

# PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN PARISH COUNCIL** held in **Whitchurch Community Hall**  
On **WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at **7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr R Phillips, Cllr I Walton, Cllr E Cole, J Sturmer, Cllr R Pearson-Bunt, Cllr. S. Ware and Cllr. K. Warnes.

**In Attendance:** Caroline Metcalf (Clerk), members of the Westcountry River Trust and one member of the public.

## **141/24. To elect a Chair and receive the Chair's declaration of acceptance of office.**

Cllr. Sturmer nominated Cllr. Phillips as Chair of the Council, seconded by Cllr. Pearson-Bunt. Cllr. Phillips agreed to be Chair for the ensuing year, but requested the Vice-Chair elected who would shadow the Chair, in view of taking over the following year.

## **142/24. Apologies**

Cllr. A. Davies sent her apologies, which was accepted by the Council.

Cllr. Phillips confirmed that Cllr. Alford had resigned from the Council. The Clerk to write to Cllr. Alford, thanking her for all her time and effort she has put into the Council, over the years.

## **143/24. Public Question Time**

One member of the public enquired about the new planning application submitted for 124 houses to be developed at site at Sx 482 72, Tavistock and will the Council take on board the comments of the Parishioners with regards to this application? It was discussed that this application will be discussed and commented on at either the Council meeting to be held on 19th June 2024, or a separate Planning Committee meeting, to be arranged.

## **144/24. To elect a Vice-Chair and receive the Vice-Chair's declaration of acceptance of office.**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## **145/24. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Phillips declared an interest in the item, Talk from representatives of the Westcountry Rivers Trust.

## **146/24. Approval of minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

It was agreed to approve the minutes.

## **147/24. Talk from representatives of the West Country Rivers Trust and their upstreaming Thinking: Rapid Response Catchment project.**

Members from the West Country Rivers Trust gave an update on the rapid response catchment project in the area.

A flood warning system is being developed and the system is being trialled in 9 different communities across Devon and they are looking for 8/9 people in the Parish to join the trial. Information will be sent to the Clerk, to share with the Parish.

Also discussed was the benefits of putting together an emergency plan for the Parish and if the Parish wishes to put a plan together, Devon County Council can provide assistance and offer some funding. It is though not a statutory duty for a Parish to have an emergency plan.

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Cllr. Phillips thanked them for coming to the meeting.

## **148/24. Appointment of Finance, HR and Planning Committee Members**

It was agreed all members of the Council will sit on the Planning Committee.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Cole, Sturmer, Pearson-Bunt and Cllr. Phillips, as Chair of the Council and an ex officio member, to sit on the Finance Committee.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Cole, Sturmer, Pearson-Bunt and Cllr. Phillips, as Chair of the Council, as an ex officio member, to sit on the Finance Committee.

All members of the Council are welcome to attend any committee meeting.

## **149/24. Appointment of Whitchurch Down Consultative Group Representative**

Cllr R Phillips agreed to continue to represent Plasterdown Parish Council and Cllr J Sturmer to serve as the backup.

## **150/24. Reports from Council representatives attending meetings/events of other organizations.**

Cllr Walton as a Trustee of the Whitchurch Community Hall gave an update:

All is looking positive, and bookings are good. The fire escape has been replaced and the hall has been redecorated. Wi-Fi has also been installed. The Chair of the Trustees is currently not very well, and we wish him the best. The Parish Council have donated a portrait of King Charles III to the Hall and Cllr. Walton thanked the Council for the donation and will bring it up at their next meeting.

Cllr Phillips had previously circulated updates to all members on the last meeting he attended for the Whitchurch Down

## **151/24. Consent to receive agendas by email.**

AGREED by all.

## **152/24. Previous matters arising from the minutes not listed as separate items on this agenda:**

- a) Heckwood and the Tiny Wild School

It was noted that there was nothing new to report.

- b) Beating the Bounds

Cllr. Sturmer gave a report on the event which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024. It was discussed that a boundary stone may be missing, Cllr. Walton to follow up on the location with Cllr. Sturmer. Cllr. Sturmer asked whether the Council would consider placing a new boundary stone along the river? After discussion, it was agreed further research was required and to discuss at a later meeting. The next Beating the Bounds event will be on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and be from Rylands to the Dartmoor Inn at Merivale.

- c) Bus Shelter

The shelter has been cleaned and tidied up. Discussions took place on whether to paint a mural on the shelter. After discussions it was agreed to just paint the indoor and outdoor one colour. Cllr. Sturmer to organize volunteers to carry out the paint work. It was agreed that the chairs inside the shelter will be removed and replaced with a bench and a previously agreed noticeboard will be purchased to be placed inside.

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## d) D Day 80th Anniversary

As agreed at the meeting held on 20th March 2024, the lighting of the beacon will take at the old Plasterdown camp at 9.15 pm. It will be an informal gathering and people would be asked to bring their own picnic.

## e) Signpost at Brook Crossroads

It was reported on the 20th of March 2024 meeting, the new signpost is in the wrong place, worded the wrong way round and worded on only one side. The Devon Neighbourhood Highways Officer has raised the issue with the with the relevant team within Devon County Council and will get back to the Clerk, when they have received a reply.

## f) Tree guards at Warrens Cross

A resident reported that one of the tree guards at Warrens Cross, is broken and is concerned that animals could now get at the tree. After discussions it was agreed that the Coles would repair the guard.

### **152/24. Agree Council meeting dates (19<sup>th</sup> June 18<sup>th</sup> July 19<sup>th</sup> September 23<sup>rd</sup> October (including a Finance Committee meeting) and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Discussions took place on the proposed meeting dates for the remainder of the year. All agreed on the dates to hold a social gathering after the 13th of November meeting.

### **153/24. Insurance Renewal Options**

The Clerk presented three insurance renewal options. It was agreed that one quote required more researched and if OK, to accept their quote. If it was deemed not acceptable to renew with Zurich insurance.

### **154/24. Review and approve social media and Electronic Communication Policy**

It was agreed to defer this to a future meeting.

### **155/24. Planning Matters –**

The following planning application was discussed - 1176-24/PTO – Courtenay Cottage, Plymouth Road, Tavistock, PL19 PDS

After discussions, Cllr. Cole proposed supporting the application, seconded by Cllr. Ware. All in agreement.

### **156/24. Approve Invoices for payment.**

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the list of invoices for payment. All agreed to approve the payments.

### **157/24. Initial discussion on an emergency plan for the Parish**

An initial discussion on this had been discussed earlier in the meeting. It was agreed, after further information had been sent, to discuss further at a later date.

### **158/24. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

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### **159/24. Set up Councillors' new Gov.uk email addresses.**

It was agreed that due to technology issues Cllr. Phillips and Pearson-Bunt had experienced setting up their Councillor email addresses, to hold off rolling it out to all Councilors until the issues had been resolved.

### **160/24. Close**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th June 2024 at Whitchurch Community Hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.