

Thelbridge Parish Council

Minutes

February 6th, 2019

Janet de Rochefort, Parish Clerk 01884 860173 thelbridgepc@gmail.com

<http://thelbridge.btck.co.uk>

Present: Cllrs Boundy, Ford, Gibson, Gillbard, Hayes, Squires (DCC & MDDC), Binks (MDDC)

I. Public forum

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

II. Apologies

Cllr Grant.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes for 5th December 2018 were signed as a correct record.

IV. Declarations of interest

There were none.

V. Clerk's Report

The precept request form has been submitted to MDDC.

Parish Paths Partnership – the damaged signs have been replaced; a request for funding for the installation of a sleeper bridge (path 14) to be reviewed and insulated handles for the electric fence crossing (path 11) will be submitted.

Defibrillators - Bluebox Medical Ltd, distributors for a new Automated External Defibrillator to the UK, will attend the annual meeting.

Mid Devon Gazette has been in touch asking to be emailed minutes and agendas of meetings to improve their communications with villages and towns across the district so they can include more stories about areas which are sometimes overlooked. Any news, community events, and any other information we would like to share would be most welcome. It was **resolved** not to accede to this request, since all the information is publicly available. Press releases will be issued as appropriate.

Committee on Standards in Public Life have just published their [Local Government Ethical Standards](#) report. The specific recommendations include:

- There should be a new national model code of Standards for Local Government
- All towns and parishes should follow the Code of their relevant principal authority or the new model code

- Regulations should be amended to clarify that a councillor need not include their home address in the Register of Interests
- A principal authority's decision on sanctions for a parish councillor should be binding (at present it is only a recommendation to the parish to consider)
- Monitoring Officers should be provided with adequate training, corporate support and resources to undertake their role in providing support on standards issues to parish councils, including in undertaking investigations and recommending sanctions
- Sanctions for contravening the Code should include suspension of the councillor, subject to appeal

National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has sent an [open letter](#) to all councillors. This has not been received by all the councillors. NALC has published [Points of Light](#); a collection of case studies highlighting the work that local councils are undertaking to support their communities. The 2019 edition contains 150 case studies, which includes; summaries, electorate, precept and expenditure. This has not been printed since it comprises 48 pages, but is available online.

The **Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC)** is going to be reviewing Mid Devon during 2019. This review will not affect the district wards or any issues relating to the district elections in May 2019.

Representatives from the LGBC visited Mid Devon on Wednesday 30 January to meet with various groups of elected Members and officers who will be involved in the process. The review will be conducted in two stages, the first of which will consider the number of councillors required; the second phase takes the agreed number and looks at how the district should be 'warded' in terms of its new boundaries.

Local Elections

TIMETABLE OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MID DEVON DISTRICT AND TOWN & PARISH ELECTIONS

THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2019

NOMINATION PACKS AVAILABLE	NOW
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION	MONDAY 18 TH MARCH 2019
DELIVERY OF NOMINATION PAPERS	10.00AM – 4.00PM 18 TH MARCH 2019 – 3 RD APRIL 2019
PUBLISH INITIAL NOTICE OF ALTERATION	3 RD APRIL 2019
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS	4.00PM WEDNESDAY 3 RD APRIL 2019
WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATE	4.00PM WEDNESDAY 3 RD APRIL 2019

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION AGENTS	4.00PM WEDNESDAY 3 RD APRIL 2019
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION AGENTS	4.00PM WEDNESDAY 3 RD APRIL 2019
PUBLICATION OF STATEMENTS OF PERSONS NOMINATED	4.00PM THURSDAY 4 TH APRIL 2019
LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION	FRIDAY 12 TH APRIL 2019
RECEIPT OF POSTAL VOTE APPLICATIONS	5.00PM MONDAY 15 TH APRIL 2019
PUBLISH SECOND NOTICE OF ALTERATION	16 TH APRIL 2019
POSTAL VOTE ISSUE	16 TH AND 18 TH APRIL 2019
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF POLL	WEDNESDAY 24 TH APRIL 2019
RECEIPT OF PROXY VOTE APPLICATIONS	5.00PM WEDNESDAY 24 TH APRIL 2019
PUBLISH FINAL NOTICE OF ALTERATION	25 TH APRIL 2019
APPOINTMENT OF POLL AND COUNT AGENTS	THURSDAY 25 TH APRIL 2019
FIRST DAY TO ISSUE REPLACEMENT LOST POSTAL BALLOT PAPER	FRIDAY 26 TH APRIL 2019
RECEIPT OF EMERGENCY PROXY VOTE APPLICATIONS	5.00PM THURSDAY 2 ND MAY 2019
DEADLINE TO REPLACE SPOILT/LOST POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS	5.00PM THURSDAY 2 ND MAY 2019
DAY OF POLL	7.00AM TO 10.00PM THURSDAY 2 ND MAY 2019
RETURN OF ELECTION EXPENSES	THURSDAY 6 TH JUNE 2019

Councillors, apart from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, will retire on the fourth day after the elections. The Chairman and Vice Chairman continue in office until the Chairman is elected at the Annual Council Meeting.

W. K. B.

VI. To receive reports from:-

Cllr Squires (Devon County Council & Mid Devon District Council)

Devon County Council currently working on a balanced budget, taking account of the over spend in children's services; this is largely due to the age range being increased from 18 to 25. Most funding goes direct to schools now, but although they are under-funded they do well although there is a low proportion that go onto further education.

Cllr Squires to check on what is happening regarding SCARF for Stretchdown and the option to introduce a 30mph speed limit.

Cllr Binks (Mid Devon District Council)

Pressure is still being applied for better connectivity; there is a meeting next week with Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS).

Menchine Farm traffic movements are still awaited.

VII. Finance

- a) Current statement of accounts, most recent bank statement and budget monitoring report were presented. The bank statements were signed, confirming the financial reports were accurate.
- b) There were no payments to approve
- c) The form to add an authorised signatory to the bank account was completed, again since the first one was lost.
- d) The revised standing order was signed.
- e) The Financial Regulations were reviewed and it was **resolved** that they be adopted.

VIII. The Standing Orders were reviewed and it was **resolved** that they be adopted.

IX. Draft Newsletter

The second draft of the second annual newsletter was tabled for discussion. The return of volume 3 of the Witheridge Outliers history is to be added, together with reference to the defibrillator presentation at the annual meeting.

X. Planning

There are no new applications to consider.

A resident has raised concerns regarding a new fence extended over the verge at Eastwick Barton. It was **resolved** that a complaint should be raised on behalf of the resident.

XI. Items for future agenda

Equal opportunities policy

Future meeting dates, all starting at 19:30 in the Thelbridge Parish Hall:

10th April 2019 (approve year end accounts)

8th May 2019 Annual Meeting (elections 2nd May)

The meeting closed at 20:30

Signed: W. K. Brandy (Chairman) Date: 10th April 2019