

**Modbury Parish Council Virtual Meeting**  
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7.00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllrs Watts (PW), (Chair), Middleton (MM), Vice-chair, Coates (TC), Cole (BC), Harvey (JH), Keel (BK), Keohane (PK), Rosevear (GR), West (RW), Woodcock (JW)

Also present: Cllrs Gilbert (RG) (DCC) and Taylor (BT) (SHDC)

**5 members of the public were in attendance.**

**2021.31 Apologies were received from Cllr Whybrow.**

**2021.32 In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1(2), the Council determined that no items should be taken with the public excluded**

**Devon Councillor's Report (RG)**

- Climate change:
  - DCC is a founding and principle partner of the Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) initiative and has signed the Devon Climate Declaration which commits to working collaboratively with partners, which is now starting to be done via a consultation draft interim Devon Carbon Plan.
- £1.3M extra has been allocated for 21/22 budget with £600,000.00 for pot holes and drainage plus £100,000.00 for work on maintenance of street furniture and a further £600,000.00 to top up the £1.5m given to District Councils emergency fund last summer.
- So far this fiscal year, we have used 50% more salt on the highways network totalling 15000 tons.
- Devon Highways budget is £28M which is about £100,000.00/day to maintain the 12,966km of roads.
- DCC has 65 farms totalling 9555 acres
- RG has been in discussions with Colin Whybrow regarding flooding at Palm Cross, which seemingly is challenging
- RG expressed surprise at the observation that the roads are in worst condition in the South Hams than in the rest of the County as Councillors in other parts of the County ask how South Hams is managing to keep on top of potholes so well.
- RG confirmed that he would continue to support Cllr Whybrow with his tireless efforts to ensure work on the Palm Cross site is completed as per contract.

**RG left at 7.08pm**

**Wildlife friendly verges**

Representatives from Modbury Wildlife Action Group gave a brief presentation outlining a proposal for Modbury to work towards a reduced cutting regime for some grass verges to encourage more wild flowers and insects. They acknowledged that there is already lots of work being done in the parish. For further info. [Click here](#) to go to the Life on the Verge in Devon website.

It was acknowledged that there are many conflicting views on the appearance of verges and that it is important for Health and Safety to keep the outer edges neat and tidy but that the middle of verges could be re-wilded. A phased process is recommended with input from local residents.

BK, PK and TC all expressed support and TC suggested this would work well in the new Memorial Hall Play Park.

**District Councillor's Report (BT)**

- The new recycling service will start on 19<sup>th</sup> March in Modbury and the new containers will be arriving within the next week.
- BC requested that BT investigate again the issue of the lack of road sweeping in Modbury. BT confirmed that there was a meeting with the contractors in the near future.
- **It was agreed that BC and the clerk would present a letter of complaint to SHDC**
- BT is still chasing for a litter pick to take place on the A38

**BT left at 8.38pm**

**Open Forum:**

- A member of the public formally thanked BC for all the work he does to clear the roads and drains
- The suspension of the Neighbourhood Plan process was queried by a member of the public . As this matter was being dealt with through the NP group BK agreed to clarify the current situation and report back to the next meeting.

**2021.33 There were no declarations of pecuniary and other interests**

**2021.34 Minutes of Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

The Council considered the draft Minutes (distributed earlier).

The clerk informed Council that a parishioner had requested the minutes state that the pool used to be open to the children of Modbury School and not the public and requested that the following amendment be approved:

- *The public used to have access TO READ The children of Modbury School used to have access*

**MM proposed, seconded by JW, and all were in favour of the amendment and that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.**

The Appendix II **Action Plan** had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and the clerk updated Council:

- No further information had, as yet, been received from the swimming pool group
- There had been no reply to the request for further info. about the Landmark tree project

MM announced that the speed camera for Barrack Road is due to arrive in the next two weeks.

RW announced he had received an email at the start of the meeting from the Chair of the School PTA requesting that MPC minute support for the project. **It was agreed that MPC is supportive of the concept but need detailed proposals before making a formal resolution to support the project.**

GR confirmed that he had received a second communication regarding funding towards the CCTV.

