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AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held at Aylesbeare Village Hall on **Wednesday 1st September 2021** at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Nick Warren (Chair)
Cllr Anna Thompson
Cllr Tracie Cooke
Cllr Jess Bailey (EDDC & DCC)

Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Jacky Owen

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

Others present:

5 members of the public
A representative from Airband
A representative from Jurassic Fibre

7pm Airband presentation

Working with Connecting Devon & Somerset, Airband have the contract to connect 29 Aylesbeare premises to fibre broadband. The work may well involve additional engineering, eg new telephone poles but they do plan to use as many of the existing fixtures as they can for efficiency.

Surveying the work involved will start this year with a plan to connect properties from April 2022. Domestic customers will have a choice of two 18-month contracts at £38/month or £47/month, both requiring a £99 installation upfront. Business Packages will be available too.

Anyone interested should visit www.airband.co.uk or phone 01905 676 121 to find out if their home is included and to register their interest. Airband will keep you updated and survey your property prior to connection.

At the end of the presentation the Sales Manager from Jurassic Fibre offered to attend a meeting to advise of their latest plans as well. He will be presenting to the meeting on 6th October.

Open Forum

The owner of Houndbeare Farm attended to provide additional information about application 21/2006/FUL for conversion of 2 redundant agricultural buildings. He advised that the farm had ceased beef farming in 2020 due to diminishing returns, staff getting older and the buildings & facilities aging and requiring substantial investment.

A solar scheme was granted permission last year on the poorer ground to the east end of the farm and Houndbeare also grows crops for the anaerobic

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digester at Crealy. They are entering a 5-year Natural England scheme introducing more GS4 conservation grass with wildflower species as break crops for more sustainable farming.

The farm needs to diversify if it is to survive (as do many farms nowadays) hence this latest application which clearly states the full extent of the plans in an effort to be upfront and clear about the future of a local business.

The owner was aware that the Council is concerned about the traffic movements that may result. He saw the target market as Cranbrook and Rockbeare with possible customers from Ottery and West Hill. A comprehensive transport statement had been produced by an expert stating that the overall impact would be low. The customers would largely come from the A3052 and, although the lane is single carriageway, it is straight and the passing places are clear.

The Councillors pressed this issue feeling that many extra vehicles would use Quarter Mile Lane and the Starter Business Units planned for Barn 2 would generate many movements of vans and lorries. The applicant assured the Council that their fears would not be realised and quoted his experience with his other company in Woodbury. At that location customers had been successfully educated to avoid a weak bridge and use the better roads to access the site. He emphasised that the site would not be open 24-hours a day and assured the Cllrs that it would definitely not generate the additional traffic that they feared.

A 36-page Ecology report had also been commissioned to minimise any impact. The recommendations of the report had been incorporated into the plans with the old buildings being re-used, no boundaries or hedges being changed and provision for 6 bat-roosting locations, a barn owl box, a kestrel box and 2 invertebrate provisions included in the plan. The lighting will be selective and sensitive to wildlife in terms of location, height and density using warm white spectrum bulbs. The site will only be open 8am to 9pm (M-F), 8am-7pm on Saturdays and 10am to 6pm on Sundays.

With his experience at Woodbury, he could confidently assure the Council that there have been no run-off issues with watercourses. Beef farming would be significantly more hazardous than self-storage. Over 90% of storage users would be domestic with the items stored being nearly all harmless. The average length of stay is 6 months and visits to the units are infrequent.

For the Starter Business Units the applicant advised that the businesses would be predominantly served by small vans and cars. They would not encourage noisy or messy uses as they want all tenants to have a pleasant working environment.

The Council were concerned that once Class B8 use was authorised the property could be sold and the buyer could then exploit the use in a much less considerate way.

The Councillors thanked the applicant for attending and giving the details of the plans.

The Open Forum then discussed the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. The Council thanked AT for her research at the Heritage Centre and with older residents. She reported that in 1957 there had been a celebratory tea with only English cheeses and the residents had wanted a bonfire in Scotchmead. A portrait of the Queen had been bought and framed (it now

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hangs in the Village Hall). There had also been a Trifle Decorating competition. Her research would continue.

The Council decided to have a Village Meeting to begin planning for next year to be held on 22nd September in the Village Hall. **Clerk to action**

The poor state of the pedestrian bridge at Rosamondford was raised and the Chairman explained that it had been reported and was being treated as a safety issue. Cllr Bailey asked for the details so she could chase it up.

The Chairman started the meeting at 8:11pm.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Trude who is away on a family holiday. The Council unanimously accepted the reasons offered.

2 Co-option of New Councillor

With no replies to the CVP notice published of a Councillor vacancy following Cllr Daly's resignation the Council co-opted Cllr Tracie Cooke. She confirmed her qualification to be an Aylesbeare Councillor and read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance. Cllr Cooke will complete her Register of Interests as required by law.

Cllr Cooke to action

The Chairman and Councillors congratulated Cllr Cooke and welcomed her to the Council.

3 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No declarations were made.

4 Chairman's Remarks – Opening Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He hoped everyone had enjoyed a relaxing August holiday in spite of the weather.

