

# LOXHORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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## Minutes

Date: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Venue: Loxhore Village Hall

Present: Chris Bryars {Chair}  
Mike Young {Vice Chair and Clerk}  
Jane Vanstone {Councillor}  
Suzanne Smith {Councillor}  
Andrea Davis {County Councillor}  
Malcolm Prowse {District Councillor}  
Mike Matthews {Parishioner and Churchwarden}

Minutes taken by: Mike Young {Clerk}

The Chair opened the meeting at 18:30.

1. Apologies: Councillor Delve
2. Declarations of interest: None
3. All councillors who had been present agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were a true and accurate record of that spoken and written. The Chair signed accordingly.

4.0	<b><u>Action points from previous meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022</u></b>	
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 &amp; 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</p>	

	<p>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. (March 2022) JV meeting County P3 next Friday to walk path #8.</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. (March 2022) No response, clerk will continue to seek a replacement.</p>	Closed
5.0	<b><u>Matters arising from meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022</u></b>	
5.1	<p>County Council News. 1. Devon care system is in trouble. Now have a Norovirus outbreak on top of Covid. Additionally, recruitment is a big problem. 2. North Devon Link Road on time and budget. 3. Mike Matthews congratulated Councillor Davis on having the edges of the Bratton Fleming to Barnstaple Road cleaned (ploughed) through Chelfham and Snapper. It has widened the road about 2 feet! 4. AD appealed to any landowners to accept the waste from roads on their land. This would greatly assist the County highways and speed up work. Please let the clerk know of anyone.</p>	Closed
5.2	<p>District Council News. Councillor Prowse reported 1. Excellent response of over 650 inputs to Barnstaple centre redevelopment plan. 2. Purchase of Green Lanes centre for £8.2Million has initially had good revenue return. Plans are to maybe bring Petroc and Health Service into the centre to increase footfall in Barnstaple especially in the evening. 3. Leisure centre on time and on budget. 4. Ilfracombe water sports centre is excellent. Now plans needed for signing to bring traffic to that side of the harbour and to sort out the parking in the town. 5. Large recruitment problem in the planning department. E.G Only one applicant for vacant Head of Planning. College leavers not applying to local government as was traditional way to get experience. 6. A start has been made on the new</p>	Closed

	local plan and should be completed in 2 years.		
6.0	<b>Finance</b>		
6.1	Treasurer's report 01.04.21 – 03.03.22		
		Year to Date	Year to 31 Mar 2021
	Bank balance 01.04.21	7,139.09	6,833.52
	<b>INCOME</b>		
		850.0	
	N.D.D.C. - Precept	0	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
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
	DALC subscription	49.00	52.00
		292.3	
	Clerk's expenses	4	300.56
		173.3	
	Insurance	9	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
		250.0	
	P3 Footpath maintenance	0	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>
	<b>Allocated:</b>		
	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 Community Support Group	362.60	0.00
	Loxhore Broadband CIC	0.00	0.00
		<u>4,922.22</u>	<u>4,835.45</u>
	<b>Non Ring-fenced Funds</b>	<u>2,138.83</u>	<u>1,748.13</u>
	Parish Council Funds	<u>7,061.05</u>	<u>6,583.58</u>
			Closed

	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>		
6.1	CB, speaking as RFO, wanted to make council aware and to think about the value to the community that we bring relative to the precept and funds we control. He highlighted that the bulk of the precept goes on Annual Insurance, Parish Clerk's expense and membership of three organisations. Mr Matthews was invited to speak and he asked about the grant that had ceased to the church burial ground that was sorely missed. He wondered if it could be reinstated as the church needed funds as not a lot come from the church above. He stated that the church is an open church for the benefit of the whole parish. MY stated that Council had regretted stopping the grant but it had been clearly mandated by NALC and the House of Commons' Library paper dated 21 September 2021 that it would be a breach of law if we did donate. Clerk will investigate the current state of affairs. Post meeting the clerk wrote to NALC and DALC for their latest opinions on the matter.			Open
7.0	<b><u>Chair's Business</u></b>			
7.1	Councillor Vanstone attended a meeting at Loxhore Cott called by the National Trust reference tree planting at Cott Brake. The main topic raised was the increased number of vehicles parking outside the entrance to Arlington and the fact they ignore the sign about not parking near the bend which at times prevents refuse and recycle collection and would prevent emergency services access. It was asked if we could do anything. Clerk wrote to Councillor Davis (Our DC and also chair of transport and highways) She checked and wrote that "it's not in an area with any other enforcement areas and we have severe recruitment issues in the enforcement team. The other issue is should double yellow lines be appropriate, we've missed the deadline for this year's proposals so it would go into next year which means its 18months away minimum, I say minimum as from experience I know you can't predict what the outcome of the legally required public consultation would be. What you are describing is obstruction which the Police enforce, from a conversation I had with local police only yesterday they advise contacting them via the website or calling them." The response from the highways officer was "this would not meet policy for DYLS. Even if they did, they would not get enforced and so ultimately as you have said if vehicles are causing an obstruction, it would be a police matter." Council recommend that any resident should contact the police to report any vehicle causing an obstruction. Councillor Delve agrees that yellow lines are not appropriate but suggests we look at replacing the sign already there with a stronger worded one saying the Police will be called if any car parks beyond the sign and prevents access by emergency or other vehicles. Post meeting clerk wrote to the NT and received an acknowledgement that this would be looked at by management.			Closed
7.2	There is a nationwide campaign "20's Plenty for Us", promoting a speed limit of 20mph to be normal on residential streets and in town and village centres. Across the UK there are now over 500 local groups campaigning to make cities, towns and villages better places to be. We have been asked if we would join the petition to urge Devon CC to do this. Councillors discussed and decided that we would not need or require such a limit. Additionally following advice from Councillor Davis that such a blanket ruling would not be able to be imposed it was decided not to support the campaign.			Closed
7.3	There is a NDDC campaign about litter. This will promote weekends for picking up in each parish. We are invited to let NDDC know who our contact is (Councillor or parishioner) for litter if we want one? After discussion it was decided that as this is more pertinent to towns where litter and dog waste bins are sited that we do not need a representative. We are fortunate that most people who walk around our parish do pick up the occasional litter.			Closed
7.4	The village Hall committee are to plant an oak tree to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's platinum anniversary. They are erecting a plaque supplied by the Royal British Legion at a cost of £135.00. They are asking us if we would like to contribute towards the plaque. Council discussed and decide not to assist with this purchase.			Closed

8.0	<b><u>Next meeting</u></b> The Chair closed the meeting at 19:30, thanking everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th May 2022.	Closed
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Minutes approved by Chair...Councillor Vanstone..... Date .....5 May 2022