

LOXHORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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Minutes

Date: Thursday 2nd March 2023

Venue: Loxhore Village Hall

Present: Jane Vanstone {Chair}
Mike Young {Vice Chair and Clerk}
Chris Bryars {Councillor and RFO}
Malcolm Prowse {District Councillor}
Ray Comer {Parishioner}
Lynn Challacombe {Parishioner}

Minutes taken by: Mike Young {Clerk}

The Chair opened the meeting at 18:30

1. Apologies: Received from Councillors Davies, Delve and Smith
2. Declarations of interest: None
3. All councillors agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th January 2023 were a true and accurate record of that spoken and written. The Chair signed accordingly.

4.0	<u>Action points from previous meeting dated 5th January 2023</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. 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>It is proposed that concrete sleepers will be set into the surface of the lane every 30m or so,</p>	

	<p>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>(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. January 2023. This has been deferred by County due to funding shortage. JV is liaising with the Prison service team to see if they might do it, labour free (see 4.2 below). JV needs to submit annual claim to County P3 for funds. RFO to please advise JV what the shortfall for pathway 8 was after VAT reclaim etc so that she knows what to submit. (March 2023) Figures were provided and JV has submitted the requested expenditure form to claim the above shortfall and has also submitted the annual P3 pathways report. Attached at Annex A. JV also reported the excellent road clearing work we are getting from the probation service, and also great thanks to the Roger and Esther May who have cleared up laybys and road all around Smythapark farm. Great job. So, the parish is looking a lot smarter.</p>	<p>Hold</p> <p>Closed</p>
4.2	<p>(Jan 2023 7.3) Devon County Council is working hard on developing the county's sustainability Initiative and this will flow down to Parishes. Consequently, MY had invited Lynn Challacombe to meet and brief Council on the current state of things as she sees it. Lynn gave an excellent brief on the pressing need for a Community Emergency Plan. With climate change happening the likelihood of drought/floods/power outages etc is almost certain and the chance of occurrence is increasing. Lynn suggested that an audit of community assets should be undertaken and also the setting up a group of people as a Community Response Team to respond to emergencies. Other Parishes have already generated plans and teams. Lynn kindly volunteered to try and obtain the plans from Landkey and East Down for us to review. She will also contact Martin Rich/Laura Dixon to discuss the first stage of creating an emergency plan for Loxhore and to get advice and explore which options could work for a small parish like ours.</p> <p>The Council thanked Lynn for her time and inputs and it was agreed that Lynn would continue to advise on an ad hoc basis. She would not take on the role of co-ordinator at this time. March 2023. Lynn has been working hard and has arranged a public information meeting at the village hall on Sunday 26 March along with refreshments from 2 to 4 pm. Martin Rich will brief the need and what the parish should consider doing. (Initial email sent out 20 Feb 2023). From this meeting the hope is that a committee of volunteers will be formed. Lynn has also applied for a grant to affray costs for the hall and refreshments for this meeting and ongoing committee meetings and stationery.</p>	<p>LC MY</p>
5.0	<u>Matters arising from meeting dated 5th January 2023</u>	
5.1	County Council News. Nil	Closed
5.2	District Council News. MP is in consultation with the village hall committee regarding grants to support upgrading the heating system to achieve sustainability and maybe net zero carbon. An initial £250 has been promised from MP's discretionary fund. Bratton Flemin are researching ground source heat pump grants and will share the info with the village. MP also briefed that the Barnstaple Pannier Market project is on budget and phase one due to be completed in May. He recommended viewing a drone video of the roof of the market on the website about the upgrade.	Closed
6.0	<u>Finance</u>	

6.1	Treasurers Report 01/04/22 to 02/03/23	Year to Date	Yr to 31 March 22
	Bank balance 01.04.22	6,630.55	7,139.09
	INCOME		
	N.D.D.C. - Precept	850.00	850.00
	HMRC - VAT refund	112.16	50.66
	Devon C.C. - P3 Partnership	300.00	0.00
	Devon C.C. - Grant for insurance	0.00	0.00
	N.D.D.C. - Community Support Group	0.00	0.00
		<u>1,262.16</u>	<u>900.66</u>
		<u>7,892.71</u>	<u>8,039.75</u>
	EXPENDITURE		
	DALC subscription	49.99	49.00
	Clerk's expenses	289.21	372.84
	Insurance	174.38	173.39
	Village Hall - Maintenance grant	150.00	0.00
	B. Gould - upkeep of Parish Burial Ground	400.00	0.00
	Devon CPRE	0.00	60.00
	Barnstaple Records Office	50.00	50.00
	Citizens Advice	50.00	50.00
	Highway Maintenance Fund	0.00	25.83
	P3 Footpath maintenance	1,506.00	500.00
	Community Support Group	0.00	0.00
	Sundry Expenses	0.00	15.98
	Vat Paid	308.33	112.16
		<u>2,977.91</u>	<u>1,409.20</u>
		<u>4,914.80</u>	<u>6,630.55</u>
	Allocated:		
	P3 money	0.00	575.71
	Transparency Code Funding	0.00	438.36
	Parish maintenance fund	0.00	509.00
	Highway maintenance fund	2,786.55	2,812.38
	Loxhore Community Support Group	362.60	382.60
		<u>3,149.15</u>	<u>4,718.05</u>
	Non-Ring-fenced Funds	<u>1,765.65</u>	<u>1,912.50</u>
	Parish Council Funds	<u>4,914.80</u>	<u>6,630.55</u>
	Balance per Bank Account	<u>£4,914.80</u>	<u>£6,630.55</u>
	VAT recoverable - year to 31 March 2023	<u>£ 308.33</u>	
			Closed
7.0	Chair's Business		
7.1	Elections 4 May 2023. All Councillors will cease their current term of office on 9 th May		

	2023. Nomination papers are due March 17 th and clerk will circulate to all Councillors for completion. Nomination papers must be submitted by hand to NDDC by 4pm on 4 April 2023. Clerk will deliver them. If more than 5 candidates apply then the parish election will occur on 4 May. New Council will be formed on 9 May 2023 for 4-year tenure.	MY
7.2	The Parish Councillors expressed their sorrow at the recent death of Morley Hunt and extended their condolences to Jane and all the family. Morley was a stalwart supporter over the years of the parish and its activities.	Closed
7.3	Ray Comer stated that he had reported the bridge at Loxhore Cott to the bridge department at DCC. Some coping stones are missing and some are in the river. They have promised to visit and assess urgently. He also asked if the Loxhore sign, which is damaged, on the Blackpool Farm Road from the Bratton Fleming Road near Drinking Trough Corner could be repaired. Clerk will ask the DCC highway warden. JV asked if the temporary fencing erected along the same road and damaged by a falling tree could be removed. Clerk will contact Highways.	MY
8.0	<u>Next meeting</u> The Chair closed the meeting at 19:00, thanking everyone for attending. The next meetings, AGM and regular, will be held on Thursday 11 th May 2023 one week after the elections.	Closed

Minutes approved by Chair.....Cllr Jane Vanstone... Date 11 May 2023