

# **NORTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting**

Minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 at St James's Church, Avonwick

### **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Bell, Gabriel, Grevatt, Hunt, Luscombe, Seager-Berry, District and Parish Councillor Steer and County Councillor Hosking

**ELECTION:** The clerk called for nominees to take the chair for the year ahead. Councillor Gabriel was proposed by Councillor Hunt seconded by Councillor Steer.

There being no other nominees Councillor Gabriel was elected.

The Chairman called for nominees for Vice Chairman. Councillor Grevatt was proposed by Councillor Hunt seconded by Councillor Bell. There being no other nominees Councillor Grevatt was elected.

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Chairman's Report:** Councillor Gabriel reported on the progress of the Parish over the preceding twelve months. He stated that this had been a year when Central Government Budgetary constraints have meant that less money has been available for County and District Councils and thus fewer grants made available at Parish Council level.

Councillor Gabriel said that in the previous year a grant had been available to the Parish to enable it to employ John Widdicombe to undertake Highway Maintenance of buddle holes, road signs etc. As this proved to be such a valuable service the Parish Council decided to take the unprecedented step of increasing the precept in order to continue this work. Thanks were given to John Widdicombe for his excellent work and also to Rob Northmore for his expert maintenance of the play park. Despite the costs incurred by the Parish we remain the Parish Council in Devon with the lowest per capita precept.

The play park is subject to regular inspections by an officer of South Hams District Council. We have attempted to get SHDC to take on a paid contract to implement necessary repairs but so far without success.

One of the few grants on offer that we applied for, in the hopes of installing a Cardiac Defibrillator in North Huish, was unsuccessful. It seems that grants were provided for bigger projects and, as usual, Totnes appeared to be the favourite child for these grants. .

The recent spell of extraordinary bad weather, while challenging for everyone, gave parishioners the opportunity to demonstrate their neighbourly spirit. Thanks should go to our local Snow Warden, Councillor Hunt and his team for keeping most of the lanes open.

Less welcome was the sad news that Avonwick shop closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March due to continued poor support from people living within the villages, thus breaking a link back to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Richard and Laura Cooper provided not only a brilliant service and a hub for the community but were responsible for many generous acts within the area.

The Parish Council website continues to be very ably run by Councillor Grevatt who we thank. The Council is currently grappling with the latest imposition on high, the Data Protection Legislation. While we are unlikely to be exposed at a "Face Book" level we shall endeavour to be squeaky clean as ever.

Councillor Gabriel thanked the Parish Councillors for their unpaid and selfless efforts and Tony Luscombe, our Parish Clerk, for his excellent work on behalf of the Council which is done on a voluntary, unpaid basis.

**Feoffees Report.** Councillor Seager-Berry reported that the trustees of North Huish Feoffees, Bowden and Perring Charity – Mr J Hall Chairman, Mr J Bell Secretary/Treasurer, Mr M Bradley, Mrs M Luscombe, Cmdr. A Mitchell, Mrs V Pearse and Mrs Marigold Seager-Berry met twice in 2017.

After the retirement of Janet Cousins, Jonathan Bell has taken over as Treasurer/Secretary. He has updated the bank details and is looking at the rent for the field, Mary Park, which has not increased for many years.

The Pemberton Trust now gives the proceeds for a gift to any child baptised in the Parish. A book was given to Herbert Cyril Steer on the occasion of his baptism. Money from the Feoffees was given to two residents at Christmas. One of those who have received money in the past died recently and another moved out of the Parish.

The Feoffees are always open to receiving notification of anyone in need of a small grant to help in difficult times.

**The Chairman of the Avonwick and North Huish Community Hall Project**, Mr P Tyler, submitted the following report:

We are awaiting further information from the landowner on a site proposal before we can press forward with the project. We look forward to progress in the coming months.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **OPEN FORUM:**

There were no members of the public present. Fly tipping was reported near Rectory Cottage, North Huish. It is thought that a black 4x4 was used for this. Questions were asked concerning the positioning of a new mobile home at Lower Greenslade Farm. Councillor Steer assured the Council that this was a permitted temporary structure to be used while a new house was being built.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Councillors Bell and Steer – planning matters.

The **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 were confirmed and signed. Proposed Councillor Steer, seconded Councillor Hunt.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

The Council was informed that it would not have to appoint a Data Protection Officer. Cllr. Grevatt was to “keep his finger on the pulse” to ensure that the Council conformed with all necessary requirements.

### **REPORTS:**

There was no report from County Councillor Hosking.

District Councillor Steer reported that planning applications were taking a lot of his time.

### **PLANNING:**

The Council agreed to support an application for the provision of an equestrian building at Hepburn House, Diptford.

**FINANCE:**

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Balance c/f       | £7,560.13        |
| Inc. Interest     | £ 0.31           |
| Inc. Precept      | £1,268.00        |
| Exp. Buddle holes | <u>£ 324.00</u>  |
| Balance           | <u>£8,504.44</u> |

The Council agreed to pay for the DALC subscription and for Buddle Hole repairs.

The Council considered approved and signed the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

The Council then considered, approved and signed the Accounting Statement for 2017/18

The Council agreed to certify itself as exempt from a Limited Assurance Review and signed the Certificate of Exemption.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.30pm at St James's Church, Avonwick.