

PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Baxter Hall on
Wednesday 28th November 2018 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs present: I Fisher (Chair), M Busby (Vice Chair), DCllr R Wiseman, J Jeffs,
A Hunkin, D Kelsey, F Lowe (Clerk), 4 members of the public

35. **Apologies of Absence.** Apologies were received from CClr A Saywell and Cllr C Pink. Cllr J Harris and PCSO M Baker did not attend.
36. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr A Hunkin declared that he has an interest in the planning application as he is a direct neighbour. He will abstain from comment.
37. **Public Session.** The current webmaster of the village website is concerned that she alone holds the passwords and access rights and that if she was incapacitated, no-one would be able to access it. To this end, both the Clerk and Cllr Fisher were given the access passwords as a precaution. There is further concern that email addresses are held by the 'mailings' officer to advise when the newsletter is available each month. Under the new Data Protection regulations, it is possible that permission to hold these details should be requested. **Cllr Fisher** will contact the Editor to ascertain whether the Mailings officer is happy to take on the task of gaining permission, or if she would like to pass the mailings responsibility to the Webmaster (who agreed to take on the role in its entirety). Also, to put a note in the newsletter to advise parishioners that email addresses are held and can be updated at any time. **Clerk** to check that the Data Protection Policy is up to date and compliant.
38. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 18th September 2018 and the Planning Meeting of 16th October 2018, having been previously circulated were approved and signed as a correct record.
39. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed from 4th May to 11th July 2018 inclusive. There was an offer from Devon Carers to visit and give a talk about Carer Awareness. There was a discussion as to whether enough support from parishioners would be forthcoming. **Cllr Busby** agreed to put a piece in the newsletter to ascertain interest. It was noted that the Local Plan has been adopted. There was an offer from Devon Communities Together to talk about smart meters, but felt that there would not be enough interest. Keep Britain Tidy are advertising luminous posters as the amount of dog poo left on the streets increases with the dark evenings, but the cost was prohibitive.
40. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
 - a. The Siebelco signs have not yet been erected, despite assurance that they would be. It was agreed to put a piece in the newsletter asking parishioners to pass on the details of lorries to the PC to pass on to Siebelco. **Clerk** to put in newsletter.
 - b. Phone Box. Following a discussion, it was still undecided what use the phone box could have. Carried forward to the next meeting.
 - c. Signs at Petrockstowe Station. Following on from the request regarding safety, TDC are putting some warning signs on the gates while options are being evaluated by

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the Safer Travel Officer. Cllr Jeffs said that the signpost at the Tarka Trail has rotted and broken and is leaning on the fence. **Clerk** to report to Highways

- d. Hedge at Tanyarde. This has now been pruned.
- e. Footpaths. Jonathan Richards is happy to walk the paths and report any obstructions or broken/damaged gates/stiles. The local officer would also appreciate being advised of any problems on the Tarka Trail (especially drainage or windblown trees etc).
- f. Bank Signatory update. Confirmed the Cllr Busby has been added and Cllr Harris removed.
- g. Oaklands Bench repair. The bench will be returned to its original position in the New Year. Barrie Jeffs was thanks for his work.
- h. Grit Bins. Cllrs were reminded to check the level of grit in the bins especially during cold/icy weather and advise the Clerk if any needed topping up.
- i. New Councillor course. Cllr Pink was unable to attend the course in December. Cllr Harris would also like to attend as a refresher. The next course will be available in June following local elections. **Clerk** to advise date once known.

