



SWIMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2024 at 7.30 PM SWIMBRIDGE JUBILEE HALL

MINUTES

Public Session

Guest Speakers

Cllr Henderson reported that nighttime closures of the link road will continue until 25th October. This will also be the date of the official opening of the improvements, with a reception at Filleigh Village Hall. The main road through Swimbridge and Landkey will then be repaired.

Further Report from Paul Henderson attached.

2024.89 Apologies and attendance. Apologies received from Cllrs Brown, Wright and Haworth-Booth and District Cllr Lane. In attendance Cllrs Knill, Wadsworth and Ackland and County Cllr Henderson

2024.90 Declarations of Interest – none received

2024.91 Minutes of previous meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2024 were approved and signed.

2024.92 Any matters arising from the minutes
Telephone Box – Mr Dennis has not yet contacted Cllr Wadsworth
The clerk has received a reply from the EA advising that they have asked the Asset Team to get in touch. Nothing received as yet.
LiveWest have asked for further details about the dumping in St Honorine Du Fay Close. The clerk will supply these.

2024.93 Speed consultation/Community Speedwatch – nothing to report

2024.94 Telephone Box – nothing to report

2024.95 Grass Cutting Tender- 4 tenders had been received :
Julian Blight
Stuart Tolley
St Lukes Gardening and Grass Cutting Services
Rob Parish

It was decided to accept the quotation from Rob Parish. The clerk will provide positive feedback to the unsuccessful candidates, and contact Mr Parish to accept his tender. It was also decided that the hedges would be cut immediately by Paul Bulled and that the flail trimming of the hedges will be carried out by him annually. The minor tidying of hedges will remain in the grass cutting contract. Cllr Knill will organise Mr Bulled and give his contact details to the Clerk.

ALL IN FAVOUR

2024.96 Rubbish Bins in the Park – it was decided that 2 rubbish bins should be purchased. Cllr Henderson offered £600 towards the cost of these. The clerk will contact the Council to arrange for these to be emptied weekly. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

2024.97 Neighbourhood Development Plan to be considered once the new Government's priorities are known. To remain on agenda.

Signed _____

2024.98

Committee Reports

1. Planning

The committee visited Tordown. No objections.

Summermoor Farm and The Barn near the Caravan Park – the Clerk will ask Cllr Haworth-Booth for responses

2. Finance

Accounts balances at 30th August 2024:

Current account £5049.35 Reserve account £10504.96 Glebe Field account £1.29

A Budgeting meeting will be arranged.

3. Community Engagement/Glebe Field/Green Team

The quotation from Outdoor Play to carry out the works the move the equipment further away from the path has been accepted.

Cllr Knill asked if the issues highlighted in the inspection reported from the Council were being addressed. The clerk has tried to find contractors willing to carry out these minor jobs, but has had no luck. It was suggested that we contact Frank Biederman (Fremington Park) and South Molton Town Council to find out which contractors they use, and also ask Outdoor Play if they would be interested in these jobs.

It was agreed that the laurel by the side of the bus shelter should be cut down. It is obscuring the view of the bus approaching and also hanging over the doors of the PC Notice Board.

There has been an accident reported in the Park, but no fault attached to the PC or the equipment. The Clerk will write to the child's mother.

There is a tree overhanging the road on Station Hill – the clerk will ask the Allotment Committee to cut it back.

Cllr Wadsworth proposed that the Parish Council ask Rhino Contractors to provide a quote for the replacement of the gatepost of the entrance gate on the main road. **All in favour**

4. Media. Nothing to report

2024.99

Payments for approval

NDC - Clerks Salary	£321.60
Ian Rowsell	£60.00
Grant to Jubilee Hall	£300.00 (funding from Cllr Henderson)
NDC – Play park inspections	£171.00
Coast & Country	£180.00

All payments approved.

2024.100

Items to be added to agenda for the next meeting.

Signed _____

FREE BUS TRAVEL

Free Sunday bus travel is being offered to residents and visitors on most routes across Devon and Torbay on Sunday 22 September to celebrate World Car Free Day.

The offer is being delivered through the DevonBus Partnership, in conjunction with our bus operators – Stagecoach, Tally Ho, Dartline, Torbay Buses and Filers Travel. We're supporting the event with Torbay Council using Bus Service Improvement Plan funding provided by the Department for Transport.

BARNSTAPLE TRAIN STATION

Cabinet has approved a new scheme at Barnstaple Railway Station which will make it easier for passengers to transfer between bus services and trains and access the town centre. At the meeting on Wednesday cross-party support was given to the construction of the Bus-Rail Integration Enhancements at Barnstaple Railway Station.

The scheme has a budget of £785,670 and follows the Department for Transport awarding us £14.1 million Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding in 2022. Cabinet also approved a countywide 'pinch point' removal programme, a series of minor highways improvements which will improve bus service efficiency.

The enhancements at the Railway Station will improve bus-rail integration which is used by over 500,000 passengers every year.

ROAD REPAIRS ACCELERATED

Road repairs have accelerated with the help of £10 million extra funding that we invested in our roads budget this year.

In a report before the Full Council meeting this week, (Thursday 5 September), Councillor Stuart Hughes, Cabinet Member for Highway Management, said the County Council's investment had enabled "a significant scaling-up" to tackle repairs on the county's road network. He praised the efforts being made by highways teams as delivery had been "gathering pace" over the summer.

Since April, more than 18,000 square metres of road have been patched in over 350 locations across the county. These repairs have targeted sections of road which are deteriorating, patching extensive areas before potholes or safety defects form.

In the past four months the patching repairs that have been undertaken are already the equivalent of around 80% of the patching achieved for the whole of the last financial year. That highlights the difference this additional funding is making.

Dragon patchers have been used on double-shifts to complete more than 5,250 patches, covering over 33,000 square metres.

And a new carbon saving road repair material, called Elastomac, has been used to repair around 7,000 square metres of Devon's roads following successful trials on small to medium size patches.

Elastomac is a surfacing material which is partly made of recycled road planings and recycled tyres. It reduces waste and carbon emissions while also being quicker to cure than traditional material used in pothole repairs, reducing traffic disruption.

Around £2 million of the funding is being invested in drainage improvements, while over 10km of double white lines have also been refreshed along with road markings at 175 roundabouts and 197 zebra crossings.

To tackle potholes, we also invested an extra £2 million in highway revenue funding this year, on top of the £10 million capital funding. This has helped contribute to the repair of more than 47,500 potholes across the county so far this year.