

LOXHORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

www.loxhore.org.uk

Minutes

Date: Thursday 1st September 2022

Venue: Loxhore Village Hall

Present: Jane Vanstone {Chair}
Mike Young {Vice Chair and Clerk}
Suzanne Smith {Councillor}
Malcolm Prowse {District Councillor}
Peter Seggons {Parishioner and Planning applicant}
Kim Seggons {Parishioner and Planning applicant}
Hannah Jewell {Parishioner}

Minutes taken by: Mike Young {Clerk}

The Chair opened the meeting at 18:30

1. Apologies: Apologies received from Carole Delve. Chris Bryars and Andrea Davis.
2. Declarations of interest: None
3. All councillors agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th July 2022 were a true and accurate record of that spoken and written. The Chair signed accordingly.

4.0	<u>Action points from previous meeting dated 7th July 2022</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.	

	<p>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. 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> <p>(May 2022) JV reported that byway 31(item 1 above) will now hopefully be scheduled in 2023. Footpath 9 (item 2 above) The contractor coming late summer 2022. Footpath 8 (Item 3 above) JV applying for P3 funding next FY.</p> <p>(July 2022) JV reported that the money allocated from P3 for footpath 8 was less than that applied for and the shortfall is about £150. Council agreed to fund that and asked JV to arrange for the contractor to proceed. (This shortfall is the VAT which we will reclaim when we get the invoice.) JV also stated that the old maps regarding the old footpath were submitted to P3 for consideration. They advised it can take several months to respond due to research required in archives. CD reported that the bridleway 6 bordering Messrs Gordon, May and Loosemore's properties is very overgrown and almost impassable. Councillor Davies confirmed that it is the landowner's responsibility to keep byways, bridleways and footpaths clear and they can be cut despite the nesting season restrictions. Clerk to send reminder out on Loxhore news email. (Sept 2022) MY sent reminder out via Loxhore e-news in July. JV reported that Pathway 8 has had four new dog friendly gates installed. She was told by the contractor that the invoice would be about £1,000.00. RFO and JV to investigate the estimate and amount that Devon CC P3 paid us as there is a large difference.</p>	JV and CB						
5.0	<u>Matters arising from meeting dated 7th July 2022</u>							
5.1	County Council News. NIL	Closed						
5.2	District Council News. MP reported that ongoing problems with recruiting HGV drivers is impacting green bin and other recycling. They have suspended green pick ups for two weeks to try and catch up. Barnstaple centre redevelopment is progressing with scaffolding erected in Boutport street. Planning application is imminent.	Closed						
6.0	<u>Finance</u>							
6.1	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Report 01/04/22 to 01/09/22</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Year to Date</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Year to 31 Mar 22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank balance 01.04.22</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,630.55</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7,139.09</td> </tr> </table>	Report 01/04/22 to 01/09/22	Year to Date	Year to 31 Mar 22	Bank balance 01.04.22	6,630.55	7,139.09	
Report 01/04/22 to 01/09/22	Year to Date	Year to 31 Mar 22						
Bank balance 01.04.22	6,630.55	7,139.09						

INCOME		
	425.0	850.0
N.D.D.C. - Precept	0	0
	112.1	
HMRC - VAT refund	6	50.66
Devon C.C. - P3 Partnership	0.00	0.00
Devon C.C. - Grant for insurance	0.00	0.00
N.D.D.C. - Community Support Group	0.00	0.00
	<u>537.16</u>	<u>900.66</u>
	7,167.71	8,039.75
EXPENDITURE		
DALC subscription	49.99	49.00
		372.8
Clerk's expenses	80.60	4
		173.3
Insurance	0.00	9
Village Hall - Maintenance grant	0.00	0.00
	400.0	
B. Gould - upkeep of Parish Burial Ground	0	0.00
Devon CPRE	0.00	60.00
Barnstaple Records Office	0.00	50.00
Citizens Advice	0.00	50.00
Highway Maintenance Fund	0.00	25.83
		500.0
P3 Footpath maintenance	0.00	0
Community Support Group	0.00	0.00
Sundry Expenses	0.00	15.98
		112.1
Vat Paid	7.13	6
	<u>537.72</u>	<u>1,409.20</u>
	<u>6,629.99</u>	<u>6,630.55</u>
Allocated:		
P3 money	575.71	575.71
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	382.60
	<u>4,672.22</u>	<u>4,718.05</u>
Non Ring-fenced Funds	<u>1,957.77</u>	<u>1,912.50</u>
Parish Council Funds	<u>6,629.99</u>	<u>6,630.55</u>
Balance per Bank Account	<u>6,629.99</u>	<u>£6,630.55</u>
VAT recoverable - year to 31 March 2023	<u>£ 7.13</u>	

