

**Minutes of the Meeting of Lydford Parish Council held online on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr. Squires (Chair); Cllr. MacIntyre; Cllr. Skeaping; Cllr Tainsh; Cllr Cook; John Bright (Clerk); Cllr Southcott (Borough Councillor).

**Meeting commenced 7:00pm**

**1) Public Discussion:**

There being no public present it was resolved to proceed directly to the agenda items.

**2) Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. Grigg; Cllr Blackmore; Cllr Mott. Accepted.

**3) Declarations of interest:**

Nil

**4) Minutes of previous meeting:**

Approved as a true record. Proposed – Cllr MacIntyre, Seconded – Cllr Skeaping. All in favour. The agreement to be noted on the published minutes.

**5) Matters arising from previous meeting:**

- There is no record that any agreement had been reached with Devon Highways about the cost of the VAS pole
- Dartmoor National Park have confirmed in writing that they own the public car park, and have sent a member of staff to deal with the blocked drains.
- Coeval are of the opinion that the erratic behaviour of the VAS is because of the presence of overhanging leaves.
- Andrew Watson from DNP led on installing the charging point at Haytor and would be a useful contact should Councillors decide to proceed further with the project to install similar in the village

**6) Reports from Outside Bodies**

Nil

**7) Report from Borough Councillors:**

A report from Cllr Mott had been previously circulated to Councillors. Briefly –

- National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative, supported by Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards. So far over half a million people have completed the free scams awareness session. It aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by spreading awareness of the issue. You can complete the online awareness session on the Friends Against Scams website by clicking <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/elearning/DST>
- Grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 are available to care providers, personal assistants, and carers themselves who can develop and provide innovative opportunities that will give

other carers a break, during COVID-19 and beyond.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/economy/business-support/rcif/>

- Libraries Unlimited has recently purchased, with the help of Devon County Council, a second-hand van to replace the current Mobile Library and are seeking to fundraise £15,000 to refurbish the van and help get it on the road. Members of the public can support by visiting: [justgiving.com/campaign/get-mobile-library-on-road](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/get-mobile-library-on-road)

Cllr Southcott stated that WDBC are establishing a new Covid – related grants scheme for businesses. Emails will be going directly to businesses. WDBC are also looking to set up a forum involving local tourism, hospitality and catering businesses to discuss how to get the local economy re-started post-Covid.

Cllr Southcott has established a Speedwatch group in Lewdown who are nearing completion of their training. They are willing to travel to survey sites within the wider area which might be experiencing problems with speeding motorists. They can survey the traffic at a time when the problem is thought to be at its worst and report back on their findings.

A discussion on speeding within the parish led to a request for the Clerk to write to the Communities Officer at DCC Highways asking for clarification on the steps needed for the speed limit to be changed outside the school. (AP1)

Councillors were sorry to hear that Cllr Mott had been unwell and asked Cllr Southcott to pass on their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

#### **8) Covid-19 crisis**

Cllrs noted that the provisions put in place to support members of the community during the first lockdown have been fully re-established and are all functioning well. It was felt prudent to keep some funds in reserve for Covid – related problems which might still arise going forward.

#### **9) Climate Emergency (Standing Item)**

Cllrs noted that other parishes locally were looking to install Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. It was agreed that the Council could draw on their experiences.

#### **10) Public toilets (Standing Item)**

It was agreed that the Council would continue to pay for regular cleaning of the toilets in the future, and that the regime of cleaning proportionately to rates of use be continued for the coming financial year. (See budget item 12). Clerk to establish whether the present cleaner is willing and able to continue next year.

Councillors decided that the existing Wallgate facilities in both toilets be retained, together with the service contract currently arranged by WDBC. It was felt that these provide better standard of hygiene than ordinary washing facilities.

### 11) Grant Applications

Councillors felt that the replacement of the existing mobile library was a very worthwhile cause and resolved to award of £100 to Libraries Unlimited to help re-furbish the new mobile library.

Proposed: Cllr Squires; Seconded Cllr MacIntyre. All in favour. Councillors also agreed to Libraries Unlimited's 2<sup>nd</sup> request that their request for funding be passed to the wider community. Cllr MacIntyre to add a link on the Council Facebook page (**AP2**)

The request by the Okehampton Community Bus for grant funding was rejected.

### 12) Budget 2021

Clerk had previously circulated an initial budget proposal for discussion. Whilst the majority of the budget showed little variation from the current year, Councillors felt that they had no option other than to plan for an increased level of cleaning for the entire seven month period that they are planned to be open through 2021, which will have the effect of increasing the budget by over £2,000. Councillors have yet to decide how this increase is to be funded, and considered three options:

1. Retain the same basic level of precept with only a slight increase to cover inflation etc (2%), and meeting the entire additional cost from Reserves;
2. Increase the precept for the coming year to cover the entire additional cost of cleaning, leaving Reserves intact;
3. Fund 50% of the increased cost through a raise of the precept and meet the remaining cost from reserves.

Councillors asked that the Clerk's pay award 2020/21 be added to the budget forecast.

Clerk to work up each option to show the effect of each on the cost to parishioners. (**AP3**)

### 13) Finances

#### a) Payments:

Cllrs resolved to make the following payments –

i. WDBC	£540.63	Electricity & servicing
ii. WDBC	£84.00	Wallgate servicing
iii. Royal British Legion	£40.00	Donation
iv. J Bright	£14.39	Zoom subscription (monthly)
v. Jade Tennant	£726.25	Toilets cleaning
vi. J Bright	£299.82	November pay
vii. HMRC	£70.40	PAYE November

Councillors further resolved to authorise the payment of £381.92 to Devon Highways for the installation of the VAS pole from the October agenda and minutes, but declined to pay the Coeval invoice for £300 because the VAS is not working properly. Clerk to convey this to the company (**AP4**)

#### b) Councillors agreed to pay the bill for a new waste bin for the bus stop.

All – proposed: Cllr Squires. Seconded Cllr Cook. All in favour.

All payments to be made online.

**14) Planning Applications**

Councillors agreed to support the application 20/0075 tree works at Chapel Cottage, and noted the approval of application 0413/20 erection of an extension at Pomeroy's.

**15) Other Business by permission of the Chair**

Councillors were disappointed to have received notification that the National Trust shop at Lydford Gorge would be closing, and the staff employed there will be facing possible redundancy.

Councillors wished Cllr MacIntyre good luck and safe travels, and looked forward to seeing him back in the near future.

**Meeting closed 20:21**

**Next meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 19:00. This meeting to be held online.**

Signed.....Position.....Date.....

Point	Action	Completed
AP1	Clerk to write to the Communities Officer at DCC Highways asking for clarification on the steps needed for the speed limit to be changed outside the school	Emailed 18.11.2020 No reply. Emailed again 30.11.2020
AP2	Libraries Unlimited funding page be added to the Council Facebook page & website. (Cllr MacIntyre)	Website updated 19.11.2020
AP3	Clerk to work up the different models for paying the additional cleaning costs 2021/2	Completed and circulated to Cllrs 18.11.2020
AP4	Clerk to inform Coeval of Council's decision not to pay the bill for installing the VAS until it works properly.	Emailed 18.11.2020. To Cllrs for monitor & decision.