

Minutes of the Belstone Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room

Present: Susan Norrish, Peter Cooper, Elisabeth Emerson, Jon Pike, Paul Boyce, with Michael Ash in the Chair. Robin Hill (Parish Clerk), Derek Webber (DNPA) and one member of the public.

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ann Norman

30 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS: 30th May, previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

31 MATTERS ARISING: Parish Clerk still trying to make contact with our new Highways Officer to report issues arising from the last meeting.

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

33 URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIRMAN: None

34 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Sticklepath and Okehampton Conservation group seat request** It was agreed unanimously that StOC could put a replacement seat in West Cleeve where a broken one has recently been removed.
- ii. **DNPA Forum meeting** Wednesday 12th July – nobody able to attend.
- iii. **Eastern Links** meeting 14th September, Throwleigh Village hall
- iv. **Seafarers UK – Flying the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day** Belstone does not have a red ensign flag

35 CLERK'S REPORT:

- i. **Belstone Post Office** Proposed changes to Belstone Post Office opening hours were discussed. The Council very much regret the move to one day a week but if this is the case their preferred option would be Thursday mornings to coincide with the Community Café. The clerk was asked to fill in the online comments form on behalf of the Council, putting forward their views. The clerk was also asked to write to Alex Hill from South Zeal Post Office, who is now running the Belstone outreach, expressing their thanks to him for stepping in to run the service and asking whether, if it is to be one day a week, it can possibly be Thursday to coincide with the Community Café, as this would best suit Belstone residents and be in the ethos of the original idea of a community hub. It could also provide an opportunity for the South Zeal shop to provide pre-ordered eggs, bread, vegetables, etc. in addition to the usual newspapers and magazines.
- ii. **Parish Council Notice Board Repair** One of the doors on the Parish Council Notice Board is in urgent need of repair as a hinge has broken. Peter Cooper and Michael Ash agreed to carry out the necessary repairs.
- iii. **Dartmoor Communities Fund** This information has been passed to Simon Herbert for consideration re the Church 'Cash for Khazi' fund.
- iv. **Request from Dr Granger to set up monitoring equipment on the River Taw** No comment from the Parish Council.
- v. **Changes to West Devon garden waste collection** The Clerk brought the new charges to the attention of the council. The general feeling was that this is a retrograde step but probably inevitable in the present economic climate.

36 FINANCE:

- i. **Current state of finances and petty cash:** Current Account £995.65. Reserve Account £1996.53 which includes £0.06 interest. Petty cash arrears of £2.10
- ii. **Payments made:** None
- iii. **Payments to be made:** £20 garden Gift Token for Simon Herbert, internal auditor.
- iv. **Audit:** The Annual Return and 'Explanation of Variations' has been sent to the external auditor. Audit Notice of Exercise of Public Rights to view accounts 12th June to 21st July has been displayed on the website and the notice board. All documents have been displayed on the Parish Council pages of the Belstone website to comply with the Transparency Code.
- v. **Council Diary:** Checked and signed

37 PLANNING:

- i. Conditional Planning Permission has been granted for **Construction of kitchen extension Perrymans Cottage, Belstone**
- ii. **Rew Meadow, Belstone** The clerk has been in touch with Nick Savin, DNPA, who assures him that the National Park planning department is keeping in close contact with the owners who have not breached any planning regulations. Derek Webber (DNPA Representative) agreed to talk to the DNPA planners about how the regulations are interpreted.

38 HIGHWAYS:

- i. The clerk confirmed that as soon as he is able to make contact with our new Highways Officer he will invite him to visit Belstone to discuss the most pressing issues.

39 OTHER MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN:

Seats:

- i. Michael Ash reported that he has mended the seat outside Greenbrae.
- ii. Peter Cooper will look at the Westlake seat on the path going down to the river and do any necessary repairs.

40 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Please note change of date to Tuesday 12th September 2017

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Signed Dated

Chairman