

MESHAW PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, MESHAW, EX36 4NE

Present: Jeff Souch (Chairman) and Sarah Vertigan (Parish Clerk)

In Attendance: Angus Cottey, Joy Cottey, Roger Creed, Jim Hall, Celia Larner, Trevor Olver, Diana Robinson, Liz Smith, Jill Souch, Andrew Walton, Richard Woodrow

Apologies: Amantha King, Brendan Shaw, Mary Tait, Claire Lewis.

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on June 2021

- The minutes, having been circulated to all those present by email prior to the meeting, were deemed to be an accurate and true account of the previous meeting. Since no one had any comments, they were duly approved, proposed by Trevor Olver and seconded by Roger Creed.
- The Chairman signed off on the minutes during the meeting.

2. Audit Commission response on the accounts for 2020/21

- The Chairman reported that the accounts had been audited, signed off and the Exemption Certificate completed and duly approved by the Audit Commission.

3. Accounts to date for 2021/22

- The Parish Meeting's bank account currently stood at £14822.16 with £412.05 unpresented cheques outstanding, bringing the new total to £14410.10. The Parish Clerk will go ahead and pay any outstanding amounts (i.e. Community News, Website, Chairman & Parish Clerk expenses, Christmas tree and electricity for lights) which were all approved at the last Budget meeting in November 2020.

4. Budget for 2022/23

- The Chairman felt it would not be necessary to increase the precept for 2022/23 since it had been increased last year and it was considered to be adequate.
- He reported that payments had been made to the PCC for the maintenance of the churchyard but that new arrangements were being put in place going forward and the cost was not yet known. For 2022/23 it was proposed to leave the payment at £750 per annum as any new arrangements would take time to bed down.
- The Community News has resumed printing after Covid necessitated it become digital only. The News had written to the Chairman referring to the future of the Community News advising that the News Team were reviewing how the publication was to be offered in future and whether the Parish would prefer to receive paper copy or to receive it as digital copy.

The Chairman advised that the Parish held approx. 54 email addresses for the 66 households in the Parish. Of the 12 who we do not have email addresses, 3 have family living next door who could pass on information received. This leaves only 9 households who might require a printed copy. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to everyone on the email list to ask who would like a printed copy and then we could inform the News how many would be required in total.

The present arrangement whereby Meshaw receive some 70 copies would stay in place until this information was available and a decision regarding the future of the publication was made. Proposed by Diana Robinson and seconded by Richard Woodrow.

- The Chairman proposed that we continue to pay £15 each for the hire of the Church for the two Parish meetings (April and November). Proposed by Liz Smith and seconded by Jill Souch.
- The Xmas tree (£25) and cost of electricity (£25) should continue to be met.
- The Chairman asked those present if they felt it was beneficial to make a £50 donation to North Devon Records Office again – it was generally agreed this was a good cause. This was duly proposed by Joy Cottey and seconded by Roger Creed.
- The proposal to keep the village precept at £1040 for the second year running was approved by all present.
- Angus Cottey asked if those volunteers who had cut the churchyard in recent months, could be given a gift from the village to thank them for their time. It was agreed that a gift to the value of approx £10 per person (totalling approx. £50) would be an acceptable gift to say thank you. This expenditure was proposed by Angus Cottey and seconded by Jim Hall.
- The Chairman reported that the South West Ambulance Trust were no longer able to supply and train users for the Defibrillator given NHS pressures which is disappointing as the village had the funds to go ahead.

He proposed that the Parish purchase its own defibrillator (HeartSine500P). Which comes with an 8-yr manufacturers guarantee. Battery and pads should last approx. 4 years before replacement unless the unit is used so we would need to make a financial provision for ongoing use.

Clare Lewis, a parishioner with experience of using such a device, has kindly volunteered to check it on a weekly basis to maintain the availability to the parish. It has also been agreed on the recommendation of South West Ambulance that a First Responder, Chris Stamp from Cullompton, is to offer training to 24 people at a time to villagers in defibrillator use. Once the defibrillator is in place training can be given.

Celia Lerner has kindly agreed to have the device mounted on the side of her house and will supply at cost the electricity required to keep the device in service. Chris Cook (Greenbank) will install the equipment the wiring and meter at cost.

At the time of the meeting the cost of the defibrillator and wall cabinet amounted to £1626 included VAT which is well within our budget of £1920 (NDDC grant). We expect to be able to reclaim the VAT so going forward the Chairman suggested that a defibrillator fund of £500 should cover replacement parts (such as pads and battery) over the next few years and this could be set up using the balance from the grant monies after fitting costs etc and a proportion of the 2021 pig roast profit.

The balance of the pig roast going into the village social fund.

Those present agreed that this sounded like a good solution and the Chairman agreed to proceed on this basis. Proposed by Jill Souch and seconded by Roger Creed.

At this stage Angus Cottey asked if the Chairman had followed up the offer to pay for the defibrillator from the gentleman who attended the Pig Roast. The Chairman advised that he had indeed followed through the kind offer and that he had a number of conversations and emails regarding payment but they had led to nothing the whole episode an embarrassment to those involved.

5. Matters Arising

- **Meshaw Together Project**

The Chairman reported that all the elements were coming together in order to apply for a faculty to create the village hub and within a week or so the application to the Exeter Diocese would be made. This included a 23-page document including a statement of significance and needs of the village including a heritage survey and plans of our needs.

He had also recently had a very useful conversation with the Batsworthy Fund Trustees, who currently have £200k unallocated for local projects such as ours. Once further details of the application were known he would update the village.

- **Planning Applications**

The application to erect chicken houses at Cleave Hill in the Rose Ash Parish had been approved and has now gone ahead.

There was a domestic extension to Irishcombe House.

Two chicken houses were agreed at land opposite Whitstone Farm

Andrew Jones is now rebuilding the pier for the Meshaw village entrance on the B3137 beside the new entrance to his barn.

- **Neighbourhood Watch**

Roger Creed reported that he publishes any relevant crime details on the website. He was awaiting information regarding the recent thefts at Romansleigh, although through the mailing list we had already received notification. The Parish Clerk offered to forward to him any notifications she received from Drayford and the Worlingtons, which might affect Meshaw.

The Chairman asked if RC was happy to cover the whole Parish, since Keven Steele was not currently having much involvement in the process. RC agreed he was happy to help.

- **Website**

Brendan Shaw is happy to continue being Webmaster. It was felt that this was an invaluable service particularly for newcomers to the village as it offered a lot of information. The cost is still approx. £75 per annum which includes registration of the domain name.

- **Snow Warden report**

The snow wardens are Angus Cottey and Jeff Souch. The salt/grit had already been distributed to the various gritting points and we currently have a good supply held locally in case of need.

6. Any Other Business

- **Bank Account**

Further to Angus Cottey's enquiry at our last meeting about receiving interest on our current account, it has now transpired that HSBC will in future be charging fees to Community Bank Accounts. Further enquiries will be made to see if a more favourable arrangement can be found.

- **Devon Association of Local Councils**

The Chairman informed those present that he would like to pursue membership of this organisation at a cost of £56 per annum as he felt it could be beneficial for the best practice of the Meeting. Angus Cottey proposed and Joy Cottey seconded.

- **Meshaw WhatsApp Group**

Roger Creed wished to propose that we form a WhatsApp Group for the village open to anyone who wished to join it. In this way, we could inform people quickly of any news or incidents. We would need to obtain their mobile phone numbers. It was agreed that the Chairman would send out a note to see who would be interested.

- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The Parish Clerk felt that it was important to start the ball rolling in January if the village wanted to celebrate this occasion in June and that a sub-committee should be formed. An email would go out after Christmas asking for ideas and volunteers.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.