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AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held at Aylesbeare Village Hall on **Wednesday 3rd November 2021** at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Nick Warren (Chair)
Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Jacky Owen
Cllr Kirsty Trude
Cllr Tracie Cooke
Cllr Jess Bailey (DCC & EDDC)

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

Others present: 8 members of the public (+ 1 Low Carbon Alliance rep)

Open Public Forum

A representative of Low Carbon Alliance (LCA) addressed the meeting about a proposed solar farm, biodiversity and green infrastructure scheme planned for over 200 acres of land from Withybed Lane to the A30. He explained the rationale and partnerships as well as the reports that had been commissioned.

LCA are working for the owners to develop the plans in the most ecologically sound way, ensuring full consultation with the community. To this end local residents are all invited to Walk the Lanes around the site on 18th November when LCA would like to hear about features that they do not want to lose as the scheme is finalised. Questions about the funding, solar panels and development laws were addressed and LCA will have a dedicated website about the development available soon.

[After the LCA presentation 2 members of the public and the LCA representative left.]

The changes to the Half Way Inn were raised. The public welcomed the improvements to the building and could see a bright future for the site as a whole. The concerns are related to the traffic. A successful business will inevitably lead to an increase in vehicles on an already very busy junction (which has jams and tailbacks many times a day). This could easily lead to inconsiderate parking and the entry into and exit from the site must be safe.

The public believe that there will be many deliveries and the temptation will be to block the B3180 if onsite loading is not clearly marked and easy to access. This will be particularly important for anyone joining the road from Aylesbeare or from the busy lane next to the Half Way Inn.

The proposed fencing at the Aylesbeare end of the site could also restrict visibility from this lane and the layby, consideration should be given to clear sightlines.

[At this point a further 5 members of the public left the meeting.]

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Chairman
Initials

The Chairman started the meeting at 8:05pm.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Thompson who is away on business trip. The Council unanimously accepted the reasons offered.

2 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No declarations were made.

3 Chairman's Remarks – Opening Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He thanked Cllr Trude for her excellent efforts over Halloween and to all who provided Scarecrows for the Trail.

For those who are celebrating Guy Fawkes' Night he asked that bonfires are checked for hedgehogs and pets are considered when choosing and setting off fireworks.

Thank you to those who have kept their culverts clear. If the recent rains have highlighted any problems with blocked drains or culverts please use the DCC Report-a-Problem webpage to get them sorted.

Cllr Bailey is helping the Parish Council to get DCC to address the problem of the bridge at Rosamondford but no repairs have been planned yet.

The Chairman will make the necessary arrangements to honour the fallen on Remembrance Day so those from the village who gave their all are not forgotten.

He also hoped that all would join him in wishing Her Majesty the Queen well in the light of her need to rest and recuperate on Doctor's Orders.

The Chairman also gave an update from the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) as he had attended the meeting on 13th October. The main points are:-

Andrew Bennett is the acting Chairman while the post is vacant.

The VHMC was very grateful to the small, but hardworking band of volunteers who had helped to tidy up the site.

Cllr Warren had updated the VHMC on the plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations next June.

The Treasurer reported the finances as satisfactory at the moment but there is concern about income. Private bookings are up since lockdown which is good news.

The VHMC plan to redecorate the Hall and replace the curtains with blinds. There is also some rising damp in the old snooker room which will be investigated.

The Devon Communities website needs updating with the correct contact details.

Cllr Warren shared the legal advice regarding commercial use of the VH as full business rate relief is not allowed if the hall is used commercially.

4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – 6th October 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true record by the Council and the Chairman was authorised to sign on their behalf (unanimous).

5 Matters Arising

5.1 Bus in Withen Lane – The Chairman had not had a helpful response from the driver. The visibility is the problem with multiple near misses with pedestrians and cyclists being nearly hit. Commercial vehicles aren't allowed in Bramblemead under the Housing Association rules. The clerk will contact the

.....
Chairman
Initials

DRAFT

coach operator to seek their help.

Clerk to action

5.2 St Andrews Harp Lane Planning Application – 21/2592/PDQ. The Council unanimously resolved to ratify the following comments submitted between meetings due to the deadline set by the planners –

1 The Planning Statement wrongly refers to the building being of timber construction when discussing biodiversity etc. so this should be rewritten and issue of bats etc reconsidered.

2 The bedroom windows need to be extended downwards and will need to be fully openable fire escape windows.

3 The Council trusts that the Planners will ensure that the exit of the property onto Harp Lane will have sufficient visibility (with a mirror being installed if necessary).

4 The Council hopes that sufficient access will be made for any lorries or tankers that need to deliver oil, gas or similar so that the junction with the A3052 does not become a safety issue due to stationary vehicles. Furthermore, the Council hopes that the heating will be as green as possible.

