

# Gulworthy Parish Council

## Minutes of ordinary meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at Gulworthy Parish Hall

### No 172

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

**Councillors present** – Cllr K Royston (Chair), Cllr D Edwards, Cllr K Steer and Cllr W Hamilton

**Also present** – Cllr Blackman, Cllr Sellis, 3 members of the public and Emily Young (Parish Clerk)

### Meeting opened 7.35pm

1. **Chairman's welcome** Cllr Royston thanked and welcomed everyone for coming. She asked for everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Members of the public** – *To consider requests from members of the public to make representations, answer questions or give evidence in respect of Council business under Standing Orders 3d to 3n.*

Two members of the public from Morwellham said they were very sorry to hear of the breakin's at Morwellham Quay.

They also said that they had read last months' minutes about the speed of traffic outside Gulworthy hall, church and school and wanted to say they feel strongly that there is speeding traffic and asked for the Clerk to note there are no pavements in this area which means there is only a snapshot of time to keep out of a vehicles way. There is no safe area for children to wait, they are either pushed against the parked car or in the road.

Cllr Steer suggested a joint 'round table' meeting between the hall, church, school and parish council. Cllr Royston said she will arrange this.

Also the two members of the public said they regularly use the Morwellham Quay crossing and they are very concerned about the safety. It is very difficult to safely join the Bere Alston road from this junction as the speed of this road is 60mph.

Clerk to check with Cllr Lister to see what engagement he has had with Sgt Ottley following last month's meeting regarding this junction.

It was also mentioned about the ongoing Airband broadband struggles and lack of communication. The Chair read out an email received today from CDS who have said that the contract with Airband has now been re-negotiated, and excludes the properties in Gulworthy Parish previously in contract. Some properties in the Morwellham Quay area have gone ahead with a more expensive service but feel retrospective voucher payment should be offered as Airband have breached their contract.

A locality funding application has been submitted for the local litter picking scheme for 10 x signs and 2 x banners.

Revd Blowey said the Remembrance Sunday service will commence at 10.55am this Sunday at Gulworthy church.

The school nativity play is scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm in the church.

### **Parish Councillors**

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**2 members of the public left the meeting.**

- 3. To accept apologies for absence** - *Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, members present should decide whether to approve the reason(s) given for absence.*

**Apologies were received from Cllr Lister.**

- 4. Dispensations & declarations of Interest** - *Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it. Requests for Dispensations should be made in writing to the Parish Clerk in advance of the meeting.*

**None declared.**

- 5. Minutes of previous meeting 171 to be approved and then signed by the chair as a true and accurate record of that meeting** - *To accept as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1).*

It was proposed by Cllr Hamilton to approve the minutes, seconded by Cllr Steer and agreed by all. Cllr Royston signed and dated the minutes.

- 6. Matters arising** - *To ensure the tasks assigned at the previous meeting have been completed*

**None**

- 7. Planning applications received to-date:**

**7.1 None received.**

**7.2 Planning applications received after publication of this agenda – 3298/24/HHO – 21 Mill Hill Cottages – Householder application for installation of Air Source Heat Pump** – Deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Royston to contact the planning officer with some questions.

**7.3 Planning appeals** – None.

- 8. DCC Cllr Sellis** – report – **SEN** (Special Educational Needs) are looking at a shared service site with Ivybridge which potentially will be a new build on Alexander Road.

**Family Hubs** – Action for Children have been commissioned to provide universal care.

Cllr Sellis has put leaflets out in Tavistock to ask people about Tavy concerns and the most common response has been speed of traffic and potholes.

Cllr Sellis attended the **Tamar Valley National Landscapes annual forum** where it was said they are going to work more closely with the 'Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape'. The TVNL's priority is nature with concerns being raised about the lack of biodiversity. Later in the week Cllr Sellis is meeting with officers about the state of the roads in the town of Tavistock and will be asking for block paving.

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## 9. WDBC Cllrs Saxby & Blackman –

### Cllr Blackman – report:

West Devon Borough Council has been discussing the removal of the winter fuel allowance for many pensioners, and considering how they may help.

Overview and Scrutiny are still trying to get more resources.

Happy to contribute towards the new noticeboard for Gulworthy PC. Clerk to follow up.

Cllr Blackman will be attending the budget meeting later this year.

On 13 Nov 10am-1pm at Tavistock library BT will be on site to talk to anyone about the ‘copper switch off’ programme.

19 November is a key date for Farmers concerned with the recent government budget.

10. **Gulworthy Cllr reports – for information only – Cllr Hamilton** – He feels the roads appear better. **Cllr Steer** – Some small potholes have been filled but not others. She recently reported fly tipping at Lumburn. Clerk to add Report fly tipping on website. **Cllr Edwards** – Would like to see the Gulworthy roundabout being tidied up. Cllr Sellis to follow up. **Cllr Royston** – Highlighted DALCs (free) Devons housing crisis on-line event on 7<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm together with Devon Housing Commission’s recent report (<https://news.exeter.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024EI047-Devon-Housing-Commission-Final-Report-v8.pdf>) Also the governments consultation on **allowing councils to use virtual attendance** at council meetings: link <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-standards-and-conduct/remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting/>

## 11. Burial ground

11.1 – **Review of regulations, prices and interment form** – Deferred to next meeting. All Cllrs to send Clerk questions before the next meeting.