He reported that EDDC has proposed that £41m is borrowed for infrastructure to encourage development.

He was pleased to see that landowners have cut back their hedges and asked that they ensure that any cuttings don't get into ditches or watercourses.

On FP16 between Minchin Lane and Randlehayes he had contacted the Footpath Warden at DCC who would meet him next week to discuss the rotting wood.

Congratulations to Cllr Trude who had completed her trek across Dartmoor in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

A parishioner will shortly be celebrating her 100th birthday and the Council voted to spend £25 on flowers and a card. A member of the public offered to check whether a plant might be better, for which the Chairman was grateful.

5 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – 21st July 2021

The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record by the Council and the Chairman signed them on the Council's behalf.

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6 Matters Arising

The school bus parked in Withen Lane would be reviewed again once the new term has started.

7 Reports of County & District Councillor.

Cllr Bailey reported that EDDC were holding meetings online (calling them consultative).

She had opposed the borrowing of £41m for infrastructure. She believed the taxpayers of East Devon should not bear the risk of the 'enabling' future expansion, such risks should be borne by the developers would take the profits. Only 2 Cllrs opposed the 'in principle' decision and her concerns fell on deaf ears. Anyone concerned should write to the leader of the Council. The Parish Council will write.

Clerk to Action

Cllr Bailey supported the hierarchy of size of villages for development proposed in the Local Plan and she had proposed a Tree Strategy which had been agreed.

The B3180 speeding problems would be taken to the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HaTOC) and she would report back in November.

DCC Health is changing to an Integrated Care System. All seems up in the air and it is difficult to see the impact on frontline care.

There is an active consultation on public toilets in East Devon.

Cllr Bailey apologised for the poor patching up Scotchmead car park and she was chasing the Officers about it.

Devon Wildlife Trust have objected to the Daisymount Service Station planning application (which is unusual). Aylesbeare will not be consulted as the location is too far away from our Parish, but she encouraged everyone to view the application online and comment as individuals if they wished.

Cllr Bailey asked for a list of highways issue in the Parish and was advised of the following:-

- The pedestrian bridge at Rosamondford broken
- Concrete in the ford breaking up, but resurfacing is promised for this year
- Gravel from Rill Corner has washed down the lane causing a skid risk
- Blocked passing places on the lane through Rosamondford – obstructs visibility splay – caused problems with cars and tractors having nowhere to pass.
- Rainwater flows at the bottom of Minchin Lane – misses the gully goes to the Nightjar
- Blocked pipe before the bridge at Truants Cottage

All these matters have been raised with Highways, either using the Report a Problem webpage or direct with our Highways Officer.

8 Playing Field, Play Area Lease and s106 Funding

No update this month.

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9 Grass Cutting & Lengthsman

The VHMC have written concerning the grass cutting pointing out that their grass had largely been cut by volunteers this year.

Direct Contractors have been used on the Scotchmead Footpath but there are fears that the weeds will soon return.

The Chairman had spoken to StreetScene who were catching up and hoped to visit the village to cut grass soon

The Council accepted that the season is now virtually over making the appointment of a contractor unnecessary this year. The proposal would be revisited and advertised more widely in the New Year with a view to the contract starting in April 2022.

[The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to speak]

The scrubland opposite Withen Farmhouse next to the noticeboard and postbox was now so overgrown that the facilities were inaccessible and the stream was getting blocked.

Clerk to action

[The Chairman resumed Standing Orders.]

10 Website

No progress this month and Cllr Branson reported that the developer he had contacted would not be able to help at this time.

11 Neighbourhood plan

Cllr Branson will meet EDDC at Honiton to iron out the critique of the document already received.

Cllr Branson to action

12 Upcoming Celebrations

As discussed during the Open Forum the Council will hold a Village Meeting on Wednesday 22nd September. Cllr Cooke could not attend this meeting but offered to co-ordinate the planning.

Clerk to action

13 Planning

13.1 21/1392/FUL - Joneys Cross Car Park, Hawkerland – Carpark improvements. The Council agreed to support this application.

13.2 21/2251/VAR – Livermore Farm –Amendments to original plans (18/1758/FUL) The Council agreed to support this application.

The clerk will submit these comments online.

Clerk to action

14 Finance

14.1 The Council noted the current balances as follows:

Current Account	£13810.35 - uncashed cheques (£644.02)	=	£ 13166.33
	Reserve Account		£
4848.04			
	Recreation Fund Account		£ 694.52
	Total		£ 18708.89

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The Council unanimously agreed to the following payments

14.2	Pyt to Devon Communities Together for annual subscription	£	50.00
14.3	Payment to Topics for Lengthsman advert	£	22.00
14.4	Payment to J P Roberts (Clerk) for pay (July & August)	£	443.50
	Expenses	£	7.65
	Postage stamps	£	21.96
	Adobe software subscription (Convert PDFs)	£	7.28
	Total	£	480.39
14.5	DCC Pension Fund – clerk’s pension (July & August)	£	138.44
14.6	HMRC - clerk’s PAYE Income Tax (July & August)	£	98.40

8 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:11pm, thanking the Cllrs for their hard work.

Signed Date
Cllr N. R. Warren, Chairman