

Minutes of the meeting of Colebrooke Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th January 2022, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Smith (Chairman); Cllr. Charlton_Anne; Cllr. Hodder; Cllr. Niklaus; Cllr. Clarke; Cllr. Graham; Cllr. Enderson; Cllr. Wallace; County Cllr. Letch; District Cllr. White; Penny Clapham (Clerk); 1 member of the public.

1a) Co-option to Council – Cllr. Smith proposed Rob Johnstone to Council. Mr. Johnstone accepted and signed his declaration of acceptance.

1) Apologies for absence: None

2) Declarations of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declarations of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at Mid Devon District Council within 28 days of the change. None received.

3) Public Discussion: An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda, or any matter of interest to the parish. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 10 minutes.

Reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when the Council is in committee.

4) County & District Councillor Reports (for information only)

County Cllr. Letch has requested a definition of roads that become flooded from Highways. His Locality fund, amongst other projects has funded some books for schools regarding internet fraud pertinent to children. Training session for councillors and clerks on material planning Thursday 2pm.

Cllr. Letch would like to know if any schools or children have had problems with school bus pick-ups.

A proposal of thanks was made to write to David Cann on behalf of the parish for his ditching works all around the villages. Clerk will action.

District Cllr. White noted it is budget setting time. The three weekly black bin collection is likely to come forward in the next financial year. There is a need to save £1.5 million so a difficult budget to set.

Cllr. Graham requested to know what the criteria for the proposed saving on bin collections is. Cllr. White will check on this and report back. The cabinet member to be contacted is Cllr. Andrew Moore for finance matters.

5) Minutes – the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th November 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

6) Budget 2022/2023 – to resolve to approve the draft budget for the next financial year. Resolved With the addition of £500 for festivals. Proposed by Cllr. Smith, all agreed by show of hands.

7) Precept – to resolve to set the precept for the parish for the next financial year, 2022/2023.

Cllr. Hodder proposed a precept of £11,697 for the financial year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, an increase of £697, the first since 2019.

8) PLANNING – Mid Devon District Council have asked for comments from the parish council on the following planning applications –

a) 21/02309/FULL Installation of 54 ground mounted solar panels, land at Staddons, Colebrooke. Council supports this application as this type of installation lowers the owner's impact on the environment, thereby reducing his carbon footprint. Staddons are to be commended. Email decision by a majority of councillors after a site visit – sent to Planning 14th December.

Decisions

a) 21/01701/HOUSE + LBC Erection of extension to rear following demolition of lean-to to provide office, Prestons, Colebrooke

REFUSED

Cllr. Graham queried with Cllr. White the role of the conservation officer within planning and decisions made. Cllr. White responded as the conservation officer is a consultee with listed building consents.

9) FINANCE

Expenditure

Employment December & January	£416.00	BACs
PAYE Q3	£156.00	BACs
Clerk's expenses Q2 & 3	£145.80	BACs
Microsoft 365 (Office) paid by Clerk	£59.99	BACs
J. Chown hedge cut community garden	£42.00	BACs

Income

Bank statement and Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting.

Council resolved to accept the accounts as presented. Proposed by Cllr. Smith – all agreed by show of hands.

10) Footpath works from Penstone to Keymelford – for discussion and agreement to costs supplied, roughly £3,500. Two quotes have been received and discussed. Cllr. Smith proposed the quote from RD Toms at £3,200 + VAT. There will also be a contribution from the parish paths partnership at Highways.

11) Network Rail – to receive the latest updates with regard to use of the railway.

Trains are running at full speed on the line and the pedestrian crossings are not yet open until power is in place for the lights. Hopefully by the end of March. Closure of the road at the other bridge to Penstone to finalise repairs. A letter to residents is on the front page of the website.

12) Parish Review consultation – to initiate discussion with regard to this consultation. Council are content with the current boundaries.

13) Annual Parish Meeting – to consider a date for this meeting either in March or April.

6.30pm on 15th March followed by the council meeting. Refreshments will be available.

14) Internal Auditor – to consider and agree the appointment of Hania Lee as Council's internal auditor. Council will also be subject to an external audit this year due to being above the smaller authorities limit of either income/expenditure of £25,000.

15) Clerk's Report (for information only)

Items for information

Date of next meeting - 15th March 2022 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Information emails circulated since the last meeting

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (sent 07/12)

DALC Newsletter 1 (sent 05/01)

Airband newsletter (sent 17/01)

DALC Newsletter 76 (sent 10/12)

Devon Climate Emergency news (sent 11/01)

DALC newsletter 3 (sent 17/01)