41. Current Business.

- a. Budget Precept. The Clerk gave Cllrs a Budget Proposal for 2019-20. The precept will need to be set at the January 2019 meeting once TDC have approved and advised of their increase. The Parish Council will have to pay a contribution towards the elections in May if an election of Parish Councillors is required. St Petroc's Church, Baxter Hall, Citizens Advice and Okehampton District Community Transport Group have all made requests for grants which were discussed at length. St Petroc's have requested a higher amount than in previous years and the Baxter Hall receives no other funding and is building up a reserve to refurbish the roof.
- b. Poppies. Cllr Fisher tried to source poppies to decorate the village for Remembrance Sunday and was not able to. She has since been advised that we would be able to acquire these from the British Legion as Petrockstowe is one of the highest contributors during the Poppy Appeal. The PC could also get a wreath to lay. **Cllr Fisher** will organise for next year.

42. Planning.

- a. **Application.** Ref. 1/1121/2018/FUL dated 26th October 2018 for the proposal of conversion of barn into holiday let at Little Marland Barn, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon.
- b. **Application.** Ref. 1/1122/2018/FUL dated 26th October 2018 for the proposal of conversion of barn into holiday let at Little Marland Barn, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon.

For both the above applications relating to the same property, the Council had no objections and the comment was given "It is good to get these buildings in use. No objections."

- c. **Decision.** Ref: 1/0660/2018/FUL dated 26th November 2018 for the proposal of a creation of all weather riding area with change of use - amended red edge at Appledown, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**

43. Councillors Reports.

- a. **PSSC.** The Cricket Club were pleased to receive the Umpires Sportsmanship Trophy for the 2018 season at the ND Cricket League AGM on 8th November. The officers

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and players must be heartily congratulated on winning this award. Ken Heaman has had all the RG hedges cut and trimmed. It has been agreed not to have sheep on the ground which will enable the parishioners to make use of the facilities, but they are reminded that they need to clean up after their dogs.

- b. **Play Area.** All is well and £100 has been received from the Merton Moncks.
- c. **Baxter Hall.** The “T” is now back in Baxter Hall with thanks to Chris Hancock. We will be getting new stacking chairs thanks to the Ladies Group (it was cheaper to buy new than to recover the old ones). Some of the old ones are going to the Church and some to the Pub. The next event is the Punch and Pie and then the Bid Breakfast in February.
- d. **County Report.** Riverbank house had been improved with a new entrance and now houses all the council offices. Bridge House is up for sale. There is a new litter policy with a fine of £75 - £125. For Fly Tipping there is now a £400 fine. You can now be fined for throwing litter out of your car on council land – the driver will be fined. The Local Plan has been adopted, and there are no planned developments in Petrockstowe. Syncocks has been fully approved with the new homes bonus agreed. There will be enough money for a Housing Trust to buy one house which could possibly be one of those being build.
- e. **District Report.** Cllr Saywell was unable to attend and sent a report – DCC has received an extra £18.75m for Highways, which may be used for minor/rural roads and A roads and bridges. Council Officers are working n budgets for next financial year. Priorities will be Children’s Services, Adult Social Care and Highways. DCC share of Council Tax will go up by at least 1% which is specifically for Adult Social Care. There are pressures on the Children’s Services Budget but the overall financial position remains sound. A3124 has now reopened ahead of schedule. I would like to thank everyone for their patience while the vital work was carried out. A planning application has been submitted to upgrade the A3124 between South Molton and Barnstaple. A decision is expected in February.
- f. **Police Report.** None
- g. **Additional Report.** No 4 The Square has not had any work done on it recently and although the thatch at the rear has been repaired, the front thatch and garden is messy. It is wondered if this is something that should be brought to the attention of the Conservation Officer at TDC. **Clerk** to action.
- h. **Chair Report.** Cllr Fisher suggested that the old minute books and records be given to the Records Office. They will be stored in a temperature-controlled environment, the records will be computerised and available to all and there is no cost involved. All Councillors agreed and **Cllr Fisher** will arrange transportation.

44. **Financial Items.** TDC – Parish Salary recharge for £936. Chq no 380 signed by Cllrs Fisher and Busby.

A Planning Meeting will be held on 18th December 2018 if required and the next Parish Council Meeting is on 15th January 2019.

With no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman Date

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