



**St Giles on the Heath with Northcott Hamlet  
Parish Council**

**“Working with you, For you”**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Parish Councillors Present:** Cllr Atkinson (Chairman), Cllr K Hamlyn, Cllr R Nicholson, Cllr S Trusler, Cllr Bowyer, Cllr S Paulger, Cllr A Nicholson, Cllr K Dimmock, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Russell, District Cllr Hackett.

**In attendance:** Clerk Kayleigh Walker, members of the public: 0.

**1. PUBLIC SESSION**

1.1 No member of the public present.

**2. RECEIVING APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 Cllr Curtis, Cllr Williams, Cllr Thorne, District Cllr Gibson, County Cllr Morrish.

2.2 Cllr R Nicholson declared an interest in item 5.5 however as no decisions were being made this evening the chairman confirmed it was not necessary.

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were previously circulated. The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman signed a copy. Proposed by Cllr Paulger, seconded by Cllr Trusler. The Chairman signed a copy.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 None.

**5. REVIEWING CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT**

5.1 Co-opted Cllrs Fisher and Russell signed the council’s policies and procedure’s.

5.2 County Cllrs Report - Cllr Morrish joined the meeting via speaker phone and shared his thoughts and updates on the devolution confirming that the ‘white paper’ means it is the intention to make it law. He advised that if Devon and Cornwall were to merge it would be likely they would look for a mayor. Cllr Morrish advised that Exeter and Plymouth would try to remain unitie’s. He said that TDC had voted to be in rather than out just to be able to help shape the future. Cllr Morrish advised that it has been said that this will result in more power for parish councils but we do not yet know what those will be. He reported that more details would be available by January 29<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Hackett joined in with the discussion and asked for clarification around the upcoming elections. Cllr Morrish advised he understands that the process will be for the DCC 2025 elections to be postponed for 1 year and then in May 2026 a shadow board will be put in place to run the ‘wind down’. District Cllrs will then stand down in 2027 and a vote for unitary Cllrs will take place. Moving on, Cllr Morrish advised he had received 9 communications from the parish on various topics such as roads and healthcare. Cllrs thanked Cllr Morrish for joining via phone.

5.3 District Cllrs Report – Cllr Hackett joined the discussion in item 5.2 and also added that he feared local representation would be lost in the process.

5.4 Devon District Councils update on devolution - the report was shared with Cllrs ahead of the meeting.

5.5 The Chairman confirmed that all grant decisions had been delayed until the February meeting to allow a discussion to take place about the policy and additional information being requested. Cllr R Nicholson asked why ‘Hamlet’ was not in the title of the policy and the Clerk advised this was an error and would be amended. Cllr R Nicholson expressed dissatisfaction over a request for financial information for one applicant. The Chairman advised that as part of due diligence financial records had been requested of one application and subsequently all applicants. The Chairman advised she had sought advice from Head of Legal at TDC about the request and the parish councils policy itself and had been advised that the requests were appropriate and inline with the policy. Cllrs agreed that the policy should be updated to include a request for suitable financial statements in addition to the application form and that no grants would be awarded without it. Cllr R Nicholson confirmed that the Community Shop Project was for the building itself and not the shop business. When asked whether the project held an annual public meeting Cllr R Nicholson advised it did not and confirmed that closed meetings of the trustees which were held was legal for an unregistered charity. A full decision about changes to the policy and procedure will be discussed and agreed at the February meeting to allow Cllr Thorne to attend at his request. This year’s applications will also be discussed and agreed on in February.

Chairman Sign and date .....1.....



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5.6 2025/2026 Precept - Cllrs discussed the proposed budget for the next financial year. Cllr Fisher proposed a precept request of £16,500, Cllr Paulger seconded this and all Cllrs voted in favour apart from Cllr Hamlyn who abstained.

5.7 The Clerk advised she was still looking for an alternative quote for the bus shelter repairs and had contacted a contractor recommended by Cllr Cllr Trusler and was waiting for a response.

5.8 The Clerk advised that the repair work was now being looked at by NRP Ltd who have advised they are waiting for information from Willow Tree Housing. The Chairman asked the Clerk to replace the signs on the playing field to state that it is still closed. The Clerk will follow up with NRP Ltd for an update.

5.9 The Chairman advised that the playground sign had been damaged in the recent storm. The Clerk provided a quote for a replacement and Cllrs agreed to proceed. Proposed by Cllr R Nicholson, seconded by Cllr Russell, agreed by all.

5.10 The Clerk advised that County Cllr Morrish had granted £200 towards a new noticeboard to replace the dilapidated board opposite the Pint & Post. The Clerk had researched replacement options and provided options and a quote. Cllrs agreed A1 in signal blue would be suitable. Proposed by Cllr Trusler, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn and agreed by all.

5.11 The Clerk read out the response from the Highways officer about the condition of the road from Chapmans Well to Boyton Bridge which stated that only individual pot holes that meet the safety defect criteria would be repaired. The Clerk was asked to forward the response to the County Cllr to see if he can help get action.

**6. PLANNING**

6.1 1/0846/2024/FUL - Erection of covered dung store - East Druyton Farm, St Giles on the Heath - permission granted.

**7. REVIEWING PROGRESS OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

7.1 Health & Safety Focussed project - The Clerk advised that the PaCT kit was now in the telephone box for community use and the ‘drive carefully’ signs had been erected. The Clerk confirmed that the full £1000 grant had been spent. The First Aid course will run on February 1<sup>st</sup> 10am-12noon and then the project will be complete. Cllr Fisher will write on the chalkboard outside the hall to publicise the event.

7.2 Parish Meeting - Cllr Atkinson advised that the head of speed watch was willing to attend a meeting to show a presentation about speed watch and how the public can participate and is waiting to confirm a date.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 The Chairman advised she had been invited to a meeting with Sir Geoffrey Cox and Head of Operations at TDC and asked if there were any matters any Cllrs would like her to raise. It was suggested she could raise some questions about parishioners no longer being able to use the recycling centre in Launceston.

**9. FINANCES**

9.1 Authorisations of expenses: Coronation Hall hall hire January meeting £18, Pidsignz drive carefully signs £56.47, clerk’s expenses paper and postage £21.31, PaCT Trauma Kit £109.13, signpost clips £36.98, Chairman’s expenses Christmas Tree £40, Community Heartbeat light and pads £59.94 & £31.14. Accounts proposed for payment by Cllr Paulger, seconded by Cllr R Nicholson and agreed by all.

9.2 Current account as of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - £10147.79.

9.3 Monthly budget sheet – circulated for Cllrs information only.

**10. NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

10.1 Tuesday 25<sup>TH</sup> February 2025 7:30pm

**\*\* PART II MEETING (PRESS & PUBLIC EXCLUDED) \*\***

**11. ENFORCEMENT**

11.1 The Clerk advised that an enforcement case had been closed as no breach of planning had been found.

**12. CLOSE**

12.1 Meeting closed approx. 21:19pm.

Chairman Sign and date .....2.....