

Gulworthy Parish Council

Minutes of annual council meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023

at Gulworthy Parish Hall

No 154

These minutes are provisional until they are agreed and signed by the chair at the next meeting of the parish council.

Councillors present - J.Hamilton, S Porter, G Lister (Acting Chair), W Miller, K Steer and D. Edwards

Meeting opened 7.35pm

1. Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Edwards to propose Cllr Royston, seconded by Cllr Lister. Agreed by all. It was agreed for Cllr Royston to sign the declaration of acceptance of office before the next meeting.

2. Election of Vice Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice

It was proposed by Cllr Hamilton to propose Cllr Lister. Seconded by Cllr Miller. Agreed by all.

3. Councillors consent to receive agendas via email – It was agreed by all present that consent is given to receive agendas by email.

4. Chairman's welcome – Cllr Lister welcomed and thanked all those present, particularly the two members of the public, the new Ward Cllr for Bere Ferrers, Cllr Isabel Saxby and new Parish Councillor, Katherine Steer.

5. Members of the public – Open forum – 1 person came to talk about Zip World, who we have been told recently instructed a firm to carry out a site survey which took place on 6 May 2023 at Tamar trails. He also confirmed that 1 of the Directors from Tree Surfers has recently resigned. It was mentioned that many of the previous objection comments (to the previous application) have been removed off the West Devon Borough Council planning site. There has been a change in the Head of planning at West Devon Borough Council, we were told the Head of South Hams planning has swapped roles with the Head of West Devon Borough Council planning. It was said that Tamar Valley AONB voted against the first application. And the original proposal was to remove about 296 trees on site to make way for the new installation.

The other member of the public said about concerns with the planning site and again previous comments not being made available. Also the contamination in the land should not be disturbed and the support the existing tree roots will give to the structure of the site (which is on a steep slope). New trees are not a replacement. Both members of the public will continue in their investigations to try and stop an external theme park invading West Devon. It was mentioned about local people working together on this application as they have the local knowledge.

6. Apologies received from Cllr K Royston, Rev'd Judith Blowey, Cllr A Blackman and Cllr D Sellis.

7. Dispensations & declarations of Interest – None.

8. Minutes of previous meeting 153 to be approved and signed by the chair as true and accurate record of that meeting – It was proposed by Cllr Hamilton to approve, seconded by Cllr Edwards. Agreed by all. Cllr Lister signed the minutes.

9. Planning applications received to-date:

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9.1 0334/23/HHO – 4 Bowrish Cottage, Crease Lane – No comment made and noted.

10. Planning applications received after publication of this agenda - No new applications received but 0426/23/HHO and 0427/23/HHO (for the The Toll House) has been withdrawn.

11. DCC Cllr Sellis report – Not available.

12. WDBC Cllrs Saxby & Blackman – reports – Cllr Saxby has recently been elected and joined the meeting. She is carrying out a ‘needs’ and ‘wants’ survey over the next 3 months. She was very pleased to be at this evenings meeting. No report from Cllr Blackman.

13. Burial ground – 13.1 – Moles – status – The Clerk confirmed the mole activity was now minimal. The Clerk also carried out a full risk assessment on the cemetery this evening which she will circulate.

14. Finance

14.1 – Invoices for approval to be paid –

Clerk WAH allowance £6.00p.w.x4 + mileage	£119.18
Clerk April payroll £334.90 plus tax & NI £83.60	£418.50
Invoice 2426 Eliot Groundcare 2 x cemetery grass cuts April	£150.00
Invoice SI-3721 SPS Marketing – Annual website and domain name	£275.94
Invoice 4643 – DALC annual membership	£155.96
Invoice 1580 – Caroline Harris Bookkeeping services	£165.00
Invoice from internal auditor Julie Snooks	£175.00
Annual insurance renewal from Zurich Insurance	£380.48*
Clerk to be paid 10 extra hours for burial and audit work	£139.50**

It was proposed by Cllr Edwards to authorise all of the above for payment via BACs. Seconded by Cllr Porter. Agreed by all. * Clerk still checking on a couple of items. Premium may be lower. **will be added to next PAYE.

14.2 – To note Credits received

First half precept of £3366.50 – Noted.

14.3 – Year end

Internal auditor report – The Clerk read out the sections of the report and the comments made by the internal auditor to all those present. The burial ground was discussed and it was agreed for a site meeting to take place as soon as feasibly possible.

AGAR 2022/23– Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) – Cllr Lister read out points 1-9 on the Annual Governance Statement. It was proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Steer to approve. Cllr Lister signed Section 1.

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Annual Accounting Statements (Section 2) for the year ended 31.03.2023 – All members present said they had seen the figures (previously circulated). It was proposed by Cllr Porter to approve, seconded by Cllr Miller. Agreed by all. Cllr Lister signed Section 2.

AGAR 2022/23 – Certificate of Exemption – It was proposed by Cllr Porter that the certificate of exemption (Form 2) be approved. Seconded by Cllr Miller and agreed by all. Cllr Lister signed Form 2.

15. Highways

15.1 Temporary prohibition of through traffic – Tuesday 30 May – Friday 2 June 2023 – Noted. Will be added to website.

AOB

It was noted the poor road surface from Orestocks to the Gravity Head Junction has been reported by Bere Ferrers to WDBC.

The defibrillator maintenance schedule/understanding of, will be followed by Clerk and members.

Meeting closed at 8:56pm.

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