



MEETING OF SWIMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2023 at 7.30 PM SWIMBRIDGE JUBILEE HALL

MINUTES

Public Session

Mr Andy Hinds offered to take on the role of volunteer Footpath Warden. This application was accepted by all Councillors. Mr Hinds stated that there are 12 footpaths in Swimbridge, and that funding will become available after footpath surveys have been undertaken. Also discussed the bus no longer going up to Hooda Close, this is apparently due to not enough passengers using this service.

Guest Speakers

Cllr Henderson asked about the hedges on Road Lane – these have not been cut, so he will speak to Richard Sables.

The Link Road closure will be lifted on 11th November, so the cones will be removed. It has been noted that speeds on the road have dropped, but this is probably due to the presence of cameras.

It has been suggested that the camera at the bottom of the hill be retained, however these are rented and must be returned. Also a pedestrian crossing was discussed -Cllr Henderson will enquire if there is any grant funding available from the Police and Crime Commission. Policy will not allow a mirror to be attached at the junction of Hannaford Lane except onto private property. The lamppost may be a possibility if permission can be obtained from the electricity company – Cllr Knill will investigate.

The Link Services closure is being sent back out for consultation. Mental Health patients need these services for interaction.

The Mobile Library service will definitely be ending.

Cllr Lane reported that the Wrimestone planning application has been approved – conditions are for personal use only and raise the level of ground.

Night time closures will be effective on the link road once the complete closure has ended. This will operate from 8pm to 6am 20th November to 1st December.

Cllr Haworth-Booth has nothing further to report.

2023.95 Apologies and attendance – No apologies received – all Councillors present.

2023.96 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Knill declared an interest in the payment to Rhino Contractors
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2023.97 Minutes of previous meeting – these were agreed and signed accordingly.

2023.98 Correspondence

SWW – Meghan Irish – conclusion of work to pumping station.

It has been reported that there is a noisy pump running continuously – contact Meghan to ascertain what work has been carried out.

NDCouncil – Rating list – reply to be decided. It was decided to answer the questions:

1. Yes the works have started.
2. We do not have a completion date as the various elements are subject to fund raising.

Environment Agency – clearing out the stream at the Bridge. The clerk will chase the EA as they have not yet carried out the promised works.

Road Closure 12th December 8am – 4pm Station Hill to Coombe Cross - noted

- 2023.99** **Speed consultation/Community Speedwatch** – Several watches have been carried out in Landkey and Swimbridge, however none will be carried out during the link road closure as the excessive fumes will be a health danger.
- 2023.100** **Bench on square** – this has now been installed by Cllrs Knill and Wadsworth
- 2023.101** **Water Testing on Venn Stream-** Water testing has been carried out and the water is clear. The testing kits have been passed to Susie Hinds who will carry out future testing.
- 2023.103** **Telephone Box** – The lead testing has been carried out and unfortunately was positive. The renovation will now have to be undertaken by someone experienced in dealing with lead paint. Cllr Henderson suggested Mark Dayment in South Molton. Cllr Wadsworth will contact him. Bray Leino have been contacted, but they have no records of who renovated their box in Filleigh.
- 2023.104** **Link Road closure** – This has already been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 2023.105** **Committee Reports**

1. Planning

The Caravan Park certificate of lawfulness is being dealt with by the Solicitors.

2. Finance

Grant received from NDC £200 towards bench. Thankyou to Cllr Lane.

Monthly transaction report. Income £1277.40 Payments £3190.04

Transfers made - £8000 from current account to Deposit Account

£2587.43 from Glebe Field Account to Deposit Account.

The Deposit account will now be the Reserves account.

Budget 2024/25 for approval – the Finance Committee have recommended the proposed budget be accepted. All cost centres have been investigated with actual spending measured against original budget. Most difficult to analyse is spending on the Glebe Field, as the Contractor does not split the costs sufficiently. He will be asked to do this next year if he is awarded the contract again. Staff salaries have been amended to take into account increased hours and rate of pay, increases in costs for the new accounting system and associated costs for the Council's printer. All agreed the budget was acceptable and the precept request will be made in the sum of £1 6980.00.

3. Community Engagement/Glebe Field/Green Team

The pedestrian crossing by the Jubilee Hall has helped with traffic calming through the village, however it was thought that things would soon return to normal as soon as the link road is reopened – discussion has already taken place earlier in the meeting concerning the pedestrian crossing.

The perimeter path has not been started due to adverse weather conditions; however the gates and fence are now completed. Thanks to Cllr Knill.

The Green Team has raked and sowed the seed in the wildflower meadow.

There was a discussion about installing a shed/container on the field as somewhere is needed to store equipment etc. The clerk will investigate prices.

The Petanque Court is not yet finished – the surface needs to be completed. This is being funded by the Parklands Committee.

4. Media Committee – nothing to report.

2023.106

Payments for approval :

Clerks Salary	£301.69
Ian Rowsell	£60.00
Rhino Contractors	£675.58
Amazon	£109.99

All payments agreed

2023.107

Items for discussion at next meeting

Shed or container on Glebe Field

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