**Minutes for the meeting held at Chittlehampton Methodist Rooms**

**on 19th June 2024 at 19:30**

1. **Apologies**: Cllrs Craze and Pawley sent apologies; councillors approved these. No apologies received for Cllr Blyther.

Six-month rule for parish councillors is that if councillors have six consecutive months off then they cease to be a councillor. The six-month rule was contested by Cllr Nicklin but confirmed as true by County Councillor Henderson.

1. **Declarations of Interest:** None
2. **Minutes**: 29/05/24 minutes approved.
3. **Clerks report:**
   1. DALC information provided regarding scribe accounting software and the VAT claim – The Parkinson Partnership informed that because the payment for the software did not come directly out of the Parish Councils bank account then the VAT cannot be claimed, they suggested two options; request a refund and the council be re-invoiced, or write an explanation to cover the next audit. All councillors voted in favour of Cllr Pawley requesting a refund from Scribe to try to claim the VAT.
   2. DALC inhouse training suggested to us and information on the cost – all agreed for the training, list of dates to go out for training to be picked. Overall, the training is more cost effective at £250 + VAT because it covers multiple different training aspects and includes all the councillors at once.
   3. Climate and Environment Grant update – the deadline for this is 31st August, members of the public have been asked what areas they think in the parish would benefit from this grant but unfortunately no responses from anyone yet. This grant is available for rewilding, wildflower planting, renewables, and other schemes that are based around climate control and improving the environment.
   4. Funding for Church repairs grant has been forwarded onto St Hieritha’s.
   5. Website update – three quotes given, information provided is to go to the finance committee to review, but also sent out to all Councillors so they can make an informed decision when required.
   6. Weed removal update – quotes requested.
4. **Payments for approval:**
   1. £207 Defibrillator payment towards Umberleigh defibrillator, a historic agreement prior made (mentioned in Feb 2023 minutes, and incorrectly at £217 in 03/04/24 minutes) – all agreed.
   2. £5.40 Tesco payment for office supplies – all agreed.
   3. £25 payment for printer ink – all agreed.
   4. £36 DALC training held on 21/05/24 (as per financial regulations 6.15, future payments for training up to £50 can be confirmed by the clerk prior to being brought to full council for approval) – all agreed.
   5. £15 methodist school room hire on 29/05/24 – all agreed.
   6. 21 hours clerk overtime amount of £265 – amount to be changed to £244.23, all councillors with the exception of Cllr Beauregard agreed to the change, this will be included on payments for approval at the next meeting.
5. **County Councillors update and highways report:**

Devon County Council is still operating as it should, but due to the election all spending decisions have been temporarily frozen until the election is concluded. Devolution has been put on hold until the conclusion of the election. James McInnes is the new leader for Devon County Council. Andrea Davies, who is the County Councillor for Combe Martin and the Chair of Exmoor National Park, is now the deputy leader of Devon County Council. Pru Maskell is the County Councillor for Braunton and is now the Deputy Chair of Devon County Council.

The surface dressing on the B3227 between Chittlehampton and South Molton is being looked at to be re-dressed.

The drains by North Newton Farm are being looked at again.

The A361 North Devon Link Road will be 60mph again by the school summer holidays, there will be speed cameras installed, and a lot of finishing work still needs to be done, the period given for this is 18 months. The bridge by Landkey roundabout, which appears to go to nowhere, is there due to new houses that are going to be built.

1. **District Councillors report:**

No presentation has been given to Cllr Whitehead yet, so there should hopefully be an update at the next meeting. Clerk to find out who the flood watch officer is.

1. **Play area update:**
   1. Unsuccessful for a local grant but are in the process of applying for another one.
   2. End of summer disco to be arranged, when there are more details, it will be advertised.
2. **Chittlehampton Village Hall update:**

Work on the village hall has now commenced, progress is good, and all the money for the upgrade has been given. The roof is coming off the village hall during the second week of July, which is when the asbestos will be removed, closure of the play area and parking may be required. Access to the play area remains the same. Devon Air Ambulance has been informed of the work and have said they will not land a helicopter if there is scaffolding and/or people on the scaffolding. Grass cutting has also been done on the playing field.

1. **Cobbaton Road development field update:**

The field is back up for sale, there has been some interest in it for housing development. However, Cllr Nicklin informed that on the Greenslade Taylor Hunt website today it says it has sold. Clerk to thank the member of the press for their interest but to provide no comment.

1. **Local Plan Review:**

Local plan headings of; housing, employment, community facilities and green spaces. These need to be thought about in order to be prepared for a local plan. An open day discussed, and further discussion over a questionnaire being sent out to various groups (Chittlehampton YFC, Umberleigh Academy, etc) to gain further readers and response.

1. **Winson Cross update:**

Plot 44, the caravan, shed and conservatory has been removed. There is still a lot of debris on site.

Plot 8/9, planning application 78306 was rejected.

Bus plot, there has been no activity on this site since the removal of the gate, the site still has a large amount of debris.

Planning Enforcement Officer Stacey Salter has informed that she is proceeding with serving enforcement notices to the plots with remaining items on the land. She will update once the report has been approved.

1. **Chair, Cllr Wheaton, discussion on two areas of interest within Chittlehampton:**
   1. Bench area at the top of Deptford hill being damaged by tractors – Clerk to contact the field owner.
   2. Speeding vehicles passing through from Townsend to Deptford – Chair Cllr Wheaton requested two members from the Parish Council be on the speed watch team, Cllrs Murch and Hoare volunteered. Clerk to ask PC Stephen Theobald for Vision Zero request. Clerk to apply for a 20mph speed limit for Chittlehampton from Devon County Council website, and to inform that the Parish Council has the backing from County Councillor Paul Henderson.
2. **Members of the public open session:**

It was brought up by the public that there are a lot of weeds within the square of Chittlehampton, the Clerk has asked for quotes for weed control. It was also suggested that the probation team could be contacted to come out again, which the Clerk will do, however parishioners were informed that the probation service if again may incur a cost. Brian McGovern from South Molton Meddlers was also suggested as a point of contact for weed control.

It was discussed that there could be a mix of flowers and crops, to enable a community food growing scheme that could also help on the weed control, as a few parishioners have also enquired about allotments. Additionally, it was suggested that some parishioners could ‘adopt’ certain planters or areas of the village to maintain themselves.

1. **Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 31st July at Umberleigh Village Hall.

Meeting concluded at 20:46.

**These minutes are a draft copy until signed as a true account.**