

**COPPLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING – 4th February 2025 at
7pm held at the Methodist Church Meeting Room**

MINUTES

Present – Cllr Turner (Chairman), Cllr Faulkner (Vice-Chair), Cllr Dhinsa, Cllr Clark, Cllr Glover, Cllr Youngs, Cllr Sharp, Cllr F. Letch (County), Cllr A. White (District) + The Clerk.

Apologies – Cllr Eastman , Cllr N. Letch (District)

1.	<p>Declarations of Interest Cllr Faulkner raised his pecuniary interest at Agenda point 11.3.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7th January 2025 The minutes of the last meeting were approved by all the members present. The wording of minute ref 6.1 was discussed.</p>
3.	<p>Open Forum - an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open forum. 8 Residents</p> <p>Suzanne Lunn spoke about the forthcoming Spring Clean event around the village. This had been undertaken in previous years and was thought to be popular. The PC were asked to provide a donation for the Refreshments at the Methodist Church. This had been undertaken in previous year and all members were happy to donate again. The event would be held at the weekend during late March / early April.</p> <p>A new notice board had also been installed recently. Cllr Clark has provided this, and it is to be for Parish Council notices.</p> <p>A request for an article from the Parish Council is also requested. The Clerk will provide this.</p> <p>Resident – Concerns were raised about the condition of No. 8 Lychgate Park. There is a significant amount of ‘detritus’ and vehicles that have not moved from the entrance for some months. More is arriving and despite the residents’ requests to the owners directly, no action was taken. MDDC have been contacted on numerous occasions with nothing till undertaken. Can the Council assist? The Clerk stated that he can request Planning Enforcement at MDDC to consider the issue with a potential request for a s.215 notice to clean up the site. This will be passed to MDDC as soon as possible.</p> <p>Resident – A resident at Lychgate makes a request to Devon Highways to deal with the grass and build-up of debris causing flood issues. There has been drain clearing at Lychgate and the surrounding area that is not working. Water builds up from drains that are not adequately cleaned. There are areas where large quantities of water flow underground and this is becoming blocked. The resident has reported this to Highways who are due to report by the 17th January. Cllr Letch noted this and would assist after the 17th.</p> <p>Flooding on the 6th was quite bad within the village and residents agreed that the curb along the railway line do not allow water to flow naturally down the hill.</p> <p>Network rail undertook the work some years ago. Can they be contacted to see if the gulleys can be installed or cleared properly. Clerk to write to Network rail.</p> <p>Potholes by the bus stop have been worked on and these repairs are of an extremely inferior quality. Highways have not still addressed other visible potholes on the A377.</p> <p>An update on the public house was required. Cllr Eastman had been in contact with the owner once, but no meaningful information had been gathered. There were comments regarding the</p>

	<p>worsen condition of the site and that it would be easily accessible to trespassers. Cllr White noted updates that would be discussed at Agenda point 7.</p> <p>Mark – A Youth Worker from the Methodist Church introduced himself as he was new. He asked if there is there anything that the Methodist Church can do to assist the Youth of Copplestone. Members thanked him for attending and would consider any required provisions.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Co-Option To consider co-opting one member to fill remaining vacancy. No nominations for the one vacancy were received.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Principal Authority Reports:</p> <p>7.1 To receive County Cllr report. – Cllr Frank Letch His monthly report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Scrutiny work on the Children, Adult Care and Corporate Infrastructure committees was outlined. Details of the Locality Fund held by Cllr Letch could be downgraded to £5000. Objections have been raised. The current level is £8000 per ward.</p> <p>Cllr Letch has received several complaints within his ward regarding gulleys and drainage issues. Deputy Head of Highways has been asked to review Gully clearing as DCC say that 80% of gulleys have been inspected along the 8000-mile network within Devon. A freedom of Information request has been undertaken to consider this further. It was also reported that Elections for county seats may or may not go ahead. Very little information with any certainty has been received. Cllr Letch also stated that he was not standing in this election, whenever it takes place. He introduced his hopeful candidate Mr Jim Carney who spoke briefly about his potential role.</p> <p>7.2 To receive District Cllr report – Correspondence from Cllr White was noted and would be raised at agenda point 8.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>The Cross Hotel - To Receive an update on works to date. Cllr Alex White provided a brief written report on the work that MDDC had undertaken at The Cross Hotel. It was noted that MDDC were continuing to liaise with the Owners of the site. It was still thought that a planning application was required for the building to be demolished, none had been received. Matters re-updating the parish were to be dealt with within Part 2 of the ordinary meeting.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Environment / Property</p> <p>9.1 Fernworthy Park / Sunnymead Park Working Group Report. A monthly check is to be undertaken at the site. The work required at Sunnymead to repair the play equipment is noted and parts have been ordered. A rail has snapped on one piece of equipment, and this is not going to be quick to repair. It was also noted that older children have been undoing bolts on the site. Many of the safety caps have been removed.</p> <p>9.2 Flooding in the Village & Gully Repairs – To report on recent events and remedial action if any. This aspect of the agenda was dealt with above.</p> <p>9.3 Installation of Grit Bin at Bevan Square / Shambles Drive – Requested by MOP.</p>

More Clarification required as the entrance to Shambles on the A377 may not be owned by highways. A management company may own the land. If ownership of the land can be ascertained, the PC are willing to consider this again.

