

Gulworthy Parish Council

Minutes of ordinary meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2024 at Gulworthy Parish Hall

No 173

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 K Steer and Cllr W Hamilton

Also present – 3 members of the public

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.*

One Member of the Public came to express concern about the Consultation from Gulworthy Academy to open a Nursery. Whilst they have no issues with extending the age range of the school, they expressed grave concern about the lack of information in the Consultation letter. Indeed for those families already with children at the school it would be beneficial for younger siblings to attend a nursery setting on site, however there was no detail in the Consultation about additional numbers of children at the school, or members of staff. Traffic and parking at school drop off and pick up time is already a concern and there is no information available about the impact of additional vehicle movements. The member of the public also expressed concern over the loss of the outdoor learning at play space which is well used by the Foundation year. They don't see how it can be deemed a proper consultation with such little information provided.

Airband was raised by another member of the public who is living in an area that has some infrastructure installed, but as it is understood, this hasn't been correctly installed and the fibre cable cannot be correctly connected up. Having contacted Airband to try and get connected, he has now received an email to say that after the restructure Airband are no longer responsible for putting it in. Councillor Royston explained that CDS are the new contact and the Council is due to be meeting with them shortly to discuss residents concerns.

Another member of the public mentioned that Sir Geoffery Cox is looking into the mandate for Openreach with regards to the cut off date for copper lines, as the situation with Airband puts pressure on them to push ahead with Fibre installation. It was commented that it was unfortunate that there was no Borough or County representatives as they could help with input on such matters, that they wanted to raise. With regards to Planning and the air source heat pump application it is believed it will be subject to building regulations. It was also mentioned that Ofgem have completed a consultation about a change in the regulations for different energy provisions for different areas. It may be an opportunity for the area South of the A390 incorporating the Bere Peninsula to look at alternative sources of energy.

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1 member 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 Sellis, Cllr Blackman, Cllr Saxby and the Parish Clerk.

- 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.*

Cllr Steer declared an interest with Children at the School (item 7.2).

- 5. Minutes of previous meeting 172 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 5th November 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 will sign and date the minutes at the next meeting.

The Chairman brought forward **agenda item 7.2** to discuss the School Consultation proposal. Concerns were raised about the lack of detail in the consultation letter and the removal of outdoor play space for the foundation year, particularly when there are three year groups in one classroom. Councillor Hamilton commented that this might be a good opportunity to get the Gulworthy School Kitchen back up and running again. **Councillor Royston proposed that the response from the Parish Council should be "Thank you for inviting us to respond to the Consultation for Gulworthy Academy to open a Nursery facility. We welcome the provision of nursery facilities at the School. However the lack of information on the detail makes it difficult to comment and would like to invite a representative along to a Parish Council meeting to explain in more detail to the Parish what is being planned and the future of the School kitchen."** Seconded by Cllr Hamilton - all in favour.

- 6. Matters arising** - *To ensure the tasks assigned at the previous meeting have been completed*
Cllr Royston is to organise a round table meeting – further details to follow. The Bank form has been submitted and TSB has emailed Cllr Royston for more information, Planning officer not contacted.

7. Planning applications received to-date:

7.1 Reference: 3298/24/HHO – Householder application for installation of Air Source Heat

Pump – 21 Mill Hill Cottages, Mill Hill - Cllr Royston expressed concern about the location of the Air Source Heat Pump being located away from the House and near the neighbours conservatory. The PC would like to better understand the siting reasons. It was proposed by Cllr Royston to support this application on the understanding that it is not inconveniencing the neighbours. Seconded by Cllr Hamilton agreed by all.

2 members of the Public left the meeting

7.2 Reference: LAP SW Consultation: Gulworthy Primary Academy – proposals to extend age range –
See above.

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7.3 Planning applications received after publication of this agenda – None.

7.4 Planning appeals – none.

8. DCC Cllr Sellis – absent with apology but no report.

9. WDBC Cllrs Saxby and Blackman – both absent with apology, no report.

10. Gulworthy Cllr reports – Cllr Royston expressed disappointment that the Zipworld application was refused by an officer, particularly when Cllr Saxby was asked and had agreed to call it in to Committee because of the importance of the application to the area. Cllr Royston referred to an email from Cllr Saxby which referred to a consultation with Cllr Blackman about calling it to Committee. As Chairman of the PC would like to write to Cllr Saxby to say that “it is our understanding that if we ask something to be called to Committee, then we believe it will be. We were disappointed that in your email to Cllr Royston you have appeared to take the matter out of our hands.”

Cllr Royston will speak to the owner of Tree surfers to invite them along to the next meeting to better understand the future plans for the business and see if there are any ways that the community can support them. Discussion ensued over the merits of the Zipworld application and the resultant planning decision.

Cllr Royston would like to send Thanks to Will Ryan for his time and engagement.

