFFER OF WATER BUTTS AND ANY ACTIONS TO BE AGREED.

The Clerk advised that four allotments were now occupied and all the paperwork had been completed and the rental payments received. Plots 5 and 6 were vacant and no interest has been expressed in these plots by parishioners, despite advertising on noticeboards; website; Calendar and Talaton Talk. It was **AGREED** that further advertising be carried out. Correspondence had been e-mailed to all councillors regarding the growing of pumpkins on one of the vacant plots and the matters that needed to be complied with (if this was to be progressed) as advised by the legal advisor at the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Council's insurers.. It was **AGREED** in view of these requirements that the Council did not wish to progress the matter further. SWW had offered the Council three water butts FOC. These were the only water harvesting items available to the Council. The landlords of the allotments had consented to the water butts being delivered on Plot 6. It was **AGREED** to accept SWW's very kind offer and also let the allotment holders know that the water butts would be delivered shortly. SWW had also advised of pending works to be carried out to the adjoining treatment works. They stated *'we will be providing further details on what the site improvements will consist of and will share this with the community once this has been finalised'* The Clerk had attended a H&S allotments course – the main points from the course were:- i. the Council is not legally required to provide water; ii. noticeboards on the site are a useful means of communication with allotment holders (although it was **AGREED** that in view of the allotments only consisting of six plots, communication could be by means of e-mails); iii. the erection of a shed on the allotments may require planning permission; iv. an annual risk assessment needs to be carried out;

24/03/11

D-DAY CELEBRATIONS 6TH JUNE 2024 – UPDATE

The Clerk advised that the Church would have bells ringing on the day. The Council after much consideration **AGREED** that it did not wish to purchase a lamp ('Light of Peace' lamp) due to the expense.

24/03/12

AVAILABILITY OF PORTRAIT OF KING CHARLES III A SIGNED AND FRAME PORTRAIT IS AVAILABLE FOC.

The Council **AGREED** that it did wish to take up the offer of a free portrait of King Charles III. It was also **AGREED** that the consent of the Parish Hall Ctte would also have to be obtained if it was to be hung in the Parish Hall.

The Council then went into Confidential Session

24/03/13

THE VILLAGE GREEN (THE MOOR) – UPDATE RE VONEUS BROADBAND AND ANY OTHER MATTERS AND TO MAKE DECISIONS (AS REQUIRED)

The Clerk had sought legal advice regarding Voneus laying cabling across the Village Green as she was aware that Village Greens are protected from encroachment and development by the Inclosure Act 1857 s12 and the Commons Act 1876 s29. The only development permitted was 'for the better enjoyment of the green for sports and pastimes'. The Council had not been approached by Voneus regarding the laying of the cabling despite it having a 250 year lease of the land. After much discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk write to Voneus on behalf of the Council with proposals (based on the legal advice received) and to also point out that this was the second time Voneus had excavated the site

The Council then resumed Public Session

24/03/14

PARISH MAINTENANCE: ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION AND UPDATE ON ITEMS REPORTED AND TO AGREE ANY FINANCIAL PROVISION (IF APPLICABLE)

- i.DCC had advised that the pothole on the road from Aunk Cross to Talaton Cross had been repaired
- ii.DCC had advised that the lane opposite the Parish Hall (leading to a number of properties and full of potholes) should be repaired by 21 May 2024

Initials.....

iii. At the meeting the following potholes were reported - six from Half Moon Farm to the railway bridge; one down from Riverwood Farm entrance; and a number at Bittery Cross and at Newtown

iii. Weeks Farm ditch issue – The Chair advised that the works to repair the ditch (damaged by a vehicle) had now been carried out to the satisfaction of the relevant parties

iv. Kyle Walker the DCC Highways Officer will shortly be having a meeting with the Escot land agent regarding the water run off issues

v. Road closure notice 26th – 28th March Road from Larkbeare Cross to Talaton Farm Cross for the installation of an overhead cable

vi. SWW and DCC had both advised that they were not responsible for the water leak (on the highway) opposite the Parish Hall. However a parishioner had advised that the road surface which had been wet for an extensive period of time (not due to rainfall) was now dry and the problem appeared to have been resolved

24/03/15

TO REPORT THE DELEGATED DECISION OF THE COUNCIL (RE EDDC PLANNING APPLICATION - ROYSTON FARM TALEWATER TALATON EX5 2RR MR MIKE REES-LEE - CONTINUATION OF PERMISSION 20/0965/FUL TO USE ROYSTON FARM AS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL AND TO USE FIRST FLOOR AREAS AS WELL AS THE GROUND FLOOR, AND INCREASE PLACEMENTS FROM 5 TO 10) AND TO CONSIDER MR REES-LEE'S REQUEST FOR THE FURTHER SUPPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL RE THE APPLICATION.

