

# PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Baxter Hall on  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs present: M Busby (Vice Chair), A Hunkin, D Kelsey  
J Harris, J Jeffs, J Richards, DCllr R Wiseman, CClr A Saywell (arrived late),  
PSCO Baker, F Lowe (Clerk), 1 member of the public

24. **Apologies of Absence.** Cllr Fisher is away. DCllr Hurley is at another meeting. CClr A Saywell will be late. Unfortunately, Catherine Richards has had a family emergency and is unable to give her presentation.
25. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
26. **Public Session.** None.
27. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019, having been previously circulated were approved and signed as a correct record.
28. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed from 11<sup>th</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 inclusive.
29. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
  - a. **Phone Box.** Carried forward
  - b. **Signs at Petrockstowe Station.** Highways are intending to complete the crossing works over the winter period. Road signs have been added as requested.
  - c. **Internet Banking.** Cllrs Busby and Hunkin are able to access this; Cllr Fisher is still to gain access. Amendments have been made to the Financial Regulations which all cllrs were happy to approve.
  - d. **Reserve Funds.** The clerk confirmed that £4,000 had been transferred to the Reserve Account.
  - e. **Explanation of Police Reports.** Under Police report.
  - f. **Repairs to Bus Shelter.** Michael Harris has been unable to complete due to family matters.
  - g. **Air Ambulance Landing Site.** Still waiting for costs but concern that electric cables would have to be underground. As Merton have a site already and are not much further away, and use the lights for football, is there a necessity to have a landing site here? Decision to be made when costs are known.
  - h. **Caravans in New Road area.** TDC are investigating and would like any further information.
30. **Current Business.**
  - a. **Highways Works Parish Meeting.** Cllrs Fisher and Busby attending a meeting and discussed carriageways, footpaths and drainage issues. Highways were seeking local knowledge regarding the use of unclassified roads which do not get automatically assessed like A roads.
  - b. **Grit bins.** Cllrs have checked the levels and Clerk to report any that need refilling. There was a discussion about re-siting a bin on Aish Hill, but it is felt that although none of the bins on Brandize Hill were used last winter, this was because it was very mild weather. **Clerk to ask DCC if an additional bin can be provided.**

Initials of chair .....

- c. **Rec Ground; dog mess.** There is a large quantity of mess being left behind by owners for others to clear up despite asking for this to be cleared up. It was suggested that a sign is added on both gates with the wording "Failure to do so could result in a fine of up to £1000 and being prohibited from using the recreation ground in the future. Petrockstowe Parish Council." **Clerk to source costs.**
- d. **Climate Emergency.** Cllrs were made aware of recent correspondence.
- e. **No 4 The Square.** The owner has been in touch to say that more work is to be done and she is putting her London house on the market.
- f. **The Laurels.** Discussion under Part 2 at the end of the meeting.
- g. **Website.** The webmaster has been experiencing difficulties with sending out links for the newsletter and highways notices. Because of this, it is now a necessity for new subscribers to sign up with Mail Chimp. An amended Privacy Notice and Data Collection form is available.
- h. **CPRE.** There is a planning workshop in Hatherleigh that Cllr Fisher and the Clerk would like to attend at a cost of £10 each. The alternative is for the PC to become a member at the annual cost of £36. There was slight concern that CPRE could be biased in their approach, and while cllrs were happy for Cllr Fisher and Clerk to attend the workshop, they were not happy to become members at this time.

### 31. **Planning**

- a. **Application** (comments previously supplied). Reference: 1/0603/2019/FUL dated 19th July 2019 for the proposal of Conversion of barn for use as holiday let at [Brighthayes] Barn at Petrockstowe, Devon. As it was difficult to call a Planning meeting; this application was discussed by Cllrs online who agreed to the following comments being supplied "Petrockstowe Parish Council have no objections to this application."
- b. **Application.** Reference: 1/0616/2019/FULM dated 9th August 2019 for the proposal of building for storage of grain, farm machinery and agricultural produce at Land at The Old Station Yard, Petrockstowe, Devon. **Comments:** Petrockstowe Parish Council have no objections.
- c. **Decision.** Reference: 1/1125/2018/FUL dated 2nd September 2019 for the proposal of Demolition of existing sheds to allow for replacement log cabin to provide ancillary accommodation to main dwelling at Aish Lodge, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**
- d. **Application** Reference: 1/1171/2018/FUL dated 11th September 2019 for the proposal of Conversion of the Old Stables into residential accommodation (Building 3) (Amended red edge) at Building 3 Berry Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. **Comments:** Petrockstowe Parish Council are happy to see this barn converted and to have the retention of this building. However, within Berry Farm there are now multiple conversions and it is felt that the development has bypassed the need to contribute to the parish by means of contributions to education and highways etc. Each application has had to be based on its own individual merits which has resulted in a mishmash of properties and land allocated to each property. Is there really a need for more houses in a village with no amenities and a housing development already approved?
- e. **Application** Reference 1/1172/2018/LBC dated 11th September 2019 for the proposal of Conversion of the Old Stables into residential accommodation (Building 3) (Amended Red edge) at Building 3 Berry Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton,

Devon. **Comments:** Petrockstowe Parish Council is happy that this application is given permission with the proviso that the suggested remedial works are undertaken.

