

# Gulworthy Parish Council

## Minutes of ordinary meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Gulworthy Parish Hall

### No 162

*These minutes are provisional until they are agreed and signed by the chair at the next meeting of the parish council.*

**Councillors present** – Cllr K Royston (Chair), Cllr K Steer, Cllr W Miller and Cllr W Hamilton

**Also present** – Emily Young (Parish Clerk) and Cllr Sellis, Cllr Saxby and 6 members of public

### Meeting opened 7.31pm

- 1. Chairman's welcome** – Cllr Royston opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for coming along. She explained that the public section may be extended longer than usual due to the numbers of people attending and planning application 4165/23/FUL.
- 2. Members of the public** – 6 people were present. Two/three residents were in attendance to understand more about 4166/23/FUL (Zip World planning application). Another spoke of his opposition to the proposed Zip World planning application mainly due to the negative effect on nature and wildlife; very little ecological consideration. He also mentioned about two restrictive covenants that exist and the fact that historically Tamar Valley National Landscape's response was against historical development in this sensitive site/area. There was also concern raised about his private water supply being contaminated as a result of the proposed works.  
Zip World were in attendance to answer any further questions. The representative said they will put a woodland and area management plan to address previous concerns. This would be something new for the woodland. They are also dealing with invasive species.
- 3. Apologies** – Cllr Porter, Cllr Lister, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Blackman and Rev Blowey.
- 4. Dispensations & declarations of Interest** – none declared.
- 5. Minutes of previous meeting 161 to be approved and then signed by the chair as true and accurate record of that meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Steer to approve the minutes, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and agreed by all. Cllr Royston signed and dated the minutes.
- 6. Planning applications received to-date:**

**6.1 Reference-4165/23/FUL** - Installation of platforms, masts and suspended track to accommodate a safety rail attraction; heritage visitor interpretation provision; open space, landscaping and additional parking – **Tavistock Woodlands, Road To Tavistock Woodlands Estate.**

It was proposed by Cllr Steer and seconded by Cllr Hamilton to support this proposal. Cllr Miller voted against this proposal and Cllr Royston abstained.

The Parish Council have some additional points (concerns) they would like to raise with WDBC as the LPA:

\* That if the development goes ahead there is a risk that further expansion of the activities may follow which would cause more harm than that currently proposed.

\* The proposed development may cause irreparable harm to the unique bat population at and close by the site; and other flora and fauna, and the recommendations from the relevant agencies e.g. Devon Wildlife Trust and Devon County Council's ecologist should be taken into consideration.

### Signed -

#### **Parish Councillors**

Kate Royston (Chair), George Lister (Vice Chair);

Jim Hamilton, Wendy Miller, Suzanne Porter, Katherine Steer & Daniel Edwards

Parish Clerk: Emily Young: Telephone 07942286125 Email: gulworthypc.clerk@gmail.com

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- \* That steps be taken to avoid undue disturbance and compacting of the ground underneath the rail route and related infrastructure; and steps should be taken to mitigate this including appropriate paths; and care during construction.
- \* That the proposed siting of the car park extension right in front of the Trails Café by, and around, the telescope will have a significant detrimental impact on the stunning views over the Tamar Valley enjoyed by so many. We would respectfully request that this area is kept clear of car parking and available for visitors enjoyment.
- \* The Police response to planning suggests that the car park should be closed outside normal hours. The trails are used by local people and others 24\*7 and car park access should be available at all times (at least limited provision).
- \* The PC is aware that the money currently collected from car parking is ring fenced for maintenance of the Tamar Trails. If the car parking is free this will impact the ability of WDBC to support maintenance of the Trails.
- \* That parts of the course may be outside the tree cover and have a negative impact on the enjoyment of the views of the woodland, and its status as a WHS and National Landscape, particularly when viewed from Gulworthy.
- \* A local resident who has a private water supply has concerns over water contamination. Is it possible to have water quality testing before, during and after the construction work?
- \* Concerns about the increased numbers of cars on the access road, particularly if you add increased pedestrian numbers into the mix.

From an economic point of view, I hope this activity will continue to provide and possibly increase employment in the Parish. With Tavistock High Street changing, we do need something to retain visitor spend locally.

The Parish Council recognises:

- \* The hard work that has been put into the revised proposal to limit the footprint and harm caused by the development.
- \* The importance of sustaining the Tree surfers rope courses and the existing Tamar Trail's Centre and café through the Zip World proposal. We are concerned that without the new development the existing business may not continue with the loss of jobs locally; and the new proposal will provide more local jobs.

**6.2 Reference – 0074/24/CLE – The Shippen, Orestocks** - Certificate for Lawfulness for Existing annexe been used as an independent dwelling – 2 members of the public confirmed they have been living in separate accommodation.

**Signed -**

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**6.3 Reference - 3146/23/CLP - Deran House, Gulworthy, Tavistock, PL19 8JA - Certificate of lawfulness for proposed replacement of wooden shed – Noted.**

## **5 Members of the public left the meeting**

**7.Planning applications received after publication of this agenda – Reference 3009/23/FUL – Higher Parswell Farm, Lumburn – to be added to the next agenda.**

**8.DCC Cllr Sellis** – Its budget time again and a significant amount of work has been undertaken across directorates and by finance officers to present a set of targets that are affordable next year. The authority should remain financially sustainable. Overall, it is proposed that service targets are increased by around £43.8m – 6.3% to a total of £743.38M. SEND budgets are very stretched. The road works taking place at the moment are to upgrade old infrastructure which may have the additional benefit for greener gas solutions in the future. There has been an 80% deficit in local business from the roadworks! Devon’s devolution is being signed off by the government soon. On-street car parking charging proposals; following the consultation, the results will be considered by the DCC cabinet.

