COPPLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –6th February 2024 AT 7.00pm held at the Methodist Church Meeting Room

MINUTES

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

1	**Declarations of Interest** No declarations of interest were provided by members.
2	**Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of the 9th January 2024** It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the October Meeting are signed and approved. **Proposed –** Cllr Eastman **Seconded –** Cllr Faulkner
3	**Co-Option –** To advise of vacancies post uncontested election. There were no nominations for the remaining vacancies.
4.	**Open Forum** - an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open forum. David Brassington Allotments are being run at full capacity. It was asked if Rents were to remain at the current rate of £20 per year? Members saw no reason to rise rent for this financial year. Contracts are being sent out and those who have plots should now pay by BACS. CRA funding and progress with the hall. Mains water has now been installed and electricity will be next for connection. It is felt that a three-phase system is beneficial to future proof the utilities when the Hall materialises. This would suit the Football Clubs requirement for powering a Porta Cabin. It is a little difficult to get local companies to work at the site and be approved by National Grid. Currently the CRA have approximately £45k. In terms of the Hall, there have been visits to other projects within the locality that use different building materials. The current projection for a hall is now down to approximately £100k. P£ / PROW This year's funding needs to be supplied to DCC and the report + recommendations for future work needs to be passed to DCC. Cllr Shaw thanked David for the upkeep of the Planters by the Cross.
5	**5.1 To receive County report.** Cllr Frank Letch Budget meetings are being undertaken at DCC. It is noted that Childrens Services will receive a 10% increase in their budget for the new financial year. Devolution has also been considered and DCC seem to be keen on this. District Councils may be a thing of the past. In terms of Council Tax rises, it seems to be the case that all authorities are going to increase their funding to the maximum increase available.

	Planning for the Electrical Storage facility at Fernworthy Car Park will be considered at the Committee Stage on the 14th February. Cllr Letch will note his interest as a County Council member. Planning Enforcement within MDDC is not happening as the last remaining enforcement officer has now left. Current Planning Staff are asked to cover enforcement duties. The situation with the Potholes was again raised with no hope of this being remedied in the foreseeable future.
6	**Environment / Property** **7.1 Fernworthy Park. Reports on complaints made.** **a. Current Condition post removal of equipment.** The park is no longer locked. It was noted that the Play Equipment was now removed and the concrete base where the equipment once was needs covering. **b. Consideration of works required now to include fencing work on adjoining properties.** The concrete area needs improvement. In the future, this needs to be covered and landscaped. Fernworthy is going to be missed and the area must continue to be used. It may be the case that we seek further views from the community on its future use. It was once proposed to use that area as a wellness area. **c. Consideration of a Sub-Committee for Fernworthy and associated request for members.** Cllr Shaw and Youngs offered to look at the area in full to see what could be undertaken. Investigation will be made on materials needed and how to improve the area in the Future. This will be added to the March Agenda. **7.2 Sunnymead Park –** Future play equipment improvements. Cllr Shaw presented the plans for the toddler area at Sunnymead. It was thought that the best area for this would be below that area where the Shelter is placed. Additional work may be required to fence off the playground.
7	**Planning** Ref: 23/01615/FULL **Proposal:** Construction and operation of micro storage facility **Location:** Car Park Fernworthy Park Copplestone **Site Vicinity Grid Ref:** 277126 / 102693 **Parish:** Copplestone 62 Link - https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S2MI9CKS05K00 To Note Only - Matter to be heard at Full Planning Committee at MDDC on 14th February 2024
8.	**Finance** **Current Account Balance** - £33,896.42 **To sanction the following payments due:** **Item** **Ref** **Payee** **Purpose** **£** **10.1** 01458 Clerk Monthly Salary 418.24 **10.2** 01459 James's Waste Clearance Fernworthy Play equipment removal 600.00 The Above payments were agreed by all members. **Proposed** – Cllr Turner **Seconded** – Cllr Turner

	Funding Requests **10.3** Copplestone Community Hall – Copplestone Family Fun Day £500 sought for a Stunt Man. A general discussion took place, and it was agreed that funding as requested would be agreed. The Parish Council had provided funding to village events in the past and would support these in the future. A donation of £500 was agreed by all members present. Proposed – Cllr Eastman Seconded – Cllr Youngs **10.4** John Lunn, Spring Clean and Village Litter Pick. Donation of £50 for refreshments post event. This was agreed by all members present. **Proposed** – Cllr Shaw **Seconded** – Cllr Turner
10.	**To set Precept request to MDDC for Financial Year 2024/25** Members considered that there was to be no increase in the Precept for the financial year 2024/25 and no increase would be made by the Parish Council. The Precept was set at £25,000. **Proposed –** Cllr Turner **Seconded –** Cllr Faulkner
11.	**Member Statements** **Cllr Shaw** – The notice board by the Cross, The Parish Council own and use their own board. The white board to the left of the Parish Sign is not owned by the Parish Council. Ownership will be investigated as it needs repairing. The Cross Hotel – The owner has been contacted by email and it is noted that Drainage work has been undertaken. The owner's original plan was to start work in March. This is still on the cards. The rubbish bin at Sunnymead is always full This coming from No57 Sunnymead and Chairman has spoken to those who were reported. It is hoped that this will stop now. **Cllr Eastman** – Ann Gatton's bench is to be fitted on the 17th February and Mr Carl Jacobs will assist with the installation. Dog fouling has increased. Can more posters be ordered to make people aware of this. This will need to be passed to MDDC. **Cllr Faulkner** – Can anything be placed in the enlightener regarding Jeremy Bore? The Clerk will add to this to the enlightener for publication.
	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 disclosure of personnel, commercially sensitive or legal matters. **No Part 2 was held.**
	There were no further topics for discussion within the Ordinary Meeting which concluded at 20.25pm Date of Next Meeting – 5th March 2024