

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday
31st January 2024 at East Anstey Primary School at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's Mrs H Warne (Chair), Ms J Gannon, R Gibson, R Milton (Also District Cllr) and Ms L Moore.

In attendance: One member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

56/01/24. To receive apologies. There were no apologies.

57/01/24. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. Cllr Milton declared a personal interest in planning application 77894 as ward councillor.

58/01/24. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th November 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

59/01/24. Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda. None.

60/01/24. Public Questions. No questions.

61/01/24. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received by the council before the meeting.

77894 Change of use of open grazing land to personal equestrian use together with formation of horse arena at Whitemoor Cottage, East Anstey.

Decision: no objections.

b) To note any decisions made on planning applications by NDC. No decisions received.

c) Any other planning matters. Cllr Milton reported there has been a change of planning officer for the area. North Devon Council and Torridge District Council have jointly published a report that re-affirms the councils can show a sufficient supply of land for housing to meet the target for the next five years. This could have a bearing on the decision for application 77168 Outline application for the erection of 2 no dwellinghouses with some matters reserved (access, landscaping, layout and scale), land at East Anstey.

An application to cover a slurry pit is expected to be submitted.

The Clerk will check whether an application has been made by the owners of the Jubilee Inn to change its use from public house to residential. There is also equestrian use. A check will also be made to see if the premises are still licenced. Councillors disagreed with the owners claim for how long the premises had not been used as a public house. On New Years Day 2020 the hunt met there and during 2019/2020 it was advertising as a business.

62/01/24. Highways: Any highways issues. There are potholes everywhere. The road from Oldways End past the Kennels is nearly undriveable.

63/01/24. Reports

a) District Cllr. Cllr Milton reported the parishes eligible for funding from the Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm Community Fund want to meet with the Chief Executive of Devon Community Foundation to discuss their concerns about the fund being closed for so long and to find out when it will reopen for applications. The Clerk reported the fund is now open for small applications and it is planned to open for larger applications in late February.

b) County Cllr. No report.

64/01/24. Finance:

a) To approve invoices for payment. It was resolved to make the following payments: Mrs J Larcombe - £186.30 Clerk's salary for December and January plus expenses (Payment ref: 2324/25)

H M Revenue & Customs - £43.20 PAYE (Payment ref: 2324/26)

Exmoor Creative - £70.00 website hosting and domain name (Payment ref: 2324/27)

b) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank balance. The Clerk reported that she had been unable to access the bank accounts due to a technical problem. (Following the meeting it was reported by email that bank interest of £56.86 had been received. The Current Account balance was £457.30 and the Instant Access Statement balance was £9,699.15.

65/01/24. Play Area

a) Any issues arising from playground inspections. No issues reported.

b) To agree who will carry out inspections until the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Warne agreed to carry out the inspections.

b) Progress with applying for funding for new play equipment. An updated application will be made to the Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm Community Fund when it reopens as quotations are now out of date.

66/01/24. Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Following changes to the values in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the 2015 Regulations") the Clerk recommended amendments to the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

It was agreed that paragraph 11.1 b) and f) of the Financial Regulations are changed to:

11.1 b) *Where the council intends to procure or award a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract as defined by The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations") which is valued at £30,000 or more, the council shall comply with the relevant requirements of the Regulations.*

11.1 f) *If less than three tenders are received for contracts above £30,000 or if all the tenders are identical the council may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for procuring the goods or materials or executing the works.*

and Standing Orders 18 a) v, 18 c) and 18 f) are changed to:

18 a) v *Whether contracts with an estimated value below £30,000 due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.*

18 c) A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £30,000 but less than the relevant thresholds in standing order 18(f) is subject to Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include a requirement on the Council to advertise the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website regardless of what other means it uses to advertise the opportunity unless it proposes to use an existing list of approved suppliers (framework agreement).

18 f) A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £213,477 for a public service or supply contract or in excess of £5,336,967 for a public works contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include advertising the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website and in OJEU.

67/01/24. Advertising the Parish Council vacancies. The vacancies have been advertised in the parish magazine. Cllr Mrs Warne will put a notice on the Parish Council notice board.

68/01/24. Correspondence. Defibrillator training has been arranged for Thursday 18th April at 7pm at Anstey Community Hall.

69/01/24. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th March.