

MARWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
Report of the COUNCIL MEETING 6 April 2017
Marwood Methodist Church Hall, Guineaford

Before the Parish Council Meeting, a member of the public addressed the meeting regarding his and other residents concern with the amount of mud being left on local roads. He said the problem seems to have increased over the last few years. Soil is washed from neighbouring fields blocking drains and causing local flooding. A copy of the NFU Briefing on this subject had been sent to Members by the Clerk.

The Parish Council Meeting started at 19.45

Members Present: Cllrs. C Latham, R Berry, D Chugg, S Button, A Skentelbery, C Spear, C Wallis

Apologies: Cllrs. Mrs S Darling, T Bigge. Cllr F Tucker. PCSO Kingdon

In Attendance: Cllr Mrs Davis. M J Measures (Clerk to the Council)

Eight members of the public.

Disclosable Interests. Cllrs C Latham, D Chugg, R Berry declared a personal interest on the item regarding "mud on the road" (Minute 4729)

Chairman's Discretion. Meeting Date

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 2 March 2017

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record

Police Report

In the absence of PCSO Kingdon the Clerk read the crime report for the last month. Burglary to workshop (power and hand tools stolen); two criminal damage; theft from motor vehicle (investigation on-going, suspect on bail).

Reports from County and District Councillors

In the absence of Cllr Tucker the Clerk read his report. The two social houses in the Prixford development attracted 79 applicants and two from within the Parish are currently being interviewed. Cllr Mrs Davis reported that the new Chairman of North Devon Council is Cllr Sue Croft and the Vice-Chairman is Cllr John Moore.

It was agreed that this was an appropriate time to discuss the matter of "mud on the roads" and Cllr Mrs Davis circulated copies of information from Devon County Council regarding "Farming and the Public Highway". Members commented that in a farming area it is only to be expected, that at certain times, there will be an increase in the amount of mud on the roads but efforts are made to keep this to a minimum. A major problem is that drains are frequently blocked and not regularly cleaned. This task used to be carried out by the Parish Lengthsman but the service is no longer available due to lack of funds. The Parish Council does carry out some drain clearing. The public were informed that DCC can be contacted direct via the website to report any problems. The Clerk read an information bulletin from the NFU (copy attached to the Minutes) which emphasised the need for all road users to drive carefully through local roads.

Cllr Mrs Davis thanked the Parish Council for their support over the last four years and hoped to be re-elected to continue to serve as County Councillor.

Six members of the public and Cllr Mrs Davis left the meeting at 20.20

Correspondence

Correspondence has been sent to Councillors via e-mail. Letter from Marwood Preschool once again thanking the Parish Council for the grant and giving and stating that the OFSTED inspection was reported as "good". DCC Road Closure Notice, Windy Cross to Lee Cottages Ashford on Thursday 27 April

Finance

Invoices passed for payment: £176.77 (DALC Annual Affiliation Fee); £1458.00 (Defib Stores Ltd. for the purchase of a defibrillator to be installed in the BT Kiosk in Muddiford)

The cost is met by a grant from Fullabrook CIC and a grant from North Devon Council (Cllr. Tucker's Local Councillor Grant). The Clerk reported the balance at 6 April as £6001.48 (this includes P3 funds and Transparency Code funds).

The Clerk reported that he is in the process of preparing the end of year Financial Statement but has not yet received the bank statement for 31 March from Lloyds.

Members agreed to appoint Claire Hummerston as the Internal Auditor, as last year.

The Clerk will present the Annual Finance Statement, the Annual Governance Statement and Financial Risk Assessment to the meeting in May.

Planning Matters

62715 – 2 Whitefield Villas Muddiford. Extension to dwelling (amended design to that approved by planning application 60918. **Recommend : Approval**

62839 – 1 Hewish Cottages Muddiford. Partially retrospective for the erection of a replacement garage/storage building together with ancillary works. **Recommend : Approval**

Two members of the public left the meeting at 20.25

Cllr Chugg said he understood a North Devon Homes property at Whitehall Cottages has been sold on the open market. He asked the Clerk to find out if this is true.

Provision of a Defibrillator

The Clerk informed Members that BT has confirmed the transfer and decommissioning of the kiosk and that the invoice has now been received for payment of the defibrillator (see Minute 4731). Muddiford Inn Group will be responsible for the installation, training, servicing, management and reporting of the defibrillator.

Reports from Councillors

Cllr Wallis reported that the County Rights of Way Officer inspected footpath/bridleway 33 and has closed it for three weeks as a result of serious erosion. It may be necessary to close it for a longer period if remedial work cannot be carried out. He reported that the work will involve considerable cost and local farmers who use the footpath/bridleway and the Parish Council will be asked to assist with funding and materials. The Officer will arrange some funding through Devon County Council

Chairman's Discretion.

Devon County Council elections will be held on 4 May and so the next Parish Council Meeting will be on Thursday 11 May. The Annual Public Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held on the same day.

The Meeting closed at 20.55

Chairman..... date.....

