

LOXHORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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Minutes

Date: Thursday 6th January 2022

Venue: Loxhore Village Hall

Present: Mike Young { Vice Chair and Clerk }
Carole Delve { Councillor }
Jane Vanstone { Councillor }
Suzanne Smith { Councillor }

Minutes taken by: Mike Young { Clerk }

The Vice Chair opened the meeting at 18:30.

1. Apologies: Councillor Bryars.
2. Declarations of interest: None
3. All councillors who had been present agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th November 2021 were a true and accurate record of that spoken and written. The Vice Chair signed accordingly.

4.0	<u>Action points from previous meeting dated 4th Nov 2021</u>	
4.1	<p>JV mentioned that she has been made aware of a possible old footpath near the church that might be resurrected. She is waiting for the old maps to be presented and will report back to council. She has also been informed of discourteous bike behaviour on one bridleway where it crosses a farm yard. This will be monitored. (July 2021) DCC have not yet held the meeting above, JV will chase them again re meeting and extra signpost facias as not enough were sent. CB has yet to contact Mike Matthews but will do so. JV has had nothing further on old footpath nor the bikers. (2 Sept 2021) JV keeps trying to contact P3 at DCC but never gets a response. She will keep trying. CB contacted Mike Matthews who will look to installing a hedge as suggested. (Oct 2021) JV met with Ros Davis (P3 coordinator) and Simon Houghton last Thursday and walked several rights of way (byways 32, 31, bottom end of 33, footpath 8 from 31 to Hill Lane & 9) and discussed their ongoing maintenance / management.</p> <p>1 Byway (31) between Lower Loxhore and four cross way, this is suffering with gullying in the middle section due to runoff from fields during high rainfall events. It appears these are more common during winter than has previously been the case, the plan is to reduce the speed of the water so that it can carry less load.</p>	

	<p>It is proposed that concrete sleepers will be set into the surface of the lane every 30m or so, the material should build up behind the sleepers and not progress down the lane making big piles of material at the bottom. We can also get some grading work done by a special agitating and compacting machine known colloquially as the Angry Minion. Simon will get quotes from a contractor and we can apply for the funding from P3 for a grant, work to be done next summer 2022.</p> <p>2 Footpath 9, this path has been unpassable for some years (at least 6), it needs a new signpost at the top end, and at the bottom, a replacement gate, and a sleeper bridge to ford the stream. The idea of moving the bottom end of the path to the area near the dam was immediately dismissed as it would require a legal diversion of the footpath which is more expensive and time consuming than the bridge building. Simon will get quotes from a contractor and we can apply for the funding from P3 for a grant, work to be done next summer 2022.</p> <p>3 footpath 8 I have been asked by several parishioners about dog gates on this route, these would benefit pedestrians as well as dogs as the styles are quite challenging through the fields. This reduces the paths usability and reduces access to the route. P3 will cover the cost of the gates but we would need funding for a contractor and possibly a couple of simple steps. This is on the wish list for the following year 2023. (Jan 2022) JV has walked about half of the footpaths for the annual survey.</p>	JV
4.3	<p>(March 2020 para 7.2) Clerk asked if efforts could be made to find a Parish Clerk again as he is due to take the chair in May and cannot do Chair and Clerk July. (Nov 2020) Efforts continue to find a Parish Clerk. MY will not now be taking chair until May 2021 at the earliest. The potential candidate that the clerk had approached has declined. All to see if they can identify a candidate. (6 May 2021) As CB has kindly offered to remain as chair, MY can continue as clerk but we do need to find someone for this duty. All please continue to canvas a likely candidate, (NB: Does not have to be a parishioner) (Sept 2021) Ongoing. (Nov 2021) Chair suggested an appeal via the Loxhore e-news system with expected duties, hours and expense payment. All agreed and clerk will write accordingly. Not done till New Year as some discussion post meeting about where to post the appeal. All agreed to send it via Chris Harrington. Clerk has done this now.</p>	ALL
5.0	<u>Matters arising from meeting dated 4 November 2021</u>	
5.1	County Council News. NIL	Closed
5.2	District Council News. Nil	Closed
5.3	<p>RFO presented the estimated budget for next year to assess our required precept. NDDC will ask for this soon. Our running costs are insurance (£180), subscription to DALC (£50) and clerks expenses (£300), a total of £530. Costs of road maintenance and path maintenance are covered for the time being by funds being held specifically for these purposes. The only other expenses we have incurred in the past 2 years are donations to the Barnstaple Records office, CAB and a subscription to CPRE. We have a balance of about £2,400 currently available for general spending.</p> <p>RFO certainly doesn't think we should increase the precept and proposed that we leave the precept at its current level of 850. Councillors discussed and agreed the figure of £850. Clerk will submit this when requested in December. Precept submitted and acknowledged by NDDC.</p>	Closed

6.0	Finance		
6.1	Treasurer's report	Year to Date	Year to 31-03-21
	01.04.21 – 06-01-22		
	Bank balance 01.04.21	7,139.09	6,833.52
	INCOME		
	N.D.D.C. - Precept	850.00	850.00
	HMRC - VAT refund	50.66	124.61
	Devon C.C. - P3 Partnership	0.00	240.00
	Devon C.C. - Grant for insurance	0.00	177.00
	N.D.D.C. - Community Support Group	0.00	495.00
		<u>900.66</u>	<u>1,886.61</u>
		8,039.75	8,720.13
	EXPENDITURE		
	DALC subscription	49.00	52.00
	Clerk's expenses	292.34	300.56
	Insurance	173.39	172.41
	Village Hall - Maintenance grant	0.00	104.00
	P.C.C. - Burial ground grant	0.00	200.00
	Devon CPRE	60.00	0.00
	Loxhore Village Broadband CIC	0.00	250.00
	Barnstaple Records Office	50.00	50.00
	Citizens Advice	0.00	50.00
	Highway Maintenance Fund	25.83	0.00
	P3 Footpath maintenance	250.00	200.00
	Community Support Group	0.00	132.40
	Sundry Expenses	15.98	21.98
	Vat Paid	62.16	47.69
		<u>978.70</u>	<u>1,581.04</u>
		<u>7,061.05</u>	<u>7,139.09</u>
	Allocated:		
	P3 money	825.71	1,075.71
	Transparency Code Funding	438.36	438.36
	Parish maintenance fund	509.00	509.00
	Highway maintenance fund	2,786.55	2,812.38
	Loxhore Cmmunity Support Group	362.60	0.00
	Loxhore Broadband CIC	0.00	0.00
		<u>4,922.22</u>	<u>4,835.45</u>
	Non Ring-fenced Funds	<u>2,138.83</u>	<u>1,748.13</u>
	Parish Council Funds	<u>7,061.05</u>	<u>6,583.58</u>
	Balance per Bank Account	<u>£7,061.05</u>	<u>£6,583.58</u>
	VAT recoverable - year to 31 March 2022	<u>£62.16</u>	
			Closed

7.0	<u>Chair's Business</u>	
7.1	Renewal has been received from Zurich for Parish Council Insurance. Premium is £173.39. RFO has drawn cheque and will post it for Feb 1 renewal date.	Closed
7.2	The Citizens Advice Bureau is currently seeking funding again to sustain their support for our area. Last year we gave £50. Councillors discussed and agreed again to send £50 to support this valuable service that has benefitted residents of our parish. RFO will send a cheque for £50.	Closed
8.0	<u>Next meeting</u> The Vice Chair closed the meeting at 18:55, thanking everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd March 2022.	Closed

Minutes approved by Chair signed by Councillor Bryars Date 3 March 2022