COPPLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –2nd July 2024 at 7.300pm held at the Methodist Church Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present – Cllr Faulkner (Vice-Chair), Cllr Dhinsa, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Glover, Cllr Sharp, Cllr F Letch (County) + The Clerk.
Apologies – Cllr Eastman, Cllr Youngs, Cllr N Letch (District), Cllr Alex White (District)

1	**Declarations of Interest** None provided.
2	**Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of the 4th June 2024** It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the April and May meeting were signed and approved. **Proposed –** Cllr Glover **Seconded –** Cllr Faulkner
3	**Co-Option –** To advise of vacancies post uncontested election. There was one nomination to complete membership. James Clark had put his name forward. As There were no further nominations and it was agreed to co-opt Mr Clark. **Proposed** – Cllr Shaw **Seconded** – Cllr Faulkner
4.	**Open Forum** - an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open forum. There were no members of public in attendance.
5	**Principle Authority Reports** **5.1 To Receive County Council report. Cllr Frank Letch.** New Highway contractors are being considered. DCC want further and more significant information regarding the contractor and what is best for devon in value terms. The current operation is not working as expected. Policies about living in motor homes are being considered. Are the current locations suitable? Children's Scrutiny Committee work was considered. There are some children who are in yr 11 who miss up to 20% of schooling due to absence. The rate of absence and ways to reduce this is being considered. Fostering is still an issue and these are still looking to be recruited. Over 30% of foster parents are over 65. 10% are over 70. When they cease these duties, they are not being replaced. Recycling – Devon is 2nd to Oxford for recycling rates. MDDC is one of their highest recycling districts in the country. Metal prices are good and this has resulted in some extra funding. Cllr Dhinsa asks about recycling. Glass outside the bins has not been collected. There have been notes placed in the bin and broken glass warrants the bins not being taken. A warning has been provided to the resident. Cllr Letch would like to know about this from now on.
6	**Application to DCC Highways for 20mph Speed Limit within Copplestone Parish.** The Clerk reports on the map and associated application to DCC for speed restrictions. This is a task that will be completed during the summer break for submission before the September Meeting.

7 **Environment / Property**

9.1 Fernworthy Park. - Consideration of other remedial work required.

Possible other options regarding the park have been given and it is thought that the concrete base can be used as a planter. Costing is going to be provided by Mr Trevor Goat for consideration at the September Meeting.

Cllr Shaw notes that the Wildflowers are growing in the areas planted and this will improve over the summer.

9.2 Sunnymead Park – Funding and Shelter Update.

Cllr Shaw reports on the funding information. These have been forwarded to members. It appears that four separate applications can be made to the following organizations.

National Lottery – £25K

Sport England – 15K

Stronger Starts (Tesco) - £2k

London Marathon group.

The funding will be considered over the coming months when applications will be submitted.

The shelter has now been removed. This is welcome news. This was hard work and there are some more materials to buy before placing in the new location. It has also been noted that the fence near the shelter has been damaged. This will need to be addressed as soon as possible, and quotes may be available for the September meeting.

This will be added to the agenda for September.

The schedule for grass cutting was also requested from MDDC. The Clerk will obtain this for the September meeting.

8. **Planning**

DCC/4398/2024 - Section 73 application at Exeter Volcanic Quarry

Link - Search and comment on applications | Planning (devon.gov.uk)

A site visit was undertaken by Cllr Turner, Faulkner, Glover and Sharp on the 2nd July.

There were no issues with the site and the plan. The site that is on Copplestone side is not going to be affected. The stone is local and smaller stonemasons are involved. Much demand exists for the stone as it is normally used for listed building repairs in the area. The work was explained to all by Mr Andy Gray, the applicant.

Members of the Council had no objection to the application and would provide support to DCC.

Proposed – Cllr Turner

Seconded- Cllr Faulkner

9. **Finance**

Current Account Balance - £36,171.98

To sanction the following payments due:

Item	**Ref**	**Payee**	**Purpose**	**£**
9.1	01466	Clerk	Monthly Salary	418.24

The above payment was agreed by all members.

Proposed – Cllr Shaw

Seconded – Cllr Turner

10	**To approve Parish Council Account for 2023/24** The Clerk distributed the accounts for the last financial year. These were approved by all members. **Proposed** – Cllr Turner **Seconded** – Cllr Shaw
11	**To Approve the 2023/24 AGAR and Annual Return for External Audit.** The audit for Copplestone was presented. Members had no questions regarding the audit. This will now be prepared for submission and inspection. The Chairman signed the following in the order below. The Internal Audit The Annual Return & The Governance Statement **Proposed** – Cllr Faulkner **Seconded** – Cllr Dhinsa
12	**Member Statements** **Cllr Faulkner** - Is there any movement in the pub situation and is there any contact with the Owner? The Last contact with the owner was some time back and the indication was that scaffolding was to be approved before work could start. No further information provided. **Cllr Turner** - The Swing at Sunnymead. This has been broken three times before and has been repaired. This will be passed to Cllr Shaw to deal with but if the damage was intentional, no warranty would cover the replacement.
	There were no further topics for discussion and the ordinary meeting concluded at 20.15 pm. No Part 2 was undertaken.
	Date of Next Ordinary Meeting – 3rd September 2024