5 The Council hopes that the Planners will impose a condition that the dwellings are not to be used for Air BnB or as holiday homes.

5.3 The clerk had received a call from the owner of Livermore Farm who thanked the Council for their support, assured the Council he had consulted his neighbours and they had been happy with the progress. The changes had been forced on him by the nature of the building and he had let his neighbours know what was happening along the way. He fully accepts the neighbours' right to object but was surprised about the number and nature of the complaints. The Council awaits the Planners' decision.

5.4 Vision ICT and the new website – Clerk had emailed but had no reply. He will phone the company to progress the issue.

Clerk to action

5.5 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Branson has been invited to a planning meeting with EDDC.

6 Reports of County and District Councillor.

Cllr Bailey reported that:–

- The Straitgate Quarry planning application will be discussed at the December Planning committee (1st Dec, papers 23rd Nov – speakers register a few days in advance).
- The reduction of speed limits from 30 to 20 has been halted county-wide while Newton Abbot has a trial. Objectors are pressing for the stall to end.
- Cllr Bailey asked questions of the Dir Public Health & Education Dept about Carbon Monoxide monitors, school covid cases (rife in secondary schools), booster jabs, flu vaccine supplies and hospitalisation. The CCG chair came to talk about the pressures and the numbers that would overwhelm the hospitals. Cllr Bailey is concerned that the mitigation measures will not be enough.
- Beavers are harmed by sewage in the River Otter and Cllr Bailey has written to the CEO of SWW.
- B3180 West Hill and Ottery St Mary will be discussed at the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee on 12th November.
- Cllr Bailey has refused to apologise for her actions when saving a mature tree from the developers at West Hill having been instructed to do so by the Monitoring Officer.

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Chairman
Initials

DRAFT

The Chair expressed concern about the Coleridge Health Centre and ALERT will explain to people about the booster and flu jabs. **Cllr Thompson to action**

7 Telephone Kiosk

The Chair will take action to make a temporary repair. Cllr Trude is researching the rules for swap shops.

8 Playing Field, Play Area Lease and s106 Funding

The Parish Council now needs EDDC help to finalise the contract. A meeting will be arranged with Cllr Bailey’s help.

9 Winter Preparation

9.1 The DCC Highways Newsletter announced a £20m cut leading to concern that the gritting may be reduced. The current availability of 4x4 vehicles to help with problems will need to be renewed after last year’s research for ALERT.

9.2 The sandbags have been collected (thanks to Cllr Trude’s husband) and will be offered to villagers via the Buzz (**Cllr Trude**) and Topics (**clerk**).

9.3 Access through Rosamondford Lane has been restricted with posts being installed that stop vehicles passing each other. There are also new CCTV cameras with residents complaining that they feel under unnecessary surveillance by the number of cameras that cover the road for images and, in some cases, sound. **Cllr Cooke** will share sources of advice.

10 Other Issues

10.1 Noticeboards – The issue of condensation and the backing cork in some noticeboards are making them difficult to use effectively. **Chair** will pursue local solutions.

10.2 No Parking signs at the junction of Village Way and Withen Lane – The Council discussed the precedent that these signs would set, and other areas of difficult parking practices in the Parish. Access for farm vehicles can be blocked and pedestrians are forced into the road. The Council considered whether posts or trees would be better and the pub will be encouraged to make the access to the car park clearer. **Cllr Owen to action**
The Council resolved to I source temporary signs. **Clerk to action**

11 Remembrance Day

The Chair will lay a wreath at the Church war memorial on the 11th November.

12 Upcoming Jubilee & Centenary Celebrations

Cllr Trude has engaged with the WI. Cllr Trude will also look for volunteers. The permanent momento for the children of the village needs to be finalised. A Time Capsule could be included.

13 Finance

13.1 - The Council noted the current balances as follows:

Current Account	£12,221.03 less uncashed chqs (£ 672.57) =	£ 11,548.46
	Reserve Account	£ 4,848.12
	Recreation Fund Account	£ 694.54
	Total	£ 17,091.12

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DRAFT

13.2 - The Council unanimously resolved to make the following payments

13.2.1 – To J P Roberts (clerk) for pay (October) £ 221.75 + Expenses (£ 7.65) **£ 229.40**

13.2.2 - To DCC Pension Fund (clerk’s pension for October) **£ 69.22**

13.2.3 - To HMRC (clerk’s PAYE Income Tax for October) **£ 49.20**

13.3 - TRIP request for donation - The Council were disappointed that the usage in the village was reduced. There is no budget this year but the Council can help with promoting the service and would be interested in usage in Aylesbeare. **Clerk to action**

8 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:45, thanking the Cllrs for their hard work.

Signed
Cllr N. R. Warren, Chairman

Date