**TALATON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF TALATON PARISH COUNCIL** held on **WEDNESDAY, 2nd JULY 2025** at **7.30pm.** The meeting was held at the **PARISH HALL, TALATON EX5 2RG**

**PRESENT: -** Cllr P Lenehan **(Chair),** Cllrs G Hawkins **(Vice-Chair),** K Walker, S Wood, A Peters, R Bos; D Hirt; EDDC/DCC Cllr Richard Jefferies; and the Clerk (Mrs C McIntyre)

*25/07/01*

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none

*25/07/02*

**PUBLIC FIFTEEN MINUTE OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public present. However EDDC/DCC Cllr Jefferies arrived later in the meeting and updated the Council on several matters including the following:- the Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan had been adopted; an Extraordinary Meeting was held at EDDC in June to discuss the Seaton Coast Protection Scheme and to make recommendations to Cabinet for monies to be spent towards the works budget; Cllr Jefferies was now the elected DCC councillor for Feniton and Honiton and Cabinet Member for Children's Services - Social Services. He was appraised of the broadband problems in Talaton by the Council

*25/07/03*

**TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF 4TH JUNE 2025 AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE CHAIR AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD**

Itwas **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the meeting of 4TH June 2025 be approved as a true and correct record. They were signed by the Chair

*Proposed by the Vice-Chair and seconded by Cllr Bos*

*25/07/04*

**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Walker declared an interest re Item 13 `Grants` as she was a member of Knit and Natter

*25/07/05*

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

No items were required to be discussed in Confidential Session

*25/07/06*

**FINANCE: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ITEMS I – III**

i.Approval of accounts for the period 1st – 30th June 2025

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME OF ACCOUNT** | **BALANCE** |
| Community (Current) | £1,119.34 |
| Business Premium (Reserve) | £ £11,519.38 |

ii. Approval of the July 2025 Payment Schedule

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NUMBER** | **CHEQUE NUMBER/BACS** | **PAYEE** | **DETAILS** | **COST** | **VAT** | **TOTAL** |
| **1** | Bacs | HMRC | Income Tax May/June | £82.20 |  | £82.20 |
| **2** | Bacs | Employee | Salary May/June | £329.64 |  | £329.64 |
| **3** | Bacs | HMRC | Income Tax June/July payment to be made 6th August  | £82.20 |  | £82.20 |
| **4** | Bacs | Employee | Salary June/July payment to be made 6th August | £329.64 |  | £329.64 |
| **5** | Bacs | Mrs C McIntyre | repayment of cost of ink cartridges; A5 envelopes; battereis for Barclays card reader | £31.22 | £5.66 | £36.88 |
| **6** | Bacs | ATH Gardens & Landscapes | Grounds Maintenance  | £157.50 |  | £157.50 |
|  |  |  |  **TOTALS** | **£1,012.40** | **£5.66** | **£1,018.06** |

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

iv. Barclays Bank update re bank interest rate – the interest rate was being reduced from 1.25% to 1.20% wef 12 August 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Items i-iii

*Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Walker*

*25/07/07*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

a.The following correspondence was noted by the Council

EDDC – Information about the Digital Switchover

EDDC – Thanking participants for taking part in the rural broadband survey. A consultation summary report was being created

EDDC – East Devon Community Event Slides

b.The following item of late correspondence was noted by the Council

There was none to note

*25/07/08*

**VONEUS**

i.Update re Broadband Wayleave Agreement

The signed agreement had now been sent back to the Council`s solicitors. The Council`s solicitor had advised that she would chase up an update with Voneus on how the compensation payment would work and for Voneus to complete the agreement

ii. Consideration of Connection Issues for some Parishioners

There had been connection issues for a small number of parishioners and some local businesses including the Parish Hall. The Council considered the matter in depth and **AGREED** it would review it again `as and when` more information became available

*25/07/09*

**ALLOTMENTS UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Landlord of the allotment land had advised that the land transfer to him had still not been completed. Once this has been carried out then it was hoped that the private water connection could be progressed with the Council

The Clerk had e-mailed those allotment holders whose plots had started to look a bit neglected. She had received responses from all holders who provided various explanations and their intentions to get them up to scratch. Some allotment holders had indicated that they may prefer to reduce the size of their plots or to give them up entirely. The annual rental was due in December and it was likely at that time that some of the allotment holders would make final decisions regarding their plots. It was noted that two of the plots were in excellent condition

Cllr Walker had carried out a risk assessment of the allotments and had advised of the following matters:-

1. The boundary hedge required trimming
2. There were ruts at the top of the access track adjacent to the highway
3. Access to the Intermediate Bulk Container (water container) on the unused Plot 6 was difficult

 due to vegetation overgrowth. The access required strimming. It was noted that the water

 container was being kept filled

1. The catch on the gate between Plots 1 and 2 was missing
2. The catch on the gate between Plots 3 and 4 was difficult to open and required attention
3. The latch post on the gate between Plots 5 and 6 required to be reseated
4. Some of the fence posts required replacing

