

Thelbridge Parish Council

Minutes

December 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 11th September 2019 were approved and signed.
- II. Public forum
Two members of the public were present.
- III. Declarations of interest
Cllr Cowell declared an interest in amendment to planning application 17/00312/FULL.
- IV. Report from Cllr Squires (by email)
Devon Libraries - Exeter has been given the UNESCO City of Literature status which was in no small part due to the role of libraries in the lives and cultural landscape across Devon. Nationally and internationally visits to libraries and the issuing of books has been in decline. In Devon however we are bucking that trend with a 4% increase in lending.
Devon Climate Emergency - Devon County Council are working with partners across the County in developing a Carbon Reduction plan within six months to meet or exceed the United Nations IPCC targets. All local authorities within Devon have declared a Climate Emergency.
There are two free tree schemes currently in operation by DCC, details at <https://www.devonashdieback.org.uk/take-action/free-tree-schemes/>

Report from Cllr Wainwright

I am Chairwoman of MDDC's new 'net zero working group'. This is the more active arm of the Environment Policy Development group. Some of the aims are to:

- Map our local area, including businesses, individuals and community groups that are working in some way on the climate agenda.
- Connect and make links between these groups.
- Support and prioritise local actions and activities.

We are creating a new web page on the MDDC website which will be a repository for all climate-related information, opportunities and connections.

All communities are being encouraged to input their ideas to the Devon-wide carbon plan here: <https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/>

Other:

- The governance structure of the council is being looked at in the new year. This is an opportunity to think about democracy in Mid Devon, and how the structure of the council could best serve this.
- The Scrutiny committee is thinking about its forward plan and asking what issues we should be looking at. Please feel free to share any ideas with me. Some topics already suggested are procurement (what products and services the council buys, and how), and 5G broadband safety.

V. Clerk's Report
Planning

Latest figures show the number of agricultural to residential conversions in England has risen from 226 in 2015/16 to 743 in 2017/18 – Devon accounted for 122 – under the permitted development right, which allows developers to bypass the planning system. The Local Government Association is concerned by the lack of local services, infrastructure and in some places affordable housing, that would normally be required in any development going through the planning system. It is calling on the Government to use the Queen's Speech to commit to scrapping the permitted development right for all property types and for local communities to be given oversight of all new developments and building conversions in their area.

[Data on homes converted under permitted development](#)

[Data broken down by local authority area](#)

[LGA report – The future of non-metropolitan England](#)

Fire & Rescue Service

An email was received from the Chair and Mayor of Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council who, after discussions with representatives from Woolacombe, Porlock and Appledore contacted the Parish Council saying the area will be directly affected by the closure of Fire Stations in the proposals by the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

"DSFRS are proposing dramatic cuts to services all across our two counties and we think their decision taking process is fatally flawed. We are convinced there is a very strong case for a Judicial Review of any decision made at the DSFRS meeting on 18th December and we are assembling the funds needed. Can your council help by pledging financial support (although we won't need the money yet)? Or do you know of any other organisation that might be prepared to pledge such support? If so please email john.patrinos@northdevon.gov.uk

.....Here is a link to a facebook page which elucidates the errors in the DSFRS document [Save Our Station - The Woolacombe Fire Service](#) shared a [post](#).

.....Once the Judicial Review is successful DSFRS will be required to redo the proposals, consultations, and decision. Our objective is to ensure that any new proposals are tested by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to ensure they are safe....

Many thanks, Chris Sleep, Mayor LLTC"

W. K. B.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk should send a letter supporting the opposition to the proposed changes.

Preparing for a national bereavement

- some Councils are already considering;

- where flowers could be laid;
- where a Book of Remembrance/Condolence could be sited;
- who would arrange the flying of the flag;
- who will put up/buy black ribbons;
- contacting their District Council for information on their plans (although these may need amendment for Parish Councils);
- putting it to their Council to see what the Councillors would want to do or Clerks having made the plans then advising their Council accordingly;
- contacting their website provider to see what adjustments might be needed for their website;
- drafting a Policy for such an event

It was **resolved** to consider this issue at a later date.

The Rural Community Energy Fund

By reducing dependence on fossil fuel-based energy generation communities can secure future energy supply, gain protection from rising fuel costs and reduce the risk of fuel poverty. Income from renewable projects can be used to provide benefits to the community, create jobs, and promote social cohesion. The fund offers support in two stages:

Stage 1 – Feasibility Grant

For those communities at an early stage of exploring the possibility of a renewable energy project, and which meet the Fund's eligibility criteria, this stage offers grants of up to a maximum of **£40,000** to cover consultancy and professional costs for the development of a feasibility report in a standard format for a specific project

Stage 2 –Full business development and planning grant

For projects that demonstrate a good chance of securing planning permission and being implemented, the Local Energy Hubs will consider further development funding of up to **£100,000** to be made available to cover more detailed investigation into the key areas of technology selection Applications for grants are now open – apply at <http://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/south-west-energy-hub-rcef/>

VI. Finance

- a) The most recent bank statements and budget monitoring report was reviewed.
- b) The following payments were **approved** MDDC Election charge £127.23, HMRC £27.40

- c) The burial ground grant applications were considered and it was **resolved** to pay £50 for Hele Lane and £150 for Thelbridge PCC.
- d) Defibrillator funding: Cllr Squires has offered a contribution of £265. The British Heart Foundation have grants of £600 available for one of two specific models in an unlocked cabinet; either an iPad SP1 or Zoll AED Plus. The cost of these is around £1,200 including training plus the costs of the cabinet; so a total of about £1,700 including VAT. There would be a shortfall of about £875 plus additional costs for: replacement pads after use, the non-rechargeable battery after 4-5 years at a current cost of about £200 including VAT. An electrician would be required to wire the cabinet, which is heated. There was discussion regarding a suitable location and fund raising opportunities.
- e) The 2020/21 budget was **approved** and it was resolved to apply for a precept of £2,000.

VII. New Code of Conduct for adoption

It was **resolved** to adopt the revised code of conduct.

VIII. Tree Charter

Since the Parish does not have any public spaces the opportunities for making a difference are severely limited so it was **resolved** not to proceed.

IX. Road Warden Scheme

It was **resolved** to call for volunteers in the next newsletter and then consider how to proceed.

X. Planning

Non Material Amendment for 17/00312/FULL to allow for change of design and materials

Land and Buildings at NGR 278649 111338 (Billhole Farm) Black Dog Devon
Ref. No: 19/01968/NMA | Status: Awaiting decision

This notifies the Council of proposed work or development not needing its permission. The Council will not be approving or refusing the proposal, so comments are not invited.

Erection of a dwelling and garage following demolition of agricultural building

Land and Buildings at NGR 280406 113049 Millmoor Farm Witheridge Devon
Ref. No: 19/01436/FULL | Status: Awaiting decision

Resolved to make a neutral comment.

XI. Items for Future Agenda

Road warden scheme

The meeting closed at 21:25

Signed W. H. Bandy (Chairman) Date 11th March 2020