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

**MINUTES**

**Present –**Cllr Turner (Chairman), Cllr Shaw, Cllr Faulkner & Cllr F Letch (County) + The Clerk.
**Apologies –** Cllr Eastman, Cllr Bore, Cllr Penny & Cllr N Letch (District)

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| **1** | **Declarations of Interest**<br>No declarations of interest were provided by members. |
| **2** | **Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of the 3rd October 2023**<br>It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the October Meeting are signed and approved.<br>**Proposed –** Cllr Shaw<br>**Seconded –** Cllr Penny |
| **3** | **Co-Option –** To advise of vacancies post uncontested election.<br>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.<br>No MOP were in attendance. |
| **5** | **5.1 To receive County Cllr report.**<br>**Cllr Frank Letch -** Devon County Council is a little slow now with no major projects occurring for report. Budget considerations are being made for the next budget year and SEND spending at DCC is estimated to be in £181 million deficit. This department has a number of years to recover some losses before it is written off by Central Government.<br><br>**5.2 To receive District Cllr report.**<br>**Cllr Stuart Penny –** The 21-day time requirement for Parish Councils to call in Planning applications to Full Planning Committee stage at MDDC is being questioned. This is often not helpful as some meeting dates for various parishes would not fit in with this requirement. It is thought that Planning has asked this informally, but no policy is agreed at MDDC for this time limit.<br>Rules from Central Government have changed for Recycling and MDDC are considering this now for a potential impact on services in 2 years' time. |
| **6** | **Environment / Property**<br>**6.1 Removal of Play equipment at Fernworthy Park.** It is noted that the playpark is still open, and no equipment has been moved. The Clerk considers this a matter that can now be undertaken with contractors.<br><br>**6.2 Sunnymead Phase 2 work and play equipment.**<br>Cllr Shaw reports that there is no update on this matter and Kompan are to be chased again. This can be added to the December agenda. |

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| **7** | **Highways**<br>**Highway Road Repairs within Copplestone Parish.**<br>**9.1 To report on response on complaint to DCC Highways**<br>Members had been passed correspondence from DCC Highways that did not answer our questions. The Clerk reported that Meg Booth had not acknowledged our invitation to attend this meeting.<br>The Clerk advised that a follow up complaint regarding this should be made. This was agreed.<br><br>Cllr Letch responds stating this work could be undertaken as late as March 2025. There is a view that Highways were not aware of the road problems. Members considered this farcical. Cllr Letch has started a petition within the village to deal with Highways.<br><br>Cllr Bore has been in contact with Meg Booth about the specific state of the Orchard Cottage property. The road problems are going to cause significant issues for cyclists or bikers.<br><br>Members had also been passed to Freedom of Information Reply.<br>https://www.devon.gov.uk/accesstoinformation/information_request/a3072-a377-road-network-copplestone/<br>It was confirmed that nothing had occurred with Copplestone Parish for the past three years and no money had been spent on the Highways at all. It was thought that after having sight of the reply from DCC read in conjunction with the FOI request, this matter could be appealed to gather further information. This was agreed by all members present. |
| **8.** | **Planning**<br>Ref: 23/01615/FULL<br>**Proposal:** Construction and operation of micro storage facility<br>**Location:** Car Park Fernworthy Park Copplestone<br>**Site Vicinity Grid Ref:** 277126 / 102693<br>**Parish:** Copplestone 62<br>Link - https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S2MI9CKS05K00<br><br>Members had noted the correspondence and considered that the application was not straight forward. There were concerns that the facility has a significant number of Batteries. In the event of an accident, this could cause a large public health issue. This is a hazardous substance near many houses.<br>The parking issue was unresolved. This would take up valuable space in a busy car park. Emergency access would be an issue if the car park was full.<br>It was also a concern that MDDC were giving them the land. Was there any form of payment for this to MDDC and would the parish benefit from this? MDDC would receive payment and the Parish would not receive anything.<br>Members also noted that the planning notice was also placed in dark corner of the car park that is unused.<br>Members agreed to object to the application and asked the Clerk to draft a reply to MDDC. Members also asked that this matter be called into Full Planning Committee as opposed to delegated authority.<br>**Proposed** - Cllr Bore<br>**Seconded** - Cllr Faulkner |

**9. Finance**

**Current Account Balance** - £35,096.05

**Payments in**

**MDDC - 50% Precept** **To sanction the following payments due:**

| Item | Ref | Payee | Purpose | £ |
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| **11.1** | 01261 | Clerk | Monthly Salary | 418.14 |
| **11.2** | 01262 | PFK Littlejohn | External Audit Fee | 378.00 |
| **11.3** | 01263 | Glasdon Seats | Bench Purchase | TBA |

The Clerk stated that he had made an error in paying his salary. The Home working allowance and Wix Website fees had not been included in his payments for some months.
Cllr Penny stated that it was his proposal to allow the Clerk to rectify this for the next meeting and calculate how much he is owed for December. This was agreed by all members present.

The above payments were agreed by all members.
Proposed – Cllr Penny
Seconded – Cllr Bore

**10. Correspondence received through the Chair / Clerk**

**09.10.23,** Network Rail Proposed work at Station.
It was noted that this had now been completed.
**11.10.23,** DCC Freedom of Information Reply.
**12.1023,** DCC Acknowledgement of Complaint.

**11. Member Statements**

**Cllr Bore –** It is his intention to stay on the Parish Council as he is responding well to treatment.
**Cllr Shaw -** The CRA thanked the PC for the monies for the fireworks.
**Cllr Faulkner -** The Cross, various repair and refurbishment works are to take place and no work has been undertaken. Cllr Shaw will contact the owner to ascertain what is happening.

There were no further topics for discussion within the Ordinary Meeting which concluded at 20.05pm

**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 disclosure of personnel, commercially sensitive or legal matters.

**No Part 2 was requested.**

Date of Next Meeting – 5th December 2023.