COPPLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –7th February 2023 AT 7.00pm held at the Methodist Church Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present – Cllr Faulkner (Chairman), Cllr Turner (Vice-Chair), Cllr Bore, Cllr Gardner, Cllr Sampson Cllr Coren (District) Cllr Penny (District) & Cllr Letch (County) + The Clerk.
3 MOP
Apologies – Cllr Shaw, Cllr Eastman

	Cllr Turner Chaired the meeting due to the absence of Cllr Faulkner.
1	**Declarations of Interest** Cllr Faulkner declared a pecuniary interest in respect of P3/PROW invoices that had been received after the agenda was published.
2	**Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of the 10th January 2023** It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the January Meeting are signed and approved. Cllr Turner signs the minutes as Cllr Faulkner was absent at the January meeting. **Proposed –** Cllr Sampson **Seconded –** Cllr Bore
3	**Open Forum** - an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open forum. **MOP** – A request from the school to use the playing field for a Coronation Event in May 2023. There were various proposals put forward including road closures to hold a street party. It was hoped that any funding that was raised from the event could go to the School Hall Fund. The CRA also offered their involvement as any funding could be shared for the Village Hall. The Parish Council were supportive of any coronation event and as in the past, assistance would be provide where they can. CRA – A member of the CRA Committee attended to outline further information on the village consultation regarding the Village Hall Funds. Confirmation is required on the date of the survey taking place as this can then be provided to the printers to include in the consultation survey. Prior to the consultation, the CRA would provide full details on what they seek to achieve by way of background information being fully published. It was still thought that sealed ballot boxes maybe required for the survey and MDDC could assist. Cllr Penny would consider this further when dates are progressed. Issues relating to the road outside the school were also raised. At present the bus parking area has been cordoned off as a result of a near miss collision between a car and a child. It was suggested that some form fencing to protect the children from the road? It was made known that the School own and maintain the pavement and bus drop off point. For any change to be made, the school would need to approach DCC. Cllr Letch will look at the matter at DCC. The road going to Newbuilding's was raised and speeding issues need to be notified to DCC.

4	**Principal Authority Reports:** **4.1** To receive County Cllr report. **Cllr Letch** - Reporting on the work undertaken within the Health and Wellbeing Committee. It was noted that 11.8% of residents are smokers, this is below the national average. Work of Children's Scrutiny Committee was also noted and for the forthcoming financial year, there is to be an 18% increase on their budget. For the previous financial year, there was a £127 million overspend. DCC have until March 2026 in which to bring the budget down. Increases will take place this year and a Child 16+ concessionary bus fare is to increase by 30%. Locality fund has reduced to £8k and any spare from the previous year will be divided up 50/50 with DCC and Cllr Letch. For the next financial year, this will go down to £5000. **4.2 To receive District Cllr report.** **Cllr Penny** – Raises children's services and the conflict with the Court System. It was felt that too much work of MDDC / DCC is taken up with court cases rather than making pragmatic decisions themselves. The courts should not be in charge. A general discussion on Potholes was also undertaken. Cllr Coren - Planning issues in the Yeo Ward is more taxing than any other ward. Enforcement takes a considerable time to progress as and this is linked to Planning, much time is undertaken here. There are three planning enforcement issues. Bevan square. A Devon bank was removed and not reinstated. The Drains are poor and causes flooding & car park at the bottom of the development is unfinished. There is still a barrier in place. DCC cannot adopt the drainage system at Bevan Gardens as it has not yet received the full approval of MDDC. An update on Homeleigh Garden's was also given after a visit. It was noted that the building is developing, and the owners will be making an application to the licensing committee to sell alcohol. It was also noted that the pinch point for traffic near the Vet is still having to be worked on. This is going to be done but the correct permissions are still awaited.
5	**Environment / Property** **7.1 Sunnymead Park –** Report and Fencing repairs at Sunnymead. The fence is quite old and will need to be fully replaced in approximately 1 year. It is hoped that this can be undertaken in 2024/25. **7.2 Bevan Gardens –** Consideration of issues raised regarding rubbish and play equipment safety concerns. The play area is not safe and there appears to be a discrepancy in management responsibilities between owners / tenants and the development company. The development company have staged that it is for the residents to manage this facility not them. How this transfer of responsibilities arose is unclear. It was hoped that the exact wording of the transfer can be ascertain if a tenancy agreement can be viewed. Cllr Sampson thought that a resident would be able to provide this for further discussion in March. **7.3 Highway Safety and Street Lighting repairs –** Report There are various areas within Copplestone that have inadequate or no street lighting. The Railway Bridge lighting was damaged in January, and this has not yet been rectified. This is a safety concern as pedestrians are in close contact to traffic on the a377 with no street lighting. The Clerk is asked to raise this directly with DCC.
6.	

	CRA Survey Costings - To Consider the quotation for Printing of Survey Questionnaires - £219 ex vat. This was considered very competitive. It was noted that the quote would include the sealing of the envelopes for the survey. Members agreed that this was a local service and agreed to the quote for printing survey costs. **Proposed** – Cllr Turner **Seconded** – Cllr Gardner
7.	**Elections 2023.** To provide information from the Electoral Commission regarding Parish Council elections The Clerk provided members with information on elections and the required paperwork. The electoral commission had provided comprehensive information on the elections for Parish Councils below. Members were advised to consider this as there are certain deadlines that have to be followed. https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england
8.	**Finance** **Current Account Balance** - £7460.88 **To sanction the following payments due:** **Item** **Ref** **Payee** **Purpose** **£** **10.2** 01555 Clerk Monthly Salary **392.90** **10.3** 01556 Information Commissioner DPA Registration **40.00** The Above payments were agreed by all members. **Proposed –** Cllr Sampson **Seconded –** Cllr Turner
	Member Statements Cllr Eastman – Why are Potholes not being repaired. On many occasions, DCC website states that it has been noted and then it disappears from the system and no pothole fixed. This situation is frustrating for all. There have been comments on Facebook regarding a new Footpath towards the Car Park. It was noted that the Parish Council had been dealing with this in the past but had stalled due to ownership issues and exact location of footpath. This will be considered again if further information is provided.
9.	There were no further topics of discussion and the ordinary meeting concluded at 20.10pm No Part 2 was held. Date of Next Meeting - **7th March 2023 at 7pm**