

St GILES IN THE WOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held.
_____ on the July 12th 2023

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

Time for Public Participation

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 14th June were agreed and signed, with one amendment there was a letter from the PCC which said “It is correct to say that the St Giles Church recently held an open meeting following Sunday service for all to attend to discuss how the church could best meet the needs of the parish, including a request for suggestions as to how to reach out to the local community. However, it is incorrect to say that the congregation numbers are dropping, and church funds are dwindling. Could it please be noted that the congregation numbers overall have increased, however, due to the summer holidays there is the usual seasonal decline. The Church is always looking for ways to reach out and welcome new attendees at Church. Regarding church funds, we would clarify that the church is currently in a sound financial position following the detrimental impact of covid”. The letter was relayed to the meeting and minuted.

2. Clerk’s report i. Co-option of a Parish Councillor, Cllr Herniman has been in contact with Mr Simon Dyer who has agreed to be co-opted onto the Parish Council and is to attend the September meeting.
ii. Parking on the Village Green, Cllr Herniman has spoken to the two residents, the white van has gone, and the other resident informed Cllr Herniman that he is going to clear out his entrance where 3 cars are able to be parked and one vehicle is to be sold.

3. Chairman’s report i. Coronation tree, discussion took place, suggestions were a may tree, oak or a copper beech, this is to be raised again as trees can not be planted at this time of the year. Thank you to Cllr King and Herniman for taking down the bunting, which was neatly folded by Stephanie Venner and is now stored with Cllr Herniman.

4. Highways, the lack of white lines at the entrance to Deep Moor has been reported on reference W231618923, but to no avail only to say it is on the list of work to be undertaken, so it will be reported again, vehicles are just pulling out due to the lack of lines a danger to all. A Stop sign is also to be requested.

Cllr Middleton would like to request 20mph zone through High Bullen and traffic calming as this is a danger area through the hamlet, police traffic officers have visited of late issuing a number of tickets hence the reason why speedwatch has not been taking place, for a 20mph zone more data will be required as evidence for a need.

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 the budget for DCC has officially been signed off with a £156,000 underspend, extra has been carried forward for highways, at present in this financial year month 2 there is a predicted overspend but firmer figures will be available in subsequent months, adult social care is still the most prominent financial spend. Regarding roads the dragon patcher is currently in Langtree then will be coming to St Giles to hopefully do the Weirmouth road amongst others. Cllr Saywell reported at the Cabinet meeting that day a decision has been made to end the mobile library service, stating two reasons, one the vans are reaching the end of their usable lives and secondly not enough people are using the service, statistics show over the 9 visits to the two sites in the Parish, in the last year Stevenstone 2.6 people visited per visit and Church Gate 1.5 per visit. The cost to replace the vans would be £800,000. There is a plan for a home library service for those who can't not travel and investment in community libraries, the suggestions are in village halls or churches, the suggestion for St Giles would be in the church in conjunction with the coffee and cake sessions that are currently held, a representative is to be contacted.

At this point it was reported the Church is closed for redecoration for 2 months in which time worship will be in the Parish Hall and the coffee, cake and chat will be in the Social Club.

Cllr Lock has organised with Helen Smith TDC planning officer to hold a planning presentation with Beaford, St Giles and Roborough to inform councillors of the procedures and rules connected with planning applications and responding to them, the date is the 26th July at Dolton Village Hall at 7.00pm.

6. Finance

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

613	Community Heartbeat Trust	£357.00
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li It has been requested that the Parish Council purchase a new battery for the defibrillator this is £285 plus delivery and VAT this was authorised, it was discussed regarding the longevity of defibrillators and whether to replace the one in the phone box also if the Stevestone one requires any replacement's, Mr Sevonaoks will be contacted. Cllr Lock said DCC are offering grants towards new defibrillators an expression of interest will be submitted. Cllr Gail Hookway is currently cleaning the Phone box one, thank you Cllr Hookway, also it was requested to ask if anyone was willing to take on the site checks and orders as Mrs Montague is unable to continue but is willing to show someone how to complete the checks, Cllr Hookway was willing to undertake for now, thank you to Mrs Montague for all her help in the past.

7. Planning

P C recommendations TDC

	P C recommendations	TDC
1/0723/2022/FUL	Proposed agricultural building Beara Farm, St Giles In The Wood	Being considered
1/0296/2023/FUL	Conversion of barn to 1no. dwelling. Agricultural Building At Fernhill	Passed
1/0447/2023/AGM B	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 2no. dwellinghouses and associated building operations under Class Q. Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 255165 120289 St Giles	Being considered
1/0448/2023/AGM B	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1no. dwellinghouse and associated building operations under Class Q. Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 255135 120296 St Giles	Being Considered

1/0565/2023/FUL	Relocation of highway access, Land At Grid Reference 251845 116948, Torrington,	Proposed by Cllr Chamings seconded by Cllr Hookway to recommend approval on safety reasons, all in favour.
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, E	No objections to this application, all in favour.

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8. Police Report i. Reports will no longer be provided but general police reports for your area can be found on the [Home | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://www.police.uk) website – bespoke reports will only be produced where a specific issue or series of crimes affects your community.

It was felt a pity that under the new scheme no contact has been had with PCSO Brown an email is to be sent asking if reports and visits can resume.

9. Recreation Field, as there has been requests for the grass to be cut lower, an email was sent to the grass cutting contractor regarding extra cuts, the response was “we have just come through April and May with very wet weather and the grass has grown at an above challenging rate, so it has made it very difficult to please everyone all of the time. I think going forward I fully appreciate the parish council’s decision. I think I have undervalued the rate of the growth of the grass in that field, and this is reflecting in the villager’s comments, and cutting it on a fortnightly basis in the peak growing season is a long enough interval at the best of times. To re value the situation, I propose that the cost will need to be £1,120 annually, however I propose to split the balance across two years, so this year will be an additional cost of £140 to a total of £980 and rise to £1,120 in 2024.” After discussion this was agreed by all. But with the suggestion to go out to tender next year.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletter ii. Torrridge and District Police and Crime Report
 A new electricity pole has been erected on the Recreation Field.
 New magnets are required for the village notice board.

Date of next meeting–: **Wednesday 6th September 2023 8.00pm in the Parish Hall**
PLEASE NOTE A WEEK EARLY

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

Forthcoming meetings: Wednesday 11th October for the Parish Council meeting 7.30pm