

AGM of SWIMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL



THURSDAY 9th MAY 2024 at 7.30 PM SWIMBRIDGE JUBILEE HALL

MINUTES

Chairmans Report

See attached

At the conclusion of his report Cllr Knill stood down as Chairman

Election of Chairman

Cllr Knill was nominated, seconded and elected unanimously

Election of vice-chairman

Cllr Wadsworth was nominated, seconded and elected unanimously

Appointment of representatives on Committees – it was agreed that at the moment membership would remain the same.

Public Session

Report from The Green Team and Footpaths – see attached

Guest Speakers

Cllr Haworth-Booth reported that unfortunately the Speedwatch Team has lost 2 Swimbridge members. 9 vehicles were recorded speeding one morning and these drivers will be receiving a police letter.

Cllr Lane reported that he (and Cllr Haworth-Booth) supported the Forest School project at Swimbridge Primary School with grant funding of £250.

Cllr Henderson was not able to attend the meeting, but sent this report :

Highways Patching Work

I'm pleased to see that some patching work has been completed on the road leading up the hill from the village towards South Molton but I have requested that this road should now be surface dressed.

One piece of 'good news' is that for the forthcoming year an additional £12m has been allocated to the annual Highways budget for Devon to go towards the cost of repairs. This is over and above any other budget and the second tranche of HS2 redirected funds. Quite how much will filter up to N Devon is unknown but if you have any pressing issues – can you let me know and we'll see if any funding can be secured.

Link Road

I/we are fully aware that both Swimbridge and Landkey are suffering from Link Road fatigue. However, it would appear that the end is in sight within the next couple of months that should finally see the end of the ongoing night time closures. One thing to raise and I'm sure you've had contact from Griffiths, but the link road will be closed between the Landkey junction and the Portmore roundabout while the footbridge is put in place at Landkey later this month.

Devolution

Last week a special Council meeting was held at County Hall to debate and then vote on whether or not to move forward with the devolution agreement with Torbay. A number of my parishes had raised concerns about the deal being offered and so at the vote, I chose to support an amendment tabled by the opposition to defer the decision until:

The future funding (past year 3) of this new tier of government was identified. The first 3 years are being covered to the tune of £1m by central govt but there is no indication of who will cover these costs on an ongoing basis and my concern is that our Council Tax bills will be increased to cover the costs.

All the District Councils across the County have only been given a total of 2 seats whereas Torbay (with a population of 192,000 people) has 3 seats. To me, this means that N Devon Council would have no real representation in the devolution deal and this is a bad thing, not just for Devon, but especially for N Devon.

Although the tabled amendment failed, at the main vote I abstained as although I'm not against devolution, I just couldn't balance this particular deal as being good for us here in N Devon. However, the motion to move forward with the devolution deal on offer was voted through and will now move onto its next stage.

DCC to have New Leader

The current Leader of Devon County Council has announced he is stepping down at the next Annual Meeting of the County Council that will take place later this month.

The Conservative group have chosen James McInnes to be the new Leader with effect from this meeting with Cllr Andrea Davis (Combe Martin) becoming Deputy Leader. Joh Hart is likely to become Chair of Devon County Council in his last year before the elections with Braunton County Councillor becoming Deputy Chair. I have to say that it is good that N Devon has this type of representation at the top of DCC.

2024.50 Apologies and attendance

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

2024.51 Declarations of Interest – none received

2024.52 Minutes of previous meeting

It was agreed to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2024

2024.53 To approve the co-option of Laura Brown to Swimbridge Parish Council – It was agreed that Laura will be co-opted to Swimbridge Parish Council with immediate effect. She will be working with the Media Committee.

2024.54 Correspondence

Circulated from Richard Slaney – section 106 applications. It was agreed that the Parish Plan will be updated and published so that our priorities are in place if any S106 funding becomes available.

2024.55 Speed consultation/Community Speedwatch – as reported above. Additionally Cllr Haworth-Booth would like to investigate the possibility of a flashing speed sign at the eastern/exit to the village.

2024.56 Telephone Box – The quote from T F Witts Decorators has been accepted and instructions to commence have been issued. Cllr Wadsworth will obtain some technical advice on the feasibility of the 'historybox' project, together with local maps and walks information. We should also check if power is still installed. Cllr Wadsworth was advised to contact Mike Hearn in Croyde, who has already published some local walk maps.

2024.57 Grass Cutting Tender – this is being updated and will soon be published. Cllr Brown will assist Cllr Wadsworth.

2024.58 Play Equipment Maintenance – 2 companies have been contacted to tender for the maintenance work as detailed in the report from NDC. I has replied to say they are not interested in quoting. The other has not yet replied and will be contacted again. It has been reported that a gate catch screw is loose – this will be repaired.

2024.59 Building issues :

Allotments – reported to NDC. Reply received : reported to enforcement.

Welcombe Farm – reported to NDC Reply received : reported to enforcement.

Storage Depot on Marsh Plain- reported to Planning by Cllr Haworth-Booth – reply received:

Thank you for your e-mail. This would be a Devon County Council matter as oppose to District Council matter. DCC granted permission for the link road improvements, alongside any storage/ materials depot etc. So it is worth contacting them in the first place.

Notwithstanding the above, if there is a statutory noise nuisance, the resident need to contact NDC's Environmental Health team.

2024.60

Committee Reports

1. Planning – nothing to report

2. Finance

Accounts balances at 29TH April 2024:

Current account £1247.16 Reserve account £10461.65 Glebe Field account £1.29

3. Community Engagement/Glebe Field/Green Team

It was agreed that the reports from Susie Hinds will be added to the website.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED to listen to a report from Mrs Hinds about problems with drainage already reported to Highways. It was agreed to add this as an agenda item at the next meeting and in the meantime to contact Paul Henderson and ask him to organise a meeting with Richard Sables to discuss this problem.

STANDING ORDERS RE-INSTITUTED

There is lots going on the Glebe Field. David Netherway has supplied an overview of the projects in the park at the moment.

Plans for the party in the park on 22nd June are ongoing. LW to check insurance is in place.

The Church has requested the use of the PC's marquee on 27th July. This was agreed.

4. Media. – nothing to report. Cllr Brown will be a member of this committee.

2024.61

Payments for approval

NDC - Clerks Salary	£321.60
Ian Rowsell	£60.00
NDC – Dog Bins	£156.00
Amazon -paper	£24.99
Amazon – Padlocks	£24.99

All payments agreed.

2024.62

Items to be added to agenda for the next meeting.

Dennington Hill building.

Signed _____