

St GILES IN THE WOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on February 12th 2025

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Present: Mrs L Herniman took the chair, Mr G Hookway, Mr R Petherbridge Mr B King, Mr J Ayre, Mr S Dyer and Mrs A Snell (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr A Chamings Mr P Middleton Mrs S Montague Cllr R Lock Cllr T Elliott (District Councillors)

In Attendance: Cllr A Saywell (County 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 8th January were agreed and signed.

2. Clerk's report i. The Dog fouling issue, the dog warden has been in contact and is waiting for dry weather to spray the offending faeces, an email is to be sent asking that Cllr Ayre is contacted before the visit so he can meet the dog warden to highlight the problem areas.

ii. Dates when the Pig and Olive are visiting the Village, all Fridays:

21st March

2nd August

26th of April

20th September

14th of June

8th November

3. Chairman's report i. The Rural Housing Enabler, Mandy Goddard has met with Cllr Herniman for a site visit, two sites adjacent to the village were highlighted as being potential sites for housing the two owners are to be contacted to see if either is willing for these sites to be developed.

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Simon Dyer who put forward a parcel of land at Stevenstone, but unfortunately this is not suitable for this type of development, but thank you for the offer.

ii. Grit box, on speaking to Mark James the Highway Superintendent, St Giles has three grit boxes, around the parish, on looking the one at Whitsleigh Cross is grown in and not well used, so the suggestion was to move this one to Winscott Cottage, Mark James will be contacted, then the box moved.

4. Highways,

i. The white lines at the entrance to the Recycling at Deep Moor have still not been painted.

ii. Road repairs, 10th to the 21st February, Hatchmoor Road to High Bullen (daytime) Hatchmoor road, Torrington (evenings).

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 DCC budget has been put forward to the cabinet meeting and will go to full council next week, the budget is fine, but with £15million less than anticipated due to the Governments withdrawal of funds, no doubt highways will suffer.

The road into High Bullen from Torrington and the High Bullen junction are to be resurfaced, this work is to be carried out during the day, the work at Hatchmoor which is to be undertaken in tandem is to be done under night closures.

The Local Government Regeneration, the DCC May elections are now to take place, the Government has asked for a regeneration plan to be submitted by the 21st March 2025. They want just one proposal from the whole area but that included Districts, County Council and Unitary Authorities so a big ask for all to agree. The criteria are a population of at least 500,000 and financially stable. There is likely to be competing proposals and it is unknown if the election will change things as in dynamics. This is the future of local government, certain contracts are coming up for renewal, highways in 2027 along with youth services and the library service likewise the payroll service, what is to be done? short term contract extensions or temporarily take services in house. Soon this will all start effecting people.

It is in everyone’s interest to get a proposal put forward as soon as possible. Eight council areas did get their elections postponed as they have agreed to have a mayor, but not Devon. The next step is to work full pelt to get a proposal in by the 25th March, to avoid at all cost being part of a rural rump and avoid being an appendage to a big authority i.e. part of an Exeter based council. A viable authority option needs to be found, ideally part of an Exeter authority but with a big rural area also ideally to prevent something costly and eventually social services will have to be unpicked.

6. Finance

Approve and sign the following cheques: -General Account.

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i. VAT of £893.22 has been reclaimed.

7. Planning

P C recommendations TDC

1/1015/2024/FUL	Demolition of existing garages and erection of dwelling. Land Adjacent To Sunnymead, Kingscott,	
1/0048/2025/FUL	Retrospective application for erection of forestry building for storage/workshop and welfare area, land at Dodscott woods	

- i. A Morocco Power Project update has been received.
- ii. Enforcement case. There appears to be a large building put up near Yonderwood, Dodscott this will be reported along with the mobile homes near Longacre Cottage Dodscott.

8. Police Report i PCSO Brown has left the post.

9. Recreation Field,

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletter ii Buckingham Palace Garden Party nominations, Cllr Herniman and Cllr Chamings have been put forward.

Date of next meeting–: **Wednesday 12th March 2025 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

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

Forthcoming meetings: Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 7.30pm