

St GILES IN THE WOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held.
_____ on the January 10th 2024

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Present: Mrs L Herniman took the chair, Mr G Hookway, Mr B King Mr R Petherbridge Cllr A Chamings Mr P Middleton, Mr J Ayre, Mr S Dyer and Mrs A Snell (Clerk)
Apologies Mrs G Hookway Cllr R Lock and PCSO Brown
In Attendance Cllr A Saywell (County Councillor) Cllr T Elliott (District Councillor) and three members of the public.

Time for Public Participation

The family who has purchased the wood next to Kettle Cottage attended the meeting and gave an in-depth account of their intentions and projects for the site, the existing track (as it was such a bog), has been reinstated to a point but not completely to the woodcutter's hut, which they have built. The family, son wanting to do woodland management and the mother bee keeping are among the ongoing projects for the area. The water course has not been touched just cleaned up and a tributary piped. The owners are now in contact with TDC to get all the activities legalised. The Chairman thanked them for attending wishing them well in their projects.

Declaration of Interests – Councillors are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. They are also reminded to consider whether in the light of recent activities any items within their Register of Interests should be updated.

1. The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th December were agreed and signed.

2. Clerk's report i. Wicksteed playground inspection, the inspection has been carried out and the report received, there are a couple of things with a high rating requiring attention the access ladder to the activity equipment and wood rot on one of the posts on the swings, Cllr Ayre and Cllr Hookway are to meet and organise corrective action in due course when the weather is better

ii. Parking on the Village Green, the sign has been received, it is the intention of the Parish Council to put it on the wall by the graveyard, the church will be contacted for permission but if there is difficulty with this a post will be put in ground on the Village Green and the sign erected.

3. Chairman's report i. Coronation tree, the tree has been collected, the tree guard is being constructed, delivery is expected at the end of January.

ii. A free portrait of the King is available if the hall would like to display one.

The chairman thanked Cllr Huxtable, Cllr Ayre and Mr Colin Hutchings for putting up the Christmas tree lights, the chairman and her husband donated the tree for which they were thanked.

4. Highways, i. The white lines at Deep moor have been reported again, it was asked for a report to be put in regarding the white lines at Bellevue and at High Bullen this will be undertaken.

ii. Mr Penfold has not visited yet to give an estimate for the tarmac on the Village Green.

iii. The yellow lines by the Sports Club need to be repainted this will be undertaken.

5). County and District Councillors items.

Cllr Saywell reported on the **Potholes** Please remember to report potholes online on **devon.cc/report-it** or telephone 0345 155 1004.

Cllr Saywell reported that ice is causing numerous accidents please keep reporting water on the roads so the drains if that is the cause can be cleared, the road from Whitsleigh Cross to Wooleigh Bridge is due for repairs in March. The budget is down to a deficit of £4.5 million, a draft budget is being considered. A Devolution consultation will be circulated in the first half of the year.

Cllr Elliott reported that the % of affordable housing undertaken recently is 21% when the target is 30%.

As of December, there are 50 families being housed in temporary accommodation down from 70. Empty dwellings were discussed these have to be dwellings empty for 2 years but are able to be lived in not needing renovation etc, at present there are 76 empty houses listed in the TDC area. Planning enforcement was highlighted, at present there are 2 permanent officers and 1 temporary officer, TDC are proactive in this department, but Parish Councils and members of the public are the eyes and ears for the council. Another planning presentation evening is to be held in the spring.

6. Finance

i. Approve and sign the following cheques: -General Account.

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- i. The DALC subscription was discussed as it has been raised by £60 to £202, but this has to be paid to be a member of Devon Association of Local Councils.
- ii. The Precept was discussed it was felt as the reserves have declined the opening balance for this financial year was £6,401, but the closing balance will be in the region £4,700, so it was agreed that a raise has to implemented to keep pace with ongoing costs.
It was proposed by Cllr Hookway seconded by Cllr King to set the precept at £7000, all in favour. The precept has not been raised since 2018
- iii. Play equipment, an Awards for All application is to be investigated.

7. Planning

P C recommendations TDC

DBX/DCC/4357/2023	Extension of an Existing Green Waste Composting Site at Deep Moor Waste & Recycling Facility, Road from Belle View Cross to High Bullen, High Bullen,	Passed
1/1198/2023/FUL	Conversion of existing outbuildings to ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling, Heron's Lake	

- i. Dodscott Wood, this was covered in public participation.

8. Police Report i This is the report for December, there have been 4 calls to the police where incidents have been generated, 1 Highway disruption, 1 Contact recorded of possibly a stolen vehicle 1 violence less serious (4AD) domestic related and 1 Domestic incident. In the same period 3 Crimes were recorded 1 Violence S47 & less serious, 1 Theft (other) and 1 Vehicle crime (theft of & from.)

9. Recreation Field, no report.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletter ii

The D Day celebrations to be held in June were discussed this will be on the next agenda

Date of next meeting–: **Wednesday 14th February 2024 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

..... Chairman.....Date

Forthcoming meetings: Wednesday 13th March 2024 for the Parish Council meeting 7.30pm