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**MINUTES OF TETCOTT & LUFFINCOTT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD at the ARSCOTT HALL, TETCOTT on the 5th February 2020**

**Present:** –Cllr. T. Barriball; Cllr. B. Stearman; Cllr. J. Pearce; Cllr. T. J. Rooke; Cllr. N. Wonnacott; (Chairman) Cllr. M. Greenaway; (Vice-Chairman) Cllr. Chubb; Cllr. Angove; Cllr. Dart.

Members of the public present: 0

The Chairman welcomed all to the Meeting at 7.30pm.

**1. Apologies received.** Cllr T. Merritt; Cllr. J. M. Britton

**2.** **Declaration of Interests.** No declarations of interest.

**3. Public open question time.** NoQuestions.

**4**. **Approval of last minutes**. Minutes from the previous meeting held on Wednesday 6th November 2019,

having been previously circulated by email were approved by the Council as a true record of our last meeting,

Cllr. Stearman proposed, Cllr. J. Pearce seconded Carried nem.com. The minutes were then signed by

Chairman Cllr. N. Wonnacott.

**5. Financial update.**  **(a)** Prior to the meeting the Clerk issued members of the Council with an up

to date copy of the P.C. accounts (Please see separate sheet in finances section)

**6. Report from Devon County.**  **D.C.C. Barry Parsons** explained that D.C.C. had some old, high interest

loans that still had 13 years to run and if paid off early D.C.C. would incur heavy penalties. He said that D.C.C

had spent 8.3 million on bridges, he mentioned the cost of Social Services, Child Care, Adult Education

and Special needs. When asked about Potholes, where it was suggested that Skanska was a badly

organised company, he said that D.C.C. needed evidence to put to Skanska, he suggested that

the public could send in photographic evidence. Cllr Parsons also informed us that our local M.P. Geoffrey.

Cox was due to meet with the Stagecoach Chief Executive regarding proposed local bus service cuts, he

promised to inform every one of the outcome on Facebook.

**7. Torridge District Council update from Cllrs P. Hackett & P. Watson*.*****Councillor Hackett** represents

Torridge District Council on the Police and Crime Panel and gave us a report on policing in our area.

Although Devon and Cornwall are the 3rd safest force area in the country with the Office of

National Statistics showing a 0.3% fall in crime in the last year he still had concerns about the impact of

rural crime. Martin Beck who is based in Devon had been specifically tasked to investigate rural crime –

with poaching and thefts from farms increasing in our area, he said it was vital to report all crime as the

Chief Constable had assured the Police and Crime Panel that where crime was committed, he would direct

resources. Additionally, Councillor Hackett expressed his concerns about the continued reduction in PCSO

numbers – they were the local front line in rural locations and could not be replaced by the introduction of

blue light officers, who were both Police and Fire Officers. These officers had to remain within a five-minute

radius of the fire station in case of call out so they would not be able to travel to Tetcott. **Cllr Watson**

updated the Parish Council on more general T.D.C. matters, firstly referring to the recent Crown Court

judgement over the long-standing issues between T.D.C and Kivells, the issues related to the drainage

system installed at the Agri-Business Centre in Holsworthy; the matter thankfully had now been resolved.

He confirmed that T.D.C. had a new Leader, Cllr. Anna Dart who had been elected as Leader of T.D.C. at

the AGM in May 2019 had recently resigned and Cllr Ken James who had been Deputy leader since May

2019 was voted in as the new Leader at the Full Council meeting in December 2019. He explained that due

to government changes that unfortunately there would be no New Homes Bonus funding available in 2020.

**8. Police Update.** P.C.S.O Mark James from Holsworthy Police sent his apologies but also sent a report for

the Clerk to circulate (Copy on file)

**9. Proposed Play Equipment.**

The Clerk provided Councillors with information obtained from ROSPA relating to the Inspection of play

equipment. A candidate could be sought from the community to attend a two-day training course in Exeter

currently costing £588, Courses running in June & October, this would allow them to carry out monthly

inspections on any play equipment installed. An annual inspection by ROSPA would also be required,

currently costing £82.20 District Cllr Pete Watson suggested that maybe we could ask

Holsworthy Hamlets Parish Council, who already had a person trained to do these sorts of inspections, if they

would be prepared to come and inspect for us every month for a fee. He said he would ask them when he

attended their next Parish Council meeting. Sovereign had provided us with a quotation for a 2.4m Log

Basket Swing and Thumper Tower sitting on a bonded rubber mulch safer surface – Total Cost, supply and

installation £12,624.00. The Clerk was asked to obtain more quotes which would be discussed at the next

meeting in May. It was suggested that some funding for the project could be sought from the Community fund

and perhaps the P.C. could start the ball rolling by using funds from the Business Premium account and a

recent VAT claim.

**10. Any other business (a)** Cllr S. Dart asked if the Parish Council could investigate the possibility of

reimbursing the Snow Warden’s fuel costs when they volunteer to salt our roads. **(b)** Cllr. T. Wrooke had

been asked by Cllr J. Britton to ask on his behalf if any pressure could be brought upon Devon County Council

to improve the parking situation on Chapel Street (from the bridge down) in Holsworthy. D. C. Cllr. Parsons

informed us that Holsworthy Town Council had previously raised concerns over the parking situation and

even though D.C.C. have tried to discourage parking on that stretch of road, unfortunately nothing more can

be done.

Dates for Parish Council/Community Fund meetings in 2020

Wednesday 6th May,

Wednesday 5th August,

Wednesday 4th November

The Chairman thanked the Clerk then closed the meeting at 8.00pm

Chairman………………………………… Date ……………………