**2021.35 General Power of Competence (Paper distributed previously)**

- Proposed by BK, seconded by GR and all agreed that MPC meets the criteria for eligibility (two thirds elected members and CiLCA qualified Clerk)
- Proposed by GR, seconded by RW and all in favour of MPC adopting the General Power of Competence

**2021.36 The following planning applications were considered:**

- 0198/21/VAR** Application for variation of condition 7 (cladding) of planning consent 4055/19/FUL Babland Barn, Babland Cross, Modbury. Devon. PL21 OSA

**Proposed by BK, seconded by GR and all in favour of no comment for this application as COVID had prevented a site visit to view the cladding in context.**

- 0068/21/FUL** Conversion of existing agricultural building to dwelling (approved under Class Q ref 3801/19/PDM) Barn At Sx 691 513 Modbury

**Proposed by BK, seconded by MM and 9 favour (1 against) that MPC object to this as a class Q application.**

- 0416/21/HHO** Householder application for replacement of existing external windows and doors to dwelling house Lilibet House, Back Street. Modbury. PL21 ORF

**Proposed by BK, seconded by MM and all in favour of supporting this application**

### **2021.37 Annual Parish Meeting**

As there is still some confusion as to what the regulations will be about face-to-face meetings it was **proposed by BC, seconded by JH that MPC holds the meeting as late in May as statute dictates hopefully as a face-to-face but virtual if necessary. Clerk to check the time-frame for the meeting.**

(NOTE The latest date the meeting can be held is 1<sup>st</sup> June which is the regular MPC meeting night and so the Annual Parish Meeting will be merged with this.)

Due to technical difficulties RW left the meeting.

### **2021.38 Finance and Human Resources**

- 1. Proposed by GR, seconded by BK and all in favour that the payments be approved.**
- 2. The financial statement was received and all agreed this was a useful addition to appendix one and that the clerk would produce for every meeting.**
- 3. Proposed by GR, seconded by PK and all in favour that the request for grant-funding of £100 to pay for the printing of the updated list of Voluntary Sector Organisations and Modbury leisure and interest groups in the Messenger to support everyone coming out of lock-down to enjoy a more sociable life be approved. Funds to come from the ring-fenced Dementia Awareness budget.**

### **2021.39 Insurance Renewal**

The clerk's recommendation for insurance renewal from the 3 quotations received (Paper distributed previously) was considered. JH suggested that the clerk contact Zurich (current provider) to try and get a more favourable premium in the light of a lower premium being offered by another provider.

**Proposed by BK, seconded by GR and all in favour (JH abstained) that the clerk contact Zurich and then, in liaison with the Council Chair and Finance Committee Chair, make a decision in time for the 1<sup>st</sup> April renewal date.**

RW returned to the meeting

### **2021.40 Memorial Hall Play Park**

TC acknowledged that the Lease had been distributed at very short notice for councillors and gave a succinct summary of the main points for consideration.

Concern was expressed about the state of repair of the wall on the east side of the site and **TC will check this out.**

It was noted that the complex lease had come through at very short notice for councillors to peruse and

**Proposed by TC, seconded by BK and all in favour of approving the lease in order to be able to move things forward as soon as possible but with an agreement that all Cllrs have a right to veto by Fri 5 Mar 21. If there is one veto before that date the matter will be reconsidered at the April meeting.** This will enable all councillors to absorb the detail and potentially identify some issues that the Play Park Team may have missed and create a good balance of getting approval at the earliest moment but also not missing anything by rushing the approval.

**RW thanked TC, GR and PK on behalf of Modbury for the considerable work they have done.**

TC gave a general update that a 15 year warranty had been agreed with equipment contractor and S106 funding has been agreed by SHDC

### **2021.41 The following update was received from the Palm Cross Green parking working group:**

All the bollards are now fixed and more will be purchased for the spaces next to the allotments – expenditure to be approved at the April meeting.

There are 9 spaces left next to the Industrial Unit

The contracts and payments will start from 1st April

**BC to discuss the damaged wall on The Green with BT**

Meeting closed at 8.56pm

Date of next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.