**9.WDBC Cllrs Saxby & Blackman – reports** – Cllr Saxby - WDBC are managing to cover their costs and are in surplus. They have submitted a draft report. From the Shared Prosperity Fund the money generated in WDBC is being reinvested in WDBC businesses. Denham Bridge has been seriously damaged and although there is a plan in place it will take 8 weeks to get it fixed, as its Grade 2 listed structure. Cllr Saxby has been involved helping in:  
WASPI  
Tamar Valley National Landscape  
etc.

**10.Cllr reports – Cllr Miller** – Recently attended the Gulworthy Parish Hall committee meeting. She now knows where the halogen heaters are in case of another cold meeting, she also said they are looking to have the front drive of the hall re-tarmaced which will cost £8,000! There are various events planned for the hall later this year. **Cllr Steer** – She has been in touch with the Head of the local primary school who has said she has found a bench and a seat for £500.00 which she would like to purchase. Clerk to follow up. Cllr Steer also mentioned about a gate post needing fixing (next agenda) . **Cllr Hamilton** still concerned about the work being undertaken on the wall opposite the hall and Cllr Sellis will contact DCC Highways about this matter.

**11.Burial ground** – Nothing to report.

## **12.Finance**

### **12.1 – Invoices for approval to be paid –**

<b>Clerk expenses</b> WAH allowance £6.00p.w + mileage + expenses	<b>£58.48</b>
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**Signed -**

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**Clerk January payroll** (this includes the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) 2023/24 Pay Agreement - the NJC come to an agreement on the 2023/24 pay award, applicable from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. Which equates to +£1.00 per hour).

**£616.70**

**HMRC Tax and NI**

**£40.40**

It was proposed by Cllr Miller to authorise the above payments via BACs. Seconded by Cllr Royston. Agreed by all.

**Cllr Sellis left the meeting.**

**12.2 – To note Credits received – None.**

**12.3 – Request for spending – See item 13.**

DRAFT

**Signed -**

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**12.4 – Bank reconciliations** – The below year to-date RFO report (No 162) was circulated to all.  
**No 162 1 February 2024**

	<u>Paid Out</u>	<u>Paid In</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<p><b><u>Club, Charity &amp; Trust account (00298624)</u></b>                      Opening Balance as at 4 January 2024 b/fwd</p> <p><u>Receipts</u> None</p> <p><u>Expenditure:</u>  <b><u>11/01/2024</u></b>                      Clerk December payroll    330.80                      Clerk December expenses    39.98                      HMRC    4.00                      SPS marketing    39.60                      Two months hall hire    38.00  <b>Total expenditure</b>    <b>£452.38</b></p> <p><b>Balance on 1st February 2024</b></p>			<p><b>£7,250.21</b></p> <p><b>£6,797.83</b></p>
<p><b><u>Gulworthy Cemetery account (00020251)</u></b>                      Opening balance as at 04.01.2024</p> <p><u>Expenditure</u> None</p> <p><u>Credit receipts</u>                      10/01/24 Credit Interest    17.39</p> <p><b>Balance on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024</b></p>		<p>17.39</p> <p><b>£13,770.35</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Gulworthy Fundraising account (00035992)</u></b>                      Opening balance as at 04.01.2024</p> <p><u>Credit receipts</u>                      10/01/24 Credit interest    5.61</p> <p><b>Balance on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024</b></p>		<p>5.61</p> <p><b>£4,928.17</b></p>	
<b>Combined balance £25,496.35</b>			
<p><b>It was proposed by Cllr Royston to approve the RFO report, seconded by Cllr Steer, agreed by all.</b></p>			

**Signed -**

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**13. Website and domain name** – Recent issues have been raised over the existing domain name. The Clerk consulted two different website company's for advice. The existing company SPS Marketing said it will be £264+Vat to address the current domain name issue, then another £850+Vat to rebuild the site, as the current site is old and requires updating. A local business, Western Web said they could build a new website based on a CRM platform which would cost £550 +Vat to design and populate with annual hosting at £80 +Vat including an email account for the clerk and security padlock. The Councillors felt that moving to a local company who works with lots of Parish Councils on a CRM platform would be better. Proposed by Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Miller and agreed by all.

**14. Noticeboard** – deferred to next meeting.

**15. Broadband Update** – Devon Consols and Woodovis residents are, we understand largely connected with a number of exceptions. .

**16. Snow warden** – Cllrs to identify black spots - deferred to next meeting.

**17. Highways**

**17.1 – Cllrs to audit own areas** – ongoing.

**17.2 - Ref: TTRO2455165** – Monday 11 March for up to 5 days between 9.30am and 4pm diversion in place. Roads affected - ROAD PAST NEWBRIDGE HOUSE, GUNNISLAKE – **Noted.**

**Meeting closed at 9:32pm.**

**Signed -**

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