9.4 Community Risk Register – MDDC Initiative for addition by Copplestone Parish Council. Members noted the risks generally and many were very specific to individual parishes. The Clerk sought members' views on adding a risk of crossing the A377, without any sufficient designated crossing from the bus stop. Flooding on the A377 was also to be considered. The Crossing was seen as a priority as any evidence of it being an issue will assist with convincing DCC Highways to install on.

9.5 CRA reporting post 13th January 2025 meeting.

Cllr Clark reported on the meeting held on the 13th January.

A storage container has been installed by the Football Club. The containers have not been put on blocks in a safe manner and it is asked that contact is made with the Football Club and CRA to rectify this. A site meeting between the relevant members was sought. The Clerk is asked to arrange this.

The Village Survey is likely to be undertaken in July 2025. Publicity for the vote would be undertaken now.

It was also noted that the Football Pitch is too small for Adult Football games. It appears that it is 5m short of the Full-Size Pitch requirement. This was to be looked into by the CRA and Football Club as it appears that additional funding is available from the FA if a larger pitch was enabled. This will be added to the March agenda.

8. Planning

Ref: 25/00022/HOUSE

Proposal: Installation of garage door on existing carport

Location: 52 Shambles Drive Copplestone Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 276555 / 103150

Parish: Copplestone 62

Link: [https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-](https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SPPQYDKS07T00)

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No comment was made on the application.

Ref: 24/01819/LBC

Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation

Location: Knowle Barn Knowle Crediton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 278143 / 101555

Parish: Copplestone 62

Link: <https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SOQBZNS07T00>

No Objections to the application were given and was supported.

Proposed – Cllr Clark

Seconded – Cllr Young

Members noted that the application regarding the battery storage unit at Fernworthy Car Park had recently been received after the agenda was produced. It was noted that a removal of conditions relating to sound and associated Db range at the site. Members in the past had objected to the application and would therefore reiterate our comments relating to Sound in the past. Members believed no added information had been received to change their initial objection to the application.

<p>9.</p>	<p>Finance Current Account Balance - £43,775.61 Savings - £9,414.78</p> <p>To sanction the following payments due:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Ref</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Purpose</th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11.1</td> <td>01483</td> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Monthly Salary</td> <td>435.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Stamps 3 x 1st Class</td> <td>4.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.2</td> <td>01484</td> <td colspan="2">Cobblestone Methodist Church Hall Rent to December 2025</td> <td>110.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.3</td> <td>01489</td> <td>Log On Garden Services</td> <td>P3 Work FP 153</td> <td>126.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above payments were approved by all members. Proposed - Cllr Turner Seconded - Cllr Youngs</p>	Item	Ref	Payee	Purpose	£	11.1	01483	Clerk	Monthly Salary	435.80				Stamps 3 x 1 st Class	4.95	11.2	01484	Cobblestone Methodist Church Hall Rent to December 2025		110.00	11.3	01489	Log On Garden Services	P3 Work FP 153	126.00
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<p>10.</p>	<p>Member Statements</p> <p>Cllr Clark - Storage at the football field as above.</p> <p>Cllr Faulkner – The street lighting at the corner of the Car park is out of action and has been for some time. Can this be reported to street lighting? Football ground - would anyone else use the ground if the land is bigger. Yes, they would.</p> <p>Cllr Glover – It is noted that Cllr White is dealing with issues with escaping dogs at a property in Sunnymead. The Police will not take action and the RSPCA are next to contact if no action is taken.</p> <p>Cllr Sharp – Are there any Bat Boxes on Barn conversions in the area. Are there any areas they live in in the village? David Brassington would have this information.</p> <p>Cllr Youngs - PSCO visit regarding Speed Awareness at the Primary School has had to be delayed. This will be rearranged.</p> <p>A general discussion arose with Speed Awareness and it was considered prudent to now make arrangements for the official speed monitoring equipment ordered. Cllr Clark will consider this. The lack of a mirror at Bewsley Hill is still an issue, this cannot be progressed according to MDDC.</p>																									
	<p>There were no further topics for discussion and the ordinary meeting concluded at 20.25pm</p> <p>A Part 2 meeting was undertaken at the request of the Clerk. The meeting was used to discuss members Register of Interests and The Cross Hotel.</p> <p>The Part 2 meeting concluded at 20.45pm</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting – 4th March 2025</p>																									