		Closed
6.2	MY asked about the Transparency Code and Parish Maintenance funds on behalf of the RFO. They have been on the books for a number of years. MP advised that the Transparency code funds were allocated to fund work on the requirement to publish transparency and as we have done that the funds can be absorbed. Similarly, the Parish maintenance should be used for grants in the Parish such as the open burial ground and village hall. They can be absorbed into the general fund.	RFO
7.0	<u>Chair's Business</u>	
7.1	<p>A Request from the Village Hall Trustees has been received to consider having a bank account on behalf of the hall in order for any grants to be paid in and then work done can be invoiced to the Council and subsequently the VAT can be reclaimed. This has been done at Burrington for 20 years and is legal. MY liaised with Burrington to seek clarity on how this can work if Council agrees to the request in principle. There seems to be a requirement for the PC to become Custodial Trustee over the Village Hall management trustees and how this can be legally done and whether the Hall trustees would want this will take time to consider and may require legal costs. SS who was the hall treasurer and is a financial director, has looked into the legalities and reports that, if the PC was to become a custodian trustee, then we could make purchases on behalf of the VH and reclaim the VAT - but if we receive any consideration in return then the supplies become taxable again. So, unless we pay out of our reserves and gift items to the VH this doesn't work. I am not in agreement with this and I am sure that the VH committee would not be asking if they knew that this effectively meant residents having to pay through their council tax.</p> <p>If we had been in this position a few years ago and then applied for and received the Covid grants instead of the village hall, this would be a perfect solution, but that's not the case.</p> <p>I believe the only way for this position to change is for the PC to become the managing trustee which is completely different.</p> <p>If there are significant upcoming expenses the VH could look at a voluntary VAT registration. At their level of income there can be 15 eligible events each year in which VAT is effectively ignored which would cover the 'normal' calendar but VAT would be chargeable on hall rental to clubs, or simply 20% of the income paid over to HMRC as the VAT portion. The VH committee could do an exercise on that to see if it would be worthwhile and could de-register later once the works are complete.</p> <p>Prior to this meeting this request has been put on hold by the VH committee. The comments and recommendations above are included for future potential use.</p>	Closed
7.2	A request from the Village Hall Trustees was received to consider replacing their 16year old dishwasher which has expired. Cost of new commercial one is about £2,000 (£1666 with VAT refund). RFO reported that to do this would require a 200% increase of the precept. Council discussed and decided that this increase to precept and thus council tax cannot be justified. Just prior to the meeting the VH withdrew the request following their recent meeting	Closed
7.3	RFO and MY proposed restoration of the annual payment to Village Hall to cover our meetings and use of the archives/storage cupboard. As rental costs are increased from today MY proposed £150.00. Councillors agreed unanimously to authorise this annual payment.	Closed
8.0	<u>Planning Application 75788 at Land at Hillsborough House, Loxhore</u>	
8.1	Councillors had all reviewed the application on the NDDC portal. Mt and Mrs Seggons were invited to speak and stated that the proposed building conversion was for their son and his partner. Councillors had no questions about the application and voted to fully support. Clerk to submit the Council's wishes on the NDDC planning portal.	Closed
9.0	<u>Next meeting</u> The Chair closed the meeting at 19:15, thanking everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3 rd November 2022.	Closed