11.2 - **Free landmark tree – Devon Wildlife Trust** – Clerk asked to apply for a small leaf lime tree probably for the cemetery.

**Cllrs Sellis, Cllr Blackman and 1 x public left the meeting**

## 12. Finance - *To approve the list of payments (to be tabled at the meeting) LGA 1972 s150 (5)*

### 12.1 – Invoices for approval to be paid –

Clerk expenses WAH allowance £6.00p.w + mileage + expenses	£44.50
Clerk October payroll	£358.80
HMRC Tax and NI for October 2024	£Nil
Elliott groundcare – <i>Invoice 2749 (9 and 10 cuts plus weed removal)</i>	£185.00
Gulworthy parish hall – November meeting – Inv to follow	£21.37
Poppy wreath c/o Cllr Steer	£18.50

**It was proposed by Cllr Royston to authorise the above payments via BACs, seconded by Cllr Hamilton. Agreed by all.**

12.2 – **Request for spending – Cemetery contractor quotations** – Clerk had obtained 3 fixed price quotations to maintain the cemetery for the next 3 years. Cllrs reviewed all

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responses and Cllr Edwards proposed Elliott Ground care seconded by Cllr Hamilton and agreed by all. Clerk to arrange paperwork.

**12.3 – Credits received** – None.

**12.4 – Bank reconciliations** - see separate RFO report to be provided (RFO No 172)

	<u>Paid Out</u>	<u>Paid In</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
<b><u>Club, Charity &amp; Trust account (00298624)</u></b> Opening Balance as at 30 September 2024 b/fwd			<b>£7,130.07</b>	
<u>Receipts</u>				
<b><u>Expenditure:</u></b>				
<b><u>08/10/2024</u></b>				
The Green Stationery Company	£87.80			
Clerk September expenses	£48.00			
HMRC	£17.80			
West Devon non contested election charges	£75.33			
Gulworthy parish hall October meeting	£19.00			
Signs of Cheshire – noticeboard 50% deposit	£284.95			
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£532.88</b>			
			<b>£6,597.19</b>	
<b>Balance on 29 October 2024</b>				
<b><u>Gulworthy Cemetery account (00020251)</u></b> Opening balance as at 30.09.2024			<b>£13,506.58</b>	
<u>Expenditure</u>				
08/10/2024 – Elliott groundcare Inv 2728	£75.00			
16/10/2024 – Derek Henry Ross – Moles in cemetery	£90.00			
<u>Credit receipts</u>				
10/10/2024 credit interest		£16.49		
<b>Balance on 29 October 2024</b>			<b>£13,358.07</b>	
<b><u>Gulworthy Fundraising account (00035992)</u></b> Opening balance as at 30.09.2024			<b>£4,972.47</b>	
<u>Credit receipts</u>				
10/10/2024 credit interest		£5.47		
<b>Balance on 29 October 2024</b>			<b>£4,977.94</b>	
<b>Combined balance £24,933.20</b> <b>(No differences to the bank statements)</b>				

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It was proposed by Cllr Steer to approve the RFO report, seconded by Cllr Royston. Agreed by all

**12.5 – Budget 2025-2026** – to consider initial thoughts for setting budget for coming year – **Deferred to next meeting. Clerk to circulate budget template to all.**

**12.6 – Internet banking** Cllr Lister had been in to branch and now had internet banking. It was proposed by Cllr Steer to also give Cllr Royston ‘full access’ to the bank, seconded by Cllr Edwards, agreed by all. Cllr Royston to complete application form given by Clerk.

**12.7 - Internal Controls policy** (see separate document sent). It was proposed by Cllr Royston to adopt this policy, seconded by Cllr Edwards, agreed by all.

**12.8 – Clerks pay review scales and hourly rates to note revised nationally agreed pay scales and agree scales and payment of increased rates to Clerk including backdating of payments to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024** – Proposed by Cllr Royston to accept, seconded by Cllr Edwards, agreed by all.

**13. Update on Gulworthy Primary School** (Cllr Steer). No recent update.

**14. Bus shelter** (Clerk) – Clerk confirmed new noticeboard now on order.

**15. Village fete** (all) – Cllr Royston still compiling feedback from fete. Deferred.

**16. Co-option of new Cllr** – deferred.

**17. Snow warden** – Clerk to follow up with Cllr Lister.

**18. Agree attendees of Remembrance Sunday** – Cllr Royston to attend.

**19. Temporary traffic road closures:** None.

Meeting closed at 9.31pm.

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