

Thelbridge Parish Council

Minutes

September 11th, 2019

19:30

Venue: Thelbridge Parish Hall

Janet de Rochefort, Parish Clerk 01884 860173 thelbridgepc@gmail.com

<http://thelbridge.btck.co.uk>

Present: Cllrs Boundy, Cowell, Gibson, Gillbard, Grant, Hayes, Wainwright (MDDC)

Apologies: Cllr Squires (DCC & MDDC)

- I. Approval of minutes from last meeting
The minutes for 12th June 2019 were approved and signed.
- II. Public forum
One member of the public was present.
- III. Declarations of interest
There were none.
- IV. Councillor co-option
It was proposed by Cllr Hayes and seconded by Cllr Grant, unanimously **resolved**, to co-opt John Gibson with immediate effect; the acceptance form etc. were duly completed.
- V. Election of Vice Chairman
Cllr Gibson was proposed by Cllr Grant and seconded by Cllr Gillbard, unanimously elected as vice chairman.
- VI. Clerk's report
Water Abstraction
Previously exempt areas now require a licence where more than 20m³ (4,399 gallons) of water are abstracted per day. More information is available on the website or through the Environment Agency.

Local Government Ethical Standards Report

Consideration was given to a centralised body to govern and adjudicate on standards. It was concluded that there was no need to reintroduce a centralised body, and that local authorities should retain ultimate responsibility for implementing and applying the Seven Principles of Public Life in local government.

A number of recommendations were made requiring a number of changes to primary legislation, which would be subject to Parliamentary timetabling; but also to secondary legislation and the Local Government Transparency Code.

The Monitoring Officer draws two particular points to the Council's attention: "Recommendation 19 – parish council clerks should hold an appropriate qualification, such as those provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks. This is not currently a requirement and I am not aware of any intention to make it such.

Best practice 11 – formal standards complaints about the conduct of a parish councillor towards a clerk should be made by the Chair or by the parish council as a whole rather than the clerk, in all but exceptional circumstances. Again, this is not a requirement and is a matter for parish councils."

Devon Association of Local Councils AGM

This year's AGM and Conference will be held on Wednesday 23rd October at Exeter Racecourse, 10:00-16:00 at a cost of £25 per person.

Devon County Council Highways, Parish and Town Councils Conference 2019

The conference format will be an exhibition style event with displays/stands representing a number of teams, projects and initiatives. Each display/stand will be staffed by at least one representative providing an opportunity for local issues, concerns or queries to be raised.

These events are free to all attendees. The conferences will take place at 5 locations across the County;

- Thursday 3 October - Magelake Parish Pavillions, Uffculme
- Friday 4 October - Kenn Centre, Kennford
- Monday 7 October - Filleigh Village Hall, Filleigh
- Thursday 10 October - Rattery Village Hall, Rattery
- Tuesday 15 October - Clinton Hall, Merton

The conference will be open from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm. Tea and coffee will be provided. Parking is available at each venue but may be limited so please car share where possible.

Tree Charter

The National Association of Local Councils is urging councils to sign up to the Tree Charter and become charter branches. The Woodland Trust can give free trees to local councils for planting. You can also nominate special trees for Tree of the Year 2019. The Council expressed an interest in the scheme;

Clerk gather more information.

Road Warden Scheme

This is a [formal agreement](#), between Devon County Council and a town or parish council, which enables them to deliver minor works in or around the public highway. The sort of work that can be done by volunteers includes

- Pothole repairs (when they do not meet our intervention criteria).
- Clearing weeds.
- Cleaning signs.
- Cleaning drainage (gully grating).

- Cutting grass.
- Repairing finger posts.
- Cutting hedges.
- Set up a road closure for special events.
- [Managing verges for wildlife](#)

Resolved that this should be included on the next agenda for further consideration.

Planning

A new [National Planning Policy Framework](#) was published in February, which has been followed by revised [Planning Practice Guidance](#). The Guidance includes making the temporary permitted development rights for single story rear extensions to be made permanent.

VII. Finance

- a) The most recent bank statements and budget monitoring report were reviewed and approved.
- b) Payments were approved for DALC £66, HMRC £27.40, printing & postage £29.81, Parish Hall grant for Harvest Supper £40.

VIII. New Councillor Training

Cllr Cowell attended the training course and reported back on the key points.

IX. Planning

There were no new planning applications to consider.

X. Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on Mid Devon

The report was discussed. It was **resolved** that there should be no response to the consultation.

XI. Defibrillators

Further information from Bluebox Medical is:

The cost of a replacement battery with a life span of 4 years is £275 plus VAT. The cost of the replacement pads are £ 55.00 + VAT. The price of these are high because they are Radio Transparent Pads. These are the pads that analyse whether or not a shock is required, but also analyse quicker.

At the end of the warranty period we would not expect that the device would need to be replaced

For an AED attached to an external wall the cabinet would be required to be heated (this is to keep the pads in good order); a cabinet that is approved to ISO specifications is £495 + VAT.

The AED itself has a workable temperature of between -5C to +50C, one of the best on the market in this respect.

AED training courses for up to 10 people per session are available.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowell and seconded by Cllr Gibson that purchase of a defibrillator should go ahead with the clerk investigating opportunities for grant funding to help meet the costs in collaboration with the Parish Hall Committee.

XII. Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Plug-n-go have written to the Council regarding their supply, install and maintain service and for some sites that have public facing parking, they are able to offer funding. A future agenda item?

MDDC have installed charging points at the leisure centres and will be installing them in the major car parks.

Currently in Exeter there are approximately 30 publicly accessible charge points with another 150 electric car charge points on the streets of Exeter over the next two years. Devon County Council are working to secure funding for charging points in additional locations.

It was **resolved** to defer this pending other local developments.

XIII. Items for future agenda

Tree Charter

Road Wardens

Defibrillator

XIV. Future meeting dates

December 11th (budget setting)

April 22nd 2020 (year-end accounts)

May 27th 2020 (annual meeting)

The meeting closed at 20:50

Signed W. R. Bundy (Chairman) Date 11th December 2019