The Clerk had circulated the revised planning application to councillors and as she had not received any objections, that in accordance with the recommendation made at the Extra Ordinary Council Meeting on 24th January (that a delegated decision be made to support the application), she had informed EDDC that the Council supported the application. However subsequently Mr Rees-Lee had sent an e-mail which has been circulated to councillors, outlining a number of issues and seeking further support from various organisations including the Council. However the Council after much consideration, **RESOLVED** that its previous support lodged with EDDC should now be subject to a caveat that the original planning consent conditions should be complied with. It was also noted that there appeared to be sufficient land available at the rear of the property for car parking and dropping off purposes *Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by the - Chair*

24/03/16

TELEPHONE BOX – TO CONSIDER FURTHER I. THE POSSESSORY TITLE REQUIREMENTS II. RESPONSES FROM THE COMMUNITY RE THE COUNCIL'S REQUEST TO REPAINT THE TELEPHONE BOX AND III ANY OTHER RELATED MATTERS AND TO MAKE DECISIONS ACCORDINGLY

i. POSSESSORY TITLE RE THE LAND SURROUNDING THE TELEPHONE BOX

The Council would need to be able to show twelve years adverse possession of the land to be able to claim possessory title and then register it in its name at the Land Registry. The Clerk had checked with Andy Hazeldine who confirmed that he had not been asked to cut the grass around the telephone box or carry out any maintenance work since he had taken on the grounds maintenance work for the Council (2022). However his new contract with the Council now required him to do so. The grass had been cut by parishioners in the past but not under the direction of the Council. However the Council had had a seat erected on the site many years ago without seeking permission and there had been no objections raised. The Clerk would check the back records to see when the bench was placed on the land and also seek advice to ascertain whether this could be considered as an act of adverse possession. She would report back at the next meeting. If the act was not considered to be `adverse possession` then the 12 year period required to claim possessory title would start this year with the Council's contractor cutting the grass on the site. The Council would also need to pass a resolution to undertake the care, management and control of the land as a public open space in the public interest and to publicise this.

Initials.....

ii. RESPONSES FROM THE COMMUNITY RE THE COUNCIL`S REQUEST TO REPAINT THE TELEPHONE BOX

The paint for the telephone box had been delivered. However despite extensive advertising, no volunteers had come forward offering their services. It was **AGREED** to readvertise again in the usual places

iii. ANY OTHER RELATED MATTERS AND TO MAKE DECISIONS ACCORDINGLY

The shelves had now been made and should be installed shortly

24/03/17

UPDATE ON A PROPOSED GOVERNMENT DOMAIN AND THE LATEST GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS RE THE COUNCIL`S WEBSITE

The Clerk had attended an online course (Aubergine) which was more focused on website requirements. It appeared that new requirements relating to the accessibility of council websites would be coming into effect in October 2024. The Clerk had sought more information from Vision ICT as to whether or not the new requirements affected the Council website or whether in view of its limited resources (money and staff) that there may be a dispensation available . At the same time she had asked Vision ICT about the Government domain and e-mail requirements. She was currently waiting a response from Vision ICT to both queries

24/03/18

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY OR DISCUSSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

i.the Village Day grant (awarded some time ago) would be included on the April agenda for consideration/decision, as the event was not now being held this year

ii.The Clerk attended an on-line course re the proposed devolution of DCC and Torbay – information had been e-mailed about the proposals to councillors

iii. Both Defibs had been checked and were found to be in order

24/03/19

MATTERS OF URGENCY: ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CHAIR`S DISCRETION

The handles on the noticeboard on the Moor required replacement. The Clerk would check past invoices to see if she could locate details of the manufacturer to be able to place an order for replacements

24/03/20

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3RD April 2024

24/03/21

CLOSE OF MEETING

21.05

SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR	
DATE OF SIGNATURE	

Initials.....