It was **AGREED** i. that a quote be obtained from the Council`s usual contractor/his father\* for the works

 `c` - `g`. Atlas Fencing and Timber Works to be considered for a quote if the usual contractor/father were unable to deal with the fencing post works; ii. The Clerk to contact SWW regarding the trimming of the boundary hedge as it was likely their responsibility to deal with and iii the Clerk to contact the landowner of the allotments regarding the ruts in the access track asking if they could be dealt with (if it was the landowner`s responsibility)

*\*Note any works to be carried out would require the contractor to have public liability insurance*

*25/07/10*

**WILDWOOD ESCAPING BEARS - FOLLOW UP ACTION BY THE COUNCIL (IF ANY)**

Andy and Jan May (Managers of Talaton Neighbourhood Watch) had provided information regarding the two escapees and confirmed that an investigation was being carried out by Wildwood. After some discussion by the Council it was **AGREED** that the Clerk contact Andy and Jan to advise them that they had the Council`s full support but that they would await the official report in the first instance, once the investigation had been completed and then consider if they needed to take any further action

*25/07/11*

**TO CONSIDER ANY REPAIRS REQUIRED TO THE COUNCIL`S ASSETS, FOLLOWING AN INSPECTION**

The Vice-Chair and Cllr Walker had carried out checks of the Council`s assets and had reported the following:-

1. A tree branch required trimming back as it was overhanging the seat at Beacon Cross
2. The shed on the allotments required attention – the edge of the door was rotting and the structure required preservative to be applied
3. The noticeboard at the community shop required cleaning
4. The noticeboard on the Moor required cleaning

It was **AGREED** that a quote be obtained fromthe Council`s usual contractor/his father\* for items `a` and `b` and that councillors would deal with items `c` and `d`

*\*Note any works to be carried out would require the contractor to have public liability insurance*

*25/07/12*

**i.CONSIDERATION OF THE QUOTES RECEIVED RE MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR A GENERIC EMAIL ACCOUNT HOSTED ON AN AUTHORITY OWNED DOMAIN AND II.THE APPROVAL OF IT AND E-MAIL POLICY**

*(These are mandatory requirements for all smaller authorities, excluding parish meetings, as of April 2025. The policy is part of the new Assertion 10: Digital and Data Compliance in the Annual Governance Statement)*

After much discussion the following was **RESOLVED:-**

1. the Council to have a generic e-mail account hosted on an authority owned domain in order to be compliant *Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Wood*
2. the Council to use Planning Online as the provider to carry out the work and to accept their quote as provided *Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Wood*
3. the Council to approve the IT and E-mail Policy *Proposed by Cllr Bos and seconded by the Chair*

*25/07/13*

**EXISTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO BE REVIEWED – (IF ANY)**

There were none that required to be reviewed at this time

*25/07/14*

**TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON GRANTS AWARDED BY THE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 2024**

The Clerk had e-mailed Knit and Natter; the Calendar; the Parish Hall and Escot enquiring as to whether all the grant monies they had received in December from the Council had been spent and, if so, whether they were sufficient for the purposes of their grant applications. She had received a response from the Parish Hall advising that they were hoping that a successful lottery bid could result in obtaining funding and that, together with the Council`s grant monies, would enable them to purchase a superior audio/visual system. Therefore the Hall was holding off from spending the Council grant until they had heard from the Lottery Community Fund. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk hold off from chasing up the other grant recipients for an up date on their grant monies, until further instructed.

*25/07/15*

**COUNCILLORS REGISTER OF INTERESTS FORMS – REMINDER TO CHECK IF THEY ARE UP TO DATE AND RELEVANT ACTION TO TAKE, IF NOT**

Councillors were advised of the requirement to complete a new form if any of the information on their current forms had altered.

*25/07/16*

**UPDATE FROM PAYTHERDEN SOLAR FARM RE COMMUNITY FUNDING**

The Clerk advised that Bluefield had contacted her advising that it wascommitted to providing the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) associated with the solar farm and was currently working on the format in which this would be set up. It was unlikely that Bluefield would be working with the Devon Community Foundation to administer the CBF. The company had a successful working relationship with Grantscape, one of the biggest community fund management and administration providers in the UK who were involved in other projects in Bluefield's UK portfolio. The Council would be contacted again when further information was available

*25/07/17*

**PLANNING MATTERS (IF ANY)**

25/1198/LBC Mr and Mrs R Walker - 1 Ivy Cottages Talaton Exeter EX5 2SD -Proposed Open Fronted Porch on Front North Elevation

A site meeting was carried out on 1st July. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council fully supported the application, as the proposed development was sympathetic to the whole building (comprising of three cottages) and the architect instructed, was understanding of this and his plans were in keeping with the existing building and area

