

Minutes of the Littlehempston Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 2nd 2018

Present: Cllrs Morris, Hine-Haycock, Whybrow and Ash together with DCC Cllr Hawkins and SHDC Cllr Pennington.

There were no members of the public present.

Item 1. Cllr Hine-Haycock proposed Cllr Morris as Chair of the Parish Council for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr Ash. Cllr Morris was duly elected as Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance document, witnessed by the Clerk.

Item 2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Eyers.

Cllr Morris proposed Cllr Whybrow as Vice Chair for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr Ash. Cllr Whybrow was then duly elected as Vice Chair.

Item 3. There were no declarations of interest.

Item 4. The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as being correct and signed.

Item 5. Matters arising

Arrangements for the administration of the joint TAP fund grant between Staverton, Dartington and Littlehempston have not yet been progressed. This is now in the hands of Cllr Luscombe from Staverton and the Clerk was asked to enquire of him as to how best to take the matter forward.

Nothing further has been heard from someone who wished to talk to the Cllrs about a Rainbow Crossing in Totnes. He has not contacted the PC again and neither did he attend a recent HATOC meeting to speak to members there.

Item 6. Public Forum. There was no Public Forum

Item 7. Correspondence

The Chair said that parishioners had received a letter regarding an optic fibre cable being laid directly to the Littlehempston Exchange by a private company. This could be accessed by householders paying to have it connected to their homes for the cost of approximately £40.00 per month plus a connection fee.

The Clerk received details of a case where a complaint had been made by a parishioner about a planning breach. This had been investigated by the Enforcement Officer who found it to be "not expedient to take formal action" so has closed the case. The precedent that this sets greatly concerns the PC.

Application details for a grant from the Calor Rural Community Fund have been passed to the Littlehempston Land group who might want to apply for work to be carried out on the recently acquired community land .

Cllr Hine-Haycock has submitted his resignation from the PC with effect from the end of the meeting and a Casual Vacancy Notice will be posted in the parish tomorrow.

Item 9. Clerk & Cllr Reports

Cllr Hawkins asked for an update on the discussions with SDR as the subject was raised at the recent HATOC meeting. It appears that no shift in views has taken place. Cllr Hawkins offered to set up a meeting with them and himself, Jacquie Hodgson and local parish leaders to see if plans can be progressed in some way.

Cllr Pennington reported on the savings which had been delivered since the merger of staff from South Hams and West Devon District Councils. These have been made by a workforce reduction of 30% and have allowed the financing of extra staff in certain key areas – e.g. 5 more case managers in the Enforcement team - and the District Council has achieved its annual savings target. He also introduced SHDC's new initiative "The Transformation Programme" which proposes that a wholly-owned company is formed by the Council to purchase and hold housing stock. Houses/flats would be for local people and let at "an affordable rent" with the aim of helping people to access property at prices they can afford. The South West is one of the most unaffordable regions in the country as average house prices are 10 times the average earning of a local family. A meeting will be held this week to discuss the matter. Cllr Pennington is very much in favour of it.

Cllr Whybrow has met some people involved in the recent land purchases in the village and had some interesting observations to make. She also suggested that the PC fund new flowering cherry trees along the village lane as several have died. It was decided to wait until the management of the community land is set up and then to discuss this with them.

The Clerk reported on a training session at Follaton House on the new planning process "Permission in Principle". She has already summarised her learning in an email to all Cllrs and sent them power-point slides of the presentation.

Cllr Evers input on the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) has been postponed until the next meeting. Meanwhile the Clerk has asked the Village webmaster how best to configure our input to the website in order to comply with the new regulations.

The Clerk was asked to check the current level of salt supplies with the Parish Snow Warden.

Item 10. Planning There were no new planning applications received this month

Item 11. Finances

The Clerk distributed the Littlehempston Parish Council Accounts for year ending 31st March 2018. These have traditionally detailed the previous 4 years Income and Expenditure. However it was agreed that the format should be simplified as many items/grants change annually. The presentation will therefore be revised to display just 2 years of retrospective data.

Item 12. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on June 6th 2018

The Chair accepted Cllr Hine-Haycock's resignation from the Parish Council at the end of the meeting and thanked him for his sterling and much appreciated service over the past 8 years as a Councillor and then as both Chair and Vice Chair. Councillors endorsed that thanks and wished him every success in the future.