

Notes on Thelbridge Parish Council meeting

held 22nd January, 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in Thelbridge Parish Hall

Present: Cllr.John Gibson (Vice Chairman) in the chair; Cllr.John Cowell, Cllr.Richard Grant, Cllr.Roderick Hayes, Cllr.Christopher Kneller

In attendance: Cllr.Polly Colthorpe (Ward Member for Way Ward)

In the absence of the chairman, the vice chairman took the chair and, **before he opened the meeting, updated members on the results of the parish's advertisement for a clerk. There had been one application (from the clerk of another Mid Devon parish) but the applicant was currently on holiday so was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Members agreed to interview him and also that, should he prove unsuitable, any further advertising should be extended to a wider audience.**

Agenda Item 1: The clerk having tendered her resignation, the first item on the agenda was to appoint a temporary clerk for this meeting and, the district councillor having volunteered, it was **agreed** that she should act in this capacity.

Agenda Item 2: Apologies were received from Cllr.Wallace Boundy (**recovering from illness**) and from County Cllr. Mrs.Margaret Squires (attending another parish council meeting). Absent: Cllr.Linsey Clements

Agenda Item 3: The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 27th November, 2024 were **agreed** unanimously and were signed by Cllr.Gibson

Agenda Item 4: There were no members of the public present.

Agenda Item 5: No member of the council declared an interest.

Agenda Item 6: In the absence of the county councillor, the district councillor gave a brief overview of central government's intention to reform local government, the timescale **for change** and the decisions of Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council taken at their Extraordinary General Meetings of 8th and 9th January, 2025 respectively.

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Agenda Item 6 continued: She also mentioned the intention of M.D.D.C. to raise the importance of covering the ‘not-spots’ created by B.T.’s digitization by accurately listing as many such sites as possible and she requested the councillors’ assistance in identifying those in Thelbridge parish.

Agenda Item 7: There were no planning applications considered between the meetings of 27th November, 2024 and 21st January, 2025

Agenda Item 8: The ‘not-spots’ mentioned at Agenda Item 6 above are, specifically, those which have been or will be created by the digitization of B.T.’s analogue system. Any lack of broadband (or mobile) cover to those sites will therefore further increase the risk of people being unable to report or summon assistance to any emergency which may occur. All three methods of communication – landline, mobile and internet/broadband – were therefore considered together and it was **agreed** that any known ‘not-spots’ should be emailed to the district councillor: pcolthorpe@middevon.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 9: The vice chairman raised the subject of a dead ash tree on the road between Nomansland and Henceford Cross. The tree is becoming dangerous and Cllr.Grant **agreed** to take any necessary action.

Agenda Item 10: In the absence of a responsible officer ([this is the clerk - FJPC](#)) there were no cheques to sign. There are signatories in place so this can be managed if required.

Agenda Item 11: There were no other items of information or raised for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr.Grant asked if anyone knew the name of the current community police officer.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 19th March, 2025 at 7.30 p.m. at Thelbridge Parish Hall