

EAST PORTLEMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on
Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Judith Hilditch, Ann Jones, John Miller, John Taylor, Crispin Waterhouse, Julian Brazil and Lulu Stacey.

Members of the public: Philippa Hilditch, Ruth Froud, Sue Proudfoot, Barbara Gay, Philip Ward, Tim Fisher

Open Forum – Philippa Hilditch attended as a voice of the community and raised concerns over planning application 4213/23/FUL (RNLI Field of Light). Ruth Froud, High House Farm outlined her objections to planning application 3845/23/ARC (High Nature). Sue Proudfoot and Barbara Gay attended to add context to planning application 4058/23/CLE and offered to answer questions (none asked).

Philip Ward attended to update the councillors on the project so far and answered some of the concerns raised by the public. Bruce Monroe has offered to host a meeting with the residents of East Portlemouth to discuss the project. This project will be the first of Bruce Monroe's **not** to be a 'walk through' event, it will be made clear in publication that it is a 'viewing only' installation and all publication for the event will list Salcombe, not East Portlemouth postcodes. The installation and equipment for the project is being donated entirely by the artist Bruce Monroe. RNLI will be looking for sponsorship of the 20,000 stems at a suggested £20 per stem from public, local business and corporate sponsors. It was confirmed that very little is in it for East Portlemouth. There has been discussion of local art related projects running concurrently. Discussions with the Police regarding security are ongoing as part of the planning process.

County & District Councillor reports – Cllr Brazil reported on district and county budgets. District council tax will increase by 2.99%. The district council is not in the same financial predicament as many councils and as such will not be cutting any further services. The district council budget is ringfenced and is protected. County council tax will increase by 5%, 2% of which is allocated to adult social care. Devon county is in a greater financial predicament largely due to the large SEND overspend. Cuts will be seen in coming years. Roads are currently receiving funding however nowhere near what the 8000 miles of Devon roads require.

Brown bin collections have recommenced, advised to look out for notification and then sign up to renew service.

Salcombe Harbour – hoped that the new workshop on Batson Fish Quay will provide the resilience and longevity that the harbour needs.

Devolution deal has gone through. £16million to be divided between Devon and Torbay.

Slapton Line – meetings ongoing. Recommended SSSI status removed so that responsibility can be taken for the road to both save it and develop an adaption plan for if/when it washes away again.

10. Apologies Robin Piggott

11. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 January 2023 were approved.

12. Declarations of interest – none

13. Planning & planning matters – **Appeal 1371/23/FUL** Noted appeal process has begun. **4058/23/CLE** – No Objection. **3510/23/HHO** - No objection. **3845/23/ARC** - Object. **4213/23/FUL** – no objection.

14. Chair's report – all covered by agenda items

15. Matters for Discussion

- a. Cllr vacancy – Potential applicant attended as member of the public to observe meeting.
- b. Village project – most popular suggestion from email sent via Kim's list discussed – sports/recreational area. CW to circulate further email via Kim's list regarding how to move forward, and if anyone has land they'd be willing to provide (donate/lease/sell) for the community project if a sports/recreational area was agreed.
- c. Donation to Churchyard maintenance – Councillors agreed to pay the suggested donation of £500 per year on the grounds that the parish has a responsibility to maintain burial grounds.
- d. RNLI Field of Light –JT to contact Philip Ward to discuss Village Hall event with Bruce Monroe as suggested by Philip. Main concern raised during meeting by councillors and public was one of security. Public curiosity will need mitigating, possibly with CCTV, signage and patrols. AJ to contact Kim Burnett (Designing Out Crime Officer, Devon & Cornwall Police) to establish time of site visit on Friday 9.1.23 with view for councillor to attend if possible.
- e. Community composting. JM to circulate email via Kim's list to see if parishioner would like to lead on project.

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16. Councillors' areas of special responsibility

- Foreshore owners' liaison – nothing reported regarding foreshore. Crispin Waterhouse fed back on the first meeting of the Salcombe Community Economic Plan. Meetings will be fortnightly and councillors agreed it would be beneficial to engage. Next meeting 22.2.24.
- Footpaths & hedgerows warden – Judith Hilditch reported that Highways have been notified that the access to the beach at EP Ferry is holey.
- Highways – John Taylor – nothing to report. Everyone encouraged to report potholes.
- Dog matters – Robin Piggott not present at meeting – AJ reported that numerous dog mess bags were found in the hedge on the way to Gara.
- Parking – John Miller – None.
- Trees – Vacancy – None.

17. Finance

- a) Payments of £40 to K Hill and £90 to L Stacey approved
- d. Cash at bank before payments noted as £18,793.76

18. Date of next meeting – 5 March 2024

Signed:.....
Chairman