*25/07/18*

**TO REPORT ANY DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL (INCLUDING PLANNING)**

i.25/1214/AGR -Mr D Lockwood Lashbrook Farm Talaton Devon EX5 2RU - Proposed access track will connect the existing farm track past the farmhouse to the concrete slurry store

**The following delegated decision was noted :-**

This application to create a track across the fields from the farm to the slurry lagoon, using permeable stone, is fully supported by Talaton Parish Council. It keeps large agricultural vehicles off the narrow lanes surrounding the farm; is much more efficient for the farm and beneficial for the environment. No other residential properties are impacted by this development.

ii. 25/1174/FULL and 25/1175/LBC - Mr & Mrs R Buxton, Harris Farm, Talaton. EX5 2RQ – Construction of single storey side extension following demolition of existing boiler house and lean-to

**The following delegated decision was noted:-**

Whilst we defer to the expertise of the planning team dealing with a listed building; Talaton Parish Council has no reservations whatsoever in supporting this application. The proposal to remove and replace the single storey lean-to structure, is sympathetic to the remaining two-storey parts of the farmhouse and will retain existing features as recommended by EDDC Planning and English Heritage, such as the original bricks, together with a new agricultural style roof to replace the asbestos. The applicant is the 3rd generation to inherit this property and he and his wife are doing their best to preserve it for future generations by following all the correct procedures. We applaud their approach and recognise that with a young family, they are just trying to make it a comfortable and practical home for the 21st century without losing any of the heritage. We support their endeavours to maintain and preserve this beautiful farmhouse.

*25/07/19*

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

1. The verge from `Sunhaven` to the Newtown junction – a parishioner had requested that this be cut. (it is a DCC verge). Ed Polding DCC Highway Officer had advised *`this would not be classified as a safety defect so I wouldn’t be able to get this cut back by our (DCC) contractor. I will try to arrange for me and a colleague to attend and cut it back whenever we are both free`.*
2. The saplings and ivy growing out of the railway bridge – these had been reported to Network Rail and had been logged for appropriate action
3. The hedge outside Orchard Close bungalows – EDDC had advised that their officer would attend on site to assess what work was required. (It was understood that the work had now been carried out)
4. Escot Estate debris run off causing obstruction to the highway – Ed Polding had advised` I *have spoken to the landowners, and they have assured me that there will be a change of field usage before the winter months so this should prevent the debris issues that we have experienced. I will be monitoring the situation and be back in touch with them if nothing changes`* It was understood that the estate now had a new land agent and the field in question would likely be put to grass. If this was the case then this would not improve the situation significantly in the first year (as the grass would not be strong enough). However improvements should be seen in following years. The Clerk was requested to pass this information to Ed Polding
5. The blue abandoned car at Hillside - had been removed
6. Chevron sign near railway bridge – DCC had advised that the problem had been repaired
7. The road surface worn away at Blackpit Lane – DCC had advised that it did not meet DCC criteria for repair
8. White lines at Bittery Cross – an assessment would be carried out by DCC – (On the DCC interactive map the matter was reported as far back as 2022!)
9. Rosemary Lane potholes – a repair was due to be undertaken/or had already been undertaken
10. Potholes From Talaton Cross to Beacon Cross – the problem had been repaired
11. The works recently carried out by SWW in the centre of the village (opposite the telephone box) had caused problems for many parishioners as no notice had been given of the closure. However whilst the road was closed a medical emergency had resulted in serious issues for the medical team as they were unable to access the patient in their emergency vehicles. The Clerk had raised the issue with the DCC Highway Officer Ed Polding who had advised `*The works that started on the 28th June were emergency works for a burst water main, totally unrelated to the scheduled works to replace a defective cover. The official diversion route that SWW have set up was unsuitable, so I have asked our coordination team to amend it to a more suitable route as soon as possible. Unfortunately, there will be nothing we can do to stop other vehicles trying to avoid the closure locally though I’m afraid. The utility companies are allowed to close roads with little to no warning under emergency powers, to restore service, so that it why there was no advanced warning in this instance. The emergency services would have been notified by our coordination team when they processed the application however they will often just use the quickest route they can find`*

The Council was not happy with this explanation as the `emergency` had been reported to SWW some weeks ago. In addition the recent work carried out to the road surface would suggest a substandard repair, which would likely require a further repair to be carried out in the not too distant future. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain from DCC/SWW whether the works scheduled for one day on 13th August and at the same location (*S18 Highway Cover Repair Works)* would still be going ahead by Kier on behalf of SWW.

*25/07/20*

**ITEMS (INCLUDING DEFIBRILLATORS) FOR INFORMATION ONLY OR FOR DISCUSSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

The next Drop In would be on 26th July at 10.30am. Both defibrillators had been checked and were in good order

*25/07/21*

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

There were none

*25/07/22*

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

 3rd September 2025

*25/07/23*

**CLOSE OF MEETING**

20.51

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR*** |  |
| ***DATE OF SIGNATURE*** |  |