COPPLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –10th January 2022 AT 7.00pm held at the Methodist Church Meeting Room

MINUTES

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

	Cllr Turner Chaired the meeting due to the absence of Cllr Faulkner.
1	**Declarations of Interest** There were no personal or pecuniary interests declared.
2	**Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of the 6th December 2022** It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the December 2022 Meeting are signed and approved. **Proposed –** Cllr Eastman **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. **CRA** - Two members of the CRA Committee attended to seek further information on the consultation that is being proposed within the Parish. At the moment, the CRA are free to progress with the survey which must remain open for 4 weeks. It was hoped that this could be started around the Easter period. Clarification on how the survey is to take place was also given. Every questionnaire would be in a sealed envelope passed to every registered property within the Parish. It was hoped that a ballot box would be sought from MDDC. The survey must also be highly publicised within the Parish to make as many persons as possible aware of the Survey. Cllr Sampson agreed to obtain quotes for the printing of the survey and envelopes. Members of the CRA would deliver the survey by hand to every address. Some questions from members were raised regarding the physical work that was being planned. Local contractors would be sought whenever possible. It is hoped that further reporting will be made at the February meeting of the Council. **MOP** - Planters around The Cross. These were maintained by persons that have moved away. There has not been anyone to take over this job. Can the Parish Council undertake planting as the Gardening Club no longer undertake this maintenance. If Volunteers can be found for the project, the Parish Council can fund any materials and plants that would be required. Cllr Sampson would approach households near the Cross to see if they can assist. **MOP** - Warm Space initiative has not been as popular as thought. 21 Volunteers have signed up. The times have changed after café finishing at 12. It seems that the warmer winter has reduced numbers. The service is appreciated by residents who use the service. It was also noted that Morrisons have provided funding through their Community Champion Scheme. Members of the Council thank the Methodist Church for this service.

4 **Principal Authority Reports:**

4.1 To receive County Cllr report – No report was provided.

4.2 To receive District Cllr report.

Cllr Penny –

Potholes within the Parish are getting worse and these are being reported almost daily. Awareness of this issue is being raised with DCC Highways through a road survey being requested rather than reporting individual potholes is more effective. IF a sufficient number of defects come out of the road survey, the road must be repaired.

The water leak from the top of Beers Hill / A3072 has been reported and SWW are now involved. The silted drains here are also being looked at on the 27th January 2023.

As there are existing drainage issues within the village, concern was also raised that if there are any significant developments forthcoming, the public sewerage and drainage system will not cope. This has been raised with DCC Highways.

Cllr Penny also raised the Elections in May 2023. Further information is to be supplied to all parishes from MDDC in due course.

5 **Environment / Property**

5.1 Sunnymead Park

The Clerk is in the process of seeking costs for the removal of the shelter and is hopeful that a report can be provided for the February meeting.

Costings for additional seating are being sought by Cllr Shaw as well as the signage required for Playgrounds. It was also noted that fencing to the park requires replacing. This will need to be considered in February.

6. **Finance**

Current Account Balance - £10,291.51

To sanction the following payments due:

Item	Ref	Payee	Purpose	£
8.1	01451	Copplestone Methodist Church	Hall Rent	**TBA**
8.2	01452	Clerk	Monthly Salary	**392.90**
8.3	01453	Clerk	NALC pay award to Clerk back dated to April 1st, 2022 – 6th December 2022	**204.00**

The above payments were approved by all members.

Proposed – Cllr Bore

Seconded – Cllr Eastman

7. **To approve a donation to Copplestone Gardening Club for the provision of Bench**

Cllr Turner provided bench information. This would be passed to Ann Gatton to decide on the style. The exact donation will then be considered in February.

8. **To set Parish Council Budget for 2023/24**

The Clerk had provided information to members regarding Current accounts, savings and spending to date. IT was noted that the past financial year was exceptional as the budget set that year included monies for Sunnymead. This will not be required for the current financial year. It was noted that Sunnymead and Fernworthy Park are now fully maintained by the Parish Council and work will be required to maintain and improve these areas. It was noted that a number of repairs are required for the Parks and this is to be factored into the forecasted spending for the next financial year. IT was also noted that the costs of grass cutting were high. This will continue as well as other spending requirements that are being passed down to Parish

	level from MDDC. The Parish has approximately 1400 residents. This is a large Parish. The Council feels that any budget will have to increase to factor in the required obligation sit holds to the Parish. Spending was forecast to approximately £25000. This was approved by all members present. **Proposed** – Cllr Eastman **Seconded** – Cllr Shaw
	To set Precept request to MDDC for Financial Year 2023/24 The Clerk had circulated information from MDDC regarding precept calculations and percentage increase / decrease. Members approved a precept increase to £25000. This would represent an increase of £16 per year to the average band D property. This was agreed by all members present. **Proposed** – Cllr Turner **Seconded** – Cllr Bore
9.	**Member Statements** **Cllr Eastman –** Lighting on A377 is poor. This has been reported but has not been progressed with DCC highways. The lamp has not been fixed after the pole being damaged. Complaints within Bevan Gardens about litter at Bevan Gardens. This is a private estate and the PC need to put pressure on to the landowner to improve facilities. The Park at Bevan Gardens is not used and is not in a safe manner to use. MDDC enforcement can be contacted as planning in doubt as breach of conditions. The hedging has not been replaced. The PC can make a case to enforcement re litter and hedging. This will be added to the February Agenda. **Cllr Bore** – It was noted that a farmer has been handed a bill for £74000 relating to environmental offences. On the land. This must be considered relevant as we are in a rural area and development within the parish is coming.
10.	There were no further topics for discussion and the meeting concluded at 20.25pm No Part 2 was held. **Date of Next meeting – 7th February 2023**