

# PLASTERDOWN GROUPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN GROUPE PARISH COUNCIL** held in  
**Whitchurch Community Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr R. Phillips (Chair of the Council), Cllr. R. Pearson-Bunt, Cllr. Sturmer, Cllr. S. Ware.

In Attendance: Caroline Metcalf, Parish Clerk, Cllr. M. Renders, West Devon Borough Councilor,

## **295/25. Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. E. Cole, A. Davies and I. Walton sent their apologies. Accepted by the Council.

Cllr. P. Sanders, Devon County Councillor sent his apologies.

## **296/25. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Philips and Cllr. Pearson-Bunt declared an interest in the item, Previous matters arising from the minutes – Updates on issues raised to Devon Highways.

## **297/25. Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

## **298/25. Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

### **Amendment to Minute No: 286/25(c)**

Cllr. Sturmer proposed an amendment to the minute and reword "No further information to pass on at this time" to "Officer activity is ongoing." All agreed. Subject to this amendment, all agreed to adopt the minutes.

## **299/25. Receive reports from the County and Borough Councillors**

Cllr. P. Sanders, Devon County Councillor had sent his apologies.

### **Cllr. Renders, West Devon Borough Councilor:**

The Government's planned devolution remains a key topic of discussion and the Council awaiting further developments and updates. The Council have completed its forward plan for the next financial year and is revisiting the Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP). However, devolution could significantly impact plans.

## **300/25. Previous matters arising from the minutes not listed as separate items on this agenda:**

- a) **Update on issues raised to Devon Highways** – The Moor Shop sign has lost another arm, and the other reported signposts have not yet been corrected. The Clerk to chase up again.  
Cllr. Philips reported the flooding at Ashmill Bridge to Devon Highways. Devon Highways has indicated that an assessment is expected to be completed by 19th March. The Clerk will follow up if there is no response by that date.

The possibility of employing a Lengthsman was discussed, and it was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries. As this would incur a cost to the Parish Council, it was suggested that a Locality Grant be sought from Devon County Council to help fund their services.

Cllr. Pearson-Bunt raised concerns about the A386 near her property, highlighting the frequent accidents caused by speeding. The Clerk had previously contacted Devon Highways, who advised that this issue should be addressed with the Police. It was agreed that the Clerk will follow up with the Police. Additionally, the Clerk will contact the Clerk of Horrabridge Parish Council, who previously informed her that their Council had applied to the Police for approval to implement a temporary one-way system around the village during incidents. The Clerk will seek further details on this to share with the Council.

- b) **Update on Boundary Stones/Engravings on Ward Bridge** – The Council is still awaiting a response from the County Archaeologist regarding the proposed engravings on Ward Bridge. The Clerk will follow up again. Cllr. Sturmer discussed proposed locations for the additional boundary stones and asked whether members were aware of the

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landowners for certain proposed sites. It was suggested that this information could be obtained by checking the Land Registry or consulting with neighbouring property owners.

- c) **Drake's Café nomination for Community Asset** – West Devon Borough Council has advised that the submitted nomination requires additional information, and without this, the ability to designate the land as a community asset may be limited. Discussions concluded with agreement that Cllr. Philip would speak directly with the landowner to explain the reasons behind the Council's nomination. Additionally, a press release will be issued to inform residents that the Parish has nominated the site as a community asset and to outline the reasons for this decision. The Parish would therefore be seeking a group to come forward to manage and operate the site.
- d) **Sampford Spiney defibrillator** – The Church has requested that the Parish Council donate 50% of the total cost to purchase the defibrillator. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, and Cllr. Sturmer noted that the minutes implies that the Council did agree to donate 50% of the cost. The minute though does state that the exact amount of the donation would be discussed at a future meeting. After further discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Church to explain that the amount the Council would be able to donate will be discussed at the Finance Meeting on 16th April. The recommendation will then be reviewed and agreed upon at the Council meeting, which follows the Finance meeting.
- e) **South Hams Motor Club Primrose Rally – 11/12th January 2025** – The Clerk has written to the Police and UK Motorsports again, but still not received a response. The Clerk would continue to try and get a response.
- f) **VE Day – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025** – Cllr. Davies was not present at the meeting to provide an update. The Clerk to follow up with Cllr. Davies and create a poster to advertise the event.

## **301/25. Code of Conduct and Civility & Respect Training**

As three members of the Council were absent from the meeting, all agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

## **302/25. Review and approval of Risk Management Scheme**

All agreed to approve.

## **303/25. Review and approval of Publication Scheme**

All agreed to approve.

## **304/25. Planning applications to consider and updates**

At the last meeting a member of public raised concern regarding caravans and a newly constructed car park/driveway on a neighboring property. The Clerk has spoken to a Planning Officer at Dartmoor National Park, and they have provided the below update:

- 'We are aware of the mobile home in the paddock which is occupied by a Ukrainian family. This is an ongoing situation, and we recognise that this currently is a breach of planning control. To achieve lawfulness the caravan would have to be occupied for a continuous period of 10 years, not 4. The Authority would not allow a period of 10 years to pass before taking appropriate action. The mobile home in the garden area is different because it does not breach planning control. Planning permission is not required to site and use a caravan in your own garden land as long as the use is connected with the enjoyment of the dwelling which is I understand the case.'

## **305/25. Update on the latest National Planning guidance**

Cllr. Philips had attended the online meeting and commented that a question was asked about how devolution will affect local plans, for example the JLP. The Clerk to send out the recording and presentation of the meeting, once received.

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## **306/25. Approve the following Invoices for Payment:**

- Clerk's February 2025 monthly salary and Cloud Next annual renewal - £198.40 + £49.99
- HMRC ending 5 April 2025 - £43
- Printing Costs - £18

Payments approved by all.

Two payments not listed on the agenda:

- Hire of Whitchurch Community Hall - £32
- Stationery & Stamps, payable to the Clerk - £39.24

Payments approved by all.

## **307/25. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm at Whitchurch Community Hall.**

1. Sampford Spiney defibrillator.
2. Boundary Stones/Ward Bridge
3. Code of Conduct and Civility & Respect training
4. Government reorganization.
5. Drake's Café nomination for Community Asset.
6. VE Day – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
7. Projector.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Council

Date: