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Office Hours:
Tuesday 9:30 – 15:00
Wednesday 9:30 – 15:00
Thursday 9:30 – 15:00
Friday CLOSED



Clerk to the Council
Mrs. D. Taylor-Pitkin
Parish Room
Old School Centre
West End
PORLOCK
Somerset, TA24 8QD

Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 8.00p.m.

Members Present: Cllr. McCoy, Chairman,
Cllr. Milne, Vice Chairman
Cllr. Boden, Cllr. Fraser, Cllr. Mrs. Gable, Cllr. Hancock, Cllr. McCanlis,
Cllr. Maw, Cllr. Rayner and Cllr. Wood.
Also present: Mrs. D Taylor-Pitkin (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. Ellicott due to work commitments and Cllr. Ware due to family commitments. Cllr. Nicholson was also unable to attend due to work commitments.

2. Declarations of Interest and Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Dispensations

None were noted.

3. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th February 2020 to be confirmed

It was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** that the minutes as previously circulated of the meeting held on the 12th February 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters for report not on the Agenda

Fallen Tree on the Zig Zag Path

At the previous Full Council meeting held on the 12th February, Cllr. Fraser noted there was a fallen tree on the Zig Zag path which required removal along with the overgrown hedges. The Zig Zag path has now been completely cleared of debris and is safe to use.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation.

5. Public Participation

None were present.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Somerset County Council and District Councillors' reports

Cllr. Milne (SW&T)

Cllr. Milne reported issues were still emerging following the merger of the two Councils and outstanding queries are still to be resolved in a timely fashion. Inadequate planning for the number of redundancies which took place and costs to cover the Agency staff who have replaced the outgoing staff is thought to be a contributing factor.

At the Exmoor Forum meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Somerset County Council are to discuss the potential of a transfer to a Unitary Authority. This would combine both the County Council and District Council who would share the provision of services with a view to this enhancing the support both Councils currently provide. The decision for the transfer is ultimately decided by the Secretary of State.

Car Parking Charges

A 10% increase in car parking charges is to be implemented across the whole of Somerset in an attempt to encourage the use of the Park and Ride facility. A protest is to be held tomorrow night at Wheddon Cross as again it is felt this item has not been fully considered and has been poorly executed.

7. Planning Applications considered:

6/27/20/104 Ivybank, Doverhay, Porlock, TA24 8LL

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

8. Finance

The following accounts for March were approved and passed for payment:

Bank Balances on the 04th March 2020:

PPC Current Account: £139,609.39
Allotment Trust Account: £ 16,202.20

Payments approved for March 2020:

Name	Description	Amount	Reference
Somerset County Council	PPC Bus Donation	9,000.00	5143
Mrs. D Taylor-Pitkin	Clerk Salary	****	5144
**British Gas	Electricity Supply for the Library	559.83	5145
Water 2 Business	Water supply for D H Toilets 02/08/19 – 28/02/2020	355.86	5146
Savills	Annual Rent for the Village Hall Car Park	300.00	5147
HMRC	National Insurance and Tax contributions	274.45	5148
M Jones	Cleaning D H Toilets & Old School, materials	275.99	5149
Pro Green	Window Cleaning for the Old School Centre	17.00	5150
D Hancock	Expenses for security measures at the Old School Centre	28.55	5151
BT	Telephone & Internet for Parish Office/Library (January)	86.60	Direct Debit
NEST	Clerks Pension – Parish Council and Clerk contributions	66.33	Direct Debit
EDF	Electricity Supply for Old School Centre	197.44	Direct Debit

Payments Received between 06/02/20 – 06/03/2020:

Name	Description	Amount	Reference
Bay 12	High Bank Car Park	12.50	Automatic Credit
M & M McCoy	Friends of Porlock Library Donation	8.00	Automatic Credit
Bay 2	High Bank Car Park Renewal	150.00	Automatic Credit
Bay 11	High Bank Car Park Renewal	150.00	Automatic Credit
V H Bay	Renewal of Village Hall Car Park Bay	150.00	Automatic Credit
P & W Day	Friends of Porlock Library Donation	5.00	Automatic Credit

E & I Ellis	Friends of Porlock Library Donation	5.00	Automatic Credit
Porlock Library	Generated Income	50.30	1543
Doverhay Toilet	Cash Collection	60.00	1544
Village Hall Honesty Box	Cash Collection	100.00	1545
Porlock Library	Generated Income	23.20	1546
Bay 3	High Bank Car Park Renewal	150.00	1547
NP2 651	Exclusive Rights of Burial	495.00	1548

8.a Minutes of the finance meeting to be approved and recommendations adopted.

The **PPC UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** the recommendations proposed by the Finance Committee at the meeting dated 10th March 2020. Minutes are attached.

9. Matters Arising

None were noted.

10. Finger sign in Church Yard – Cllr. Hancock to report

Cllr. Hancock reported the group who had previously repaired the signs for Exmoor are to overhaul the five finger signs situated in the Church yard. The Visitor Centre and Porlock Library are to have individual finger signs. Active Signs have provided a quote of £57.00 which will involve a aluminium sheet being attached to both sides of the sign.

11. Following APPROVAL by the PPC on the 10th October 2018 Councillors are to vote for either Plug & Go or an alternative distributor to install their system at Doverhay Toilets.

Following the discussion at the February Full Council Meeting, Cllr. Rayner was tasked with sourcing a alternative distributor to install an EV car charging point at Doverhay Car Park. Following a report distributed by Cllr. Rayner (report attached) it was agreed clarity would be required on details within the contract offered by Plug and Go e.g. the cost, speed and responsibility. The Full Council were unable to pass a vote as an alternative distributor was not provided. Following further discussion Cllr. Milne suggested due to the amount of time and effort this Item has currently consumed it may be prudent to revert back to Somerset West and Taunton. This would allow them to assume total responsibility for the installation and equipment. This would not preclude competitors who also supply this service from installing their EV Charging points in the same car park in the future and thereby ensuring residents and tourists will receive the most competitive rates financially and the fastest connection. Cllr. Rayner raised concerns regarding the knock-on effect for the Tourism trade. Cllr. Hancock proposed a vote for Plug and Go and then responsibility to be assumed by SW&T, Cllr. Boden suggested a caveat that the installation should provide a speedier connection than the one suggested. Cllr. McCanlis then requested further research is conducted before the PPC commit themselves to a contract. Following a lengthy discussion (33 minutes) the Chairman brought the discussion to a close as a satisfactory agreement had not been reached.

*** Post meeting Cllr. Milne informed SWT and Plug n Go that the PPC had been unable to support the Plug and Go recommendation for the reasons reported above.**

12. Update on Porlock Vale Economic Plan – Cllr. Wood to report.

Cllr. Wood reported following the presentations made to Selworthy, Wootton Courtenay and Luccombe Parish Councils both Selworthy and Wootton Courtenay have APPROVED and Luccombe are undecided at this time. Cllr. Wood requested the Economic Sub-Committee re-convene to collate additional information provided by the separate Community Groups, with a date to be agreed shortly.

13. The PPC to APPROVE the preferred Climate change Emergency Declaration.

Following a vote with the Councillors present the following declaration was formerly **ADOPTED** by the PPC with 8 votes to 2 votes against.

'Porlock Parish Council recognises there is a climate emergency and resolve to make decisions on behalf of the community in support of both the District Council and County Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2030'.

14. Correspondence.

None have been received.

15. Reports from Outside Bodies

Coastal Communities Team

Cllr. Wood reported the second draft of the new signage for Porlock Marsh is currently being considered. On the 24th April 2020, the Exmoor Society are to hold their Annual Conference and have set aside time for a presentation on "Porlock vision". It was agreed to contact the Visitor Centre/PVTA to ask if they would provide a display/presentation.

Doverly Manor

Nothing to report.

Highways

Nothing to report.

Library

Nothing to report.

Porlock Vale Tourist Association

Cllr. Maw reported the PVTA are no longer pursuing plans to remodel the entrance to the Orchard due to the financial implications involved.

Porlock Weir

Cllr. Milne advised Gibraltar Cottage sustained damage as a result of a failing water pump which Wessex water have now accepted responsibility for.

Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

St. Dubricius First School

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

16. Risk Identification

None were noted.

17. Items for Report

None were noted.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.28

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19th May 2020

Chairman