Meet the Leader Event in Okehampton – no one from Gulworthy PC is able to attend, can we invite them to our meeting?

Cllr Royston has been contacted by a potential new Councillor, which she will follow up.

WDBC has a thermal camera to use on homes to identify areas that can be retrofitted. Cllr Royston is keen for our Community to make use of it and would like to identify a person who could champion it; encouraging homes to look at opportunities to retrofit and insulate. Could tack it on to the Round Table meeting with School, Hall, Church.

Cllr Royston asked if fellow Councillors had looked to set up their Gulworthy PC .gov. email address, both Cllr Steer and Hamilton have and are in the process of setting them up.

Cllr Royston would like to investigate “Welcome to Gulworthy Parish Signs” as a traffic calming measure. Cllr Steer suggested making a feature of them, such as incorporating a stone wall/wicket gate. Clerk to check on permissions.

Cllr Hamilton raised a discussion over the repercussions and implications for businesses of the inheritance tax budget proposals. Cllr Royston enquired how we can support these businesses and whether we can get people together and invite a professional along to speak with a WDBC Economic Development Officer plus Cllrs Saxby, Blackman and Sellis.

Cllr Steer expressed concern over the increase in fly tipping incidents in the Parish.

11. Burial ground

11.1 – Review of regulations, prices and interment form – deferred to next meeting.

11.2 – Risk assessment - Proposed by Cllr Royston to approve, seconded by Cllr Hamilton, agreed by all.

11.3– To note the interment of T/L Mr Emery 2nd December 2024 – Noted.

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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	£56.50
Clerk November payroll	£536.40
HMRC Tax and NI for November 2024	£44.40
Gulworthy parish hall – December meeting – Inv no 690	£21.37
ICO (Data Protection fee)	£40.00

On the understanding that the RFO has certified invoices as correct and due for payment – approval to pay invoices by BACs was proposed by Cllr Steer and Seconded by Cllr Royston, agreed by all.

12.2 – Request for spending – None.

12.3 – Credits received – £300.00 from WDBC: £150.00 Cllr Saxby and £150.00 Cllr Blackman grant towards new noticeboard - **Thanks to Cllr Saxby and Blackman for grants towards the new noticeboard.**

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12.4 – Bank reconciliations - (RFO No 173) – As at 26 November 2024

	<u>Paid Out</u>	<u>Paid In</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Club, Charity & Trust account (00298624)			
Opening Balance as at 29 October 2024 b/fwd			£6,597.19
<u>Receipts</u>			
22/11/24 – West Devon Borough Council – grant		£300.00	
Expenditure:			
05/11/2024			
Clerk expenses	£44.50		
Poppy wreath	£18.50		
Clerk payroll	£358.80		
14/11/24			
Gulworthy parish hall November meeting	£21.37		
21/11/24			
Signs of Cheshire – noticeboard Final balance	£284.95		
Total expenditure	£728.12		
Balance on 26 November 2024			£6,169.07
Gulworthy Cemetery account (00020251)			
Opening balance as at 29.10.2024			£13,358.07
<u>Expenditure</u>			
05/11/2024 – Elliott groundcare Inv 2749	£185.00		
<u>Credit receipts</u>			
10/11/2024 credit interest		£16.84	
Balance on 26 November 2024			£13,189.91
Gulworthy Fundraising account (00035992)			
Opening balance as at 29.10.2024			£4,977.94
<u>Credit receipts</u>			
10/11/2024 credit interest		£5.66	
Balance on 26 November 2024			£4,9863.60
Combined balance £24,342.58			
(No differences to the bank statements)			

Proposed by Cllr Royston to approve the RFO report, seconded by Cllr Hamilton, agreed by all.

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12.5 – Budget 2025-2026 – To set budget for coming year – **deferred to next meeting.**

12.6 – Internet banking update - Cllr Royston has received an email from TSB stating there is information missing on the system, will follow up with a phone call.

13. Update on Gulworthy Primary School (Cllr Steer) - Cllr Steer said the main school news was the nursery consultation mentioned earlier. A range of Christmas activities and events coming up. Cllr Royston suggested contacting the Tamar Valley Community Engagement Officer – will pass details on to the school.

14. Bus shelter (Clerk) - **is in need of some attention and smartening up!**

15. Village fete (Cllr Royston) – **work not yet completed.**

16. Co-option of new Cllrs

17. Office closure - 23 Dec – 6 January inclusive – **noted.**

18. 2025 meeting dates and times – 13 January, 12th May other months will be first Monday each month excluding August where there is no meeting.

19. Whole risk assessment – **Proposed by Cllr Steer to approve, seconded by Cllr Royston, agreed by all.**

20. Temporary traffic road closures:

Roads affected – None

Meeting closed at 9.23pm.

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