

Roborough Parish Council Meeting held on the 15th March 2016 in the Village Hall

Present

Councillor Rob Brown (Chairman)
Councillor Yvonne Isaac (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Martyn Hookway.

Councillor Michael Folland
Councillor John Bowden
District Councillor Rose Lock.

Item 1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Karen Bryant.

Item 2 Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 19th January 2016

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 19th January were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

Item 3 Declaration of Interest.

There were no interests declared.

Item 4 The Chairman will invite any members of the public present to raise any matters of concern with the Parish Councillors.

There were no members of the public present.

Item 5 Matters arising from the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 2016

- Feed back of Action Points from previous meeting. 1-10.

Action Points 1-9 have been completed. Action Point 10 regarding opting out of the Pension Scheme remains ongoing.

- Financial Report. Parish Clerk.

29/02/2016	NatWest C/A	£2,756.62
29/02/2016	NatWest R/A	£ 378.70
01/01/2016	NS&I Account	£1681.60

- Highways update,

Councillor John Bowden reported that feed back from the Highways department about reported potholes was poor. Some of the reported problems have not been attended to despite meeting the Highway Safety Manual criteria. However some requests for action has been completed. i.e. A bridle way sign has been replaced after it was blown over in the high winds. Dead trees leaning on telephone wires have been removed. Some of the potholes reported on the road leading to Great Barlington have also been filled.

The Bridge over the brook at Great Barlington is damaged on the underside and is potentially dangerous, and has been reported on the 13th March 2016.

- Replacement Entrance Gates to playing field.

Councillor Rob Brown reported that he has received one quote for replacement gates to the playing field and is waiting for a second. It will be decided at the next Council meeting how to proceed.

- The Queens 90th Birthday celebration.

Councillor Yvonne Isaac to arrange a meeting in April with those Parishioners who expressed an interest in holding a celebration tea for the Queens 90th Birthday on the 12th June. (AP1)

- Feed back From Barnstaple Records Office regarding future financial viability.

A three year agreement between funding parties such as Barnstaple Town Council and smaller Parish Councils will allow the Records Office to remain in the present venue and avoid closure. Councillor proposed John Bowden that a one off donation of £150 be made and was seconded by Councillor Yvonne Isaac. It was proposed by Councillor Rob Brown that the Clerk write to Barnstaple Town Clerk stating that we would be willing to donate £150 as a one off donation in 2016/17 when they let us know there is confidence that the target will be reached. It will be reconsidered in 2017/18. This was agreed unanimously. (AP2)

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- Parish Employee Pensions opt out.

After communication with the Pensions Regulator the Parish Council has been informed that the staging date for opting out is April 2017. Contact with the Pensions regulator will need to be started in January 2017. (AP3)

Item 6 Correspondence received since 19th January 2016

A Letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission with final recommendations of the electoral review of Devon.

A letter from NatWest Bank informing the Council that interest is now paid without tax being deducted.

A letter from NatWest Bank reminding the council that there is free banking for Community organisations with an annual turnover of £100,000 or less.

A Flyer advertising Commemorative medals for schools and Councils marking the Queens 90th Birthday.

An email from Barnstaple Records Office laying out the plans for a 3 year funding partnership to save the records office from closure.

Item 7 New Business

a, Planning applications.

There were no planning applications.

b, District Councillors Report.

“Councillor Rose Lock reported that as well as £1,000 District Councillor Community Grant fund there is now £10,000 available to each ward of TDC to be spent on community projects. This money has been made available from part of the New Homes Bonus Protocol.

The Local Government Boundary Commission is conducting an electoral review at Torridge – which means reviewing the number of Councillors and Ward boundaries. This will come into effect by the 2019 elections. Torridge District Council are going to recommend we stay as 36 Councillors but the domino effect on size of Wards will come into effect so as to balance electoral numbers.”

c, Cheques for signature.

Southwest Highway's	Cheque Number 415	£204.00p
Clerks Expenses	Cheque Number 416	£ 35.96p
Playsafety	Cheque Number 417	£ 92.40p

d, Wind turbine planning in Torridge and North Devon.

It has been proposed in their Local Plan by North Devon and Torridge Council to allow the entire area to become a designated area suitable for wind energy development. This proposal is in the consultation phase and responses need to be submitted by 24th March 2016. A response against this proposal was agreed unanimously at the meeting and will be submitted by the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Councils response can be seen on the Parish Notice board, the Parish website and in the Parish News. (AP4)

e, Playground /equipment safety inspection report.

On The 2nd March 2016 “Playsafety” inspected the play equipment.

Their recommendations for remedial work are:

1. Re-tensioning the Chain link fence.
The Parish Clerk will contact “Playsafety” and enquire if the fence was replaced with new Chain link it would meet with safety requirements. (AP5)
2. The Timber of wooden goal post is not in good condition. The edges of the post need to chamfered and protruding bolt cut off or covered to remove sharp edges.

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Councillor Martyn Hookway will reinforce the post with new wood, which will cover the bolt and strengthen the post. Councillor Rob Brown will then chamfer the edges. (AP6)

- 3. The head of the Rocking Horse is not in good condition. The wood needs to be sanded and sealed. The young person who is currently undertaking her “service to the community” section of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award will be asked to do this and will be supervised by Councillor John Bowden.
- 4. The Swings, Seesaw, and the helter-skelter all require professional inspection/maintenance. District Councillor Rose Lock will enquire who the District Council use to maintain council run play equipment and pass the information to the Parish Council. (AP7)
- 5. The Netball post is corroded and it was unanimously agreed that it should be taken down. This will be arranged and be done at the same time as the items above are maintained.

f, It had been suggested that the inside of the Bus shelter be painted. However it was unanimously agree not to proceed with this suggestion.

g, Transparency Code/ I.T.

A grant of £445 from Transparency Code Fund has been awarded to the Parish Council. This will allow the Council to purchase a laptop for Parish Council work.

It was proposed by Councillor Rob Brown that Councillor John Bowden liase with Tony Gist (IT Consultant) and purchase a suitable lap top computer. (AP8) Should extra funding be needed to ensure a robust model is purchased, an extra £200 would be made available from Parish Council money. The Council unanimously agreed this.

Meeting closed at 21.00hrs by the Chairman.

Item 8 Date of next meeting.

17th May 2016.

Chairman’s signature.....

Clerk’s signature.....

Date.....

Date.....