COPPLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –2nd April 2024 at 7.00pm held at the Methodist Church Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present – Cllr Turner (Chair), Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Dhinsa, Cllr F Letch (County) + The Clerk.
Apologies – Cllr N Letch (District Cllr Youngs, Cllr Eastman

1	**Declarations of Interest** None were provided.
2	**Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of the 5th March 2024** It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the March meeting are signed and approved. **Proposed –** Cllr Shaw **Seconded –** Cllr Faulkner
3	**Co-Option –** To advise of vacancies post uncontested election No nominations had been received since the last meeting.
4.	**Open Forum** - an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open forum. No members of the public attended.
5	**Principle Authority Reports** **5.1 To receive County report.** **Cllr Frank Letch (County)** The March Report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Highways were discussed and 37 gangs are out to fix potholes in Cllr Letch's ward. Last Tuesday, 590 pot holes registered online. A subsequent FOI request is to be made to DCC to ascertain how many potholes are fixed in one week. There are 2500+ registered reports and the implications of this may mean Highways go over budget. 20 Highways inspectors employed, but it takes them 2 years to look at every issue in Devon and the number of reports is increasing. Water that is flowing on the road is a major concern and Gulleys cannot cope. Gulleys within a 30mph zone are inspected every three years, main roads are once a year. Major roads, once a month. Members of the public are encouraged to continue with reporting everything online. The problem is large and 90% of emails received relate to potholes. The Land towards Lychgate for a potential footpath is possible subject to the Parish Council agree to manage the land. This can be considered at future meetings. The clerk asks if the land can be leased from DCC. Cllr Shaw informs Cllr Letch that the drain at the end of Fernworthy was not cleared properly and still causes an issue. In the absence of Cllr N, Letch (District), Cllr F, Letch provided information on improved recycling rates in MDDC and the resultant reduction in Landfill Fees having to be paid by MDDC.
6	**Environment / Property** **6.1 Fernworthy Park.** a. Consideration of other remedial work required. A report on the fence was provided and this should be completed prior to the next meeting. Cllr Youngs gave information on the remaining concrete base and would meet with a contractor to see what options are available.

There are areas that are suitable for wildflowers. This is a good use of the ground and Cllr Shaw is willing to do this herself, if the council reimburse the cost of seed? This is agreed. For payment at the May meeting.
Raised beds could be another option and the locality budget that is held by Cllr F Letch can provide some funds. Signage regarding what is in the park can also be progressed.

6.2 Sunnymead Park – Funding Initiatives were generally discussed. The Parish Council can provide funding once other sources are found.

6.3 MDDC Dog Control Orders for Sunnymead and Fernworthy.
The Clerk Noted information regarding Dog Control Orders. Dogs on leads are not allowed in the play area.

6.4 Traffic Calming Measures and 20mph Speed Limit at the Primary School.
This can be raised formally at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. MOP are encouraged to give their views on the process of obtaining a 20mph speed limit around the school.

7

Finance
Current Account Balance - £29,153.63
To sanction the following payments due:

Item	Ref	Payee	Purpose	£
7.1	01463	Clerk	Monthly Salary	418.24

The above payment was agreed to by all members.
Proposed – Cllr Faulkner
Seconded – Cllr Turner

8.

Finance
Current Account Balance - £29,815.87
To sanction the following payments due:

Item	Ref	Payee	Purpose	£
10.1	01460	Clerk	Monthly Salary	418.24
10.2	01461	Log-On Garden services	P3 / PROW work	84.00
10.3	01462	John Lunn	Copplestone Spring Clean Donation	50.00

The above payments were agreed to by all Members.
Proposed – Cllr Turner
Seconded – Cllr Eastman

9.

11. Internet banking and Mandate Changes.
The Clerk gave a report on proposed changes that are requested in relation to Internet Bank and signatures.
The instance of the Clerk and Cllr Faulkner personally attending the Bank in Crediton to make a payment needs to avoided. The payee's bank was unable to authorize the cheque signed as it could not be processed on a mobile banking app. Members are willing to use Internet banking with the same security restrictions and number of signatures, but online. The Clerk is authorized to apply to Lloyds Bank for this.
Proposed – Cllr Faulkner
Seconded – Cllr Shaw

10.	**Member Statements** Cllr Dhinsa – Is there any news on The Cross Inn? Cllr Shaw has spoken to the Landlord; it is noted that permission for Scaffolding on the Highway is awaited. More information may follow. Cllr Shaw – The Dog Waste Bin arose again. Can this be put to bed and moved? The location will have to be agreed on ASAP.
11	**Part 2 -** To resolve that under section 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during consideration of items of business if publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted as it involves the likely disclosure of personnel, commercially sensitive or legal matters. **No Part 2 was held.**
	There were no further topics for discussion and the meeting concluded at 19.40pm **Date of next meeting – 7th May 2024 at 7pm** **Annual Parish Meeting** **Annual Meeting of the Council &** **Ordinary Meeting**