32. **Councillors Reports.** Cllr Saywell arrived.

- a. **PSSC.** The Cricket Club have had 6 matches. Ground have been hired by Hatherleigh Ladies and possibility of Hatherleigh 3<sup>rd</sup> using the grounds next year. Work will be done on the cricket square and the hedges cut in the autumn. Ken Heaman has completed a massive clean-up, hopefully making the ground easier to let.
- b. **Police Report.** PCSO Baker explained that the new report shows a log of incidents and a log of crimes. An incident can “become” a crime so appearing to double up the numbers. She explained the recent report, and was asked if a list of examples for each category could be provided to help the PC understand the reports better in future. It is felt that having the previous year’s data is a good comparison. She further updated the PC with numbers – there are 2 PCSO’s, 1 Police Officer on light duties and 1 on long term sick leave leaving 1 to cover the whole area. PCSO Baker left.
- c. **Play Area.** The monthly visual check has been completed satisfactorily.
- d. **Baxter Hall.** The Hummingbirds were a great success with 86 attending. The Punch & Pie evening will be a joint venture with the Ladies Group and may be a Plough & Punch. The AGM is on 16<sup>th</sup> October and hopefully new ideas for fundraising will be discussed. On 1<sup>st</sup> November there is an Auction of Promises with cheese and wine.
- e. **Footpaths report.** Nothing to report.
- f. **District Report.** TDC is organising strategy with continued financial pressure. S106 money has been used to create Bideford skate park and a new car park in Westward Ho! Brunswick Wharf is due to be developed and sea wall repaired. Electric charging points have been installed. Full Council have declared a climate emergency and working to be carbon neutral by 2030. This could involve reassessment of wind turbine applications although part of the problem is that the grid cannot take all the energy produced. Also looking at tidal energy on Torridge however, this has to be navigable up to Long Bridge. Cllr Richards asked if there was to be an increase in items that can be recycled. Cllr Wiseman replied that there was.
- a. **County Report.** DCC is setting the date for carbon neutral to 2050 as they feel it is impossible to achieve by 2030, however emission levels are falling. Cllr Saywell hopes the residents are happy with the newly resurfaced road and a reminder that Beaford road will be closed for drainage works for 1 week in November. Torrington town centre will be closed to vehicles for 4 weeks starting on 7 October while the pavements are re-laid. Pedestrian access will be maintained, and shops and businesses will be open as usual. Where possible, bricks will be reused, and more dropped kerbs will be put in. In Education and Children’s services, an allowance for foster carers has resulted in a record number of new households coming forward – to accommodate 60 more children. £20m has been allocated to schools and vulnerable adults. The Fire Service consultation is underway and feasible objections will be considered. Cllr Saywell explained that there is currently not enough crew to man all the engines so the closures could potentially have minimal effect. There are no planned redundancies as crew will be redeployed. Rural coverage will be kept, and the consultation is not about saving money; it’s about updating an outdated process. More work will be done on prevention and home safety visits.

Continuation of PCM minutes on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019

33. **Financial Items.**

**Finance report.** This was given to all cllrs for information.

Cllrs approved the following payments. Cheques signed by Cllrs Busby and Hunkin

**Citizens Advice.** Precept Grant cheque no 393 £15

**Lord Burnett.** Recreation Ground Lease cheque no 394 £1

**Royal British Legion.** Memorial Wreath. Cheque no 395 £17.50

Bank transfers were made on 18<sup>th</sup> September to the following:

**St Petroc's Church.** Precept Grant (graveyard maintenance) £275.00

**Baxter Hall.** Precept Grant and Play Area Ground Lease. £251.00

**Play Area.** VAT refund £40.00

**F Lowe.** Clerks expenses £20.75.

The following payment was approved – to be paid when invoice received

**TDC.** Clerks salary recharge and payroll processing £1,034.00

If required, a Planning Meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and the Parish Council Meeting is on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The meeting went into Part 2 at 9.00pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....

Initials of chair .....