**WEST AND EAST PUTFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

PARISH CLERK: David Smith, 1, Mambury Cottages, East Putford, Holsworthy EX22 7UH

Tel : 01409 240219 E-Mail Seasider1000@me.com

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday, 10th May 2023 at 7:00pm

Collacott Room Bradworthy Memorial Hall.

**MINUTES**

**1. Apologies**

None.

**2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2022.** Proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Drake. Agreed Unanimously

**3. Chairman’s Report** Taken as read.

**4. Financial Report and Accounts of the Parish Council** Taken as read.

**5. Common Moor Report from Land Agent**

Circulated prior to meeting and taken as read.

**6. Public Participation - Presentation from Airband Ltd on Fibre Broadband roll-out.**

Faye Cross, Community Liaison Officer from Airband attended the meeting to update n their plans to provide fibre broadband to 96 properties within the parish. She was unable to confirm firm dates for the roll-out or advise how the 96 properties had been chosen. Councillors asked for clarification on he routing for the cabling across the parish and Miss Cross will provide this via the Parish Clerk. When available the company will provide free installation and financial support to customers switching from another provider. Miss Cross was thanked for attending the meeting.

**West & East Putford Parish Council**

**Chairman’s Report**

**May 2023**

**Cllr Mrs Drake :**

Dear Councillors

I agreed to accept the position of chair-person from David Smith earlier this year when we were finding it so terribly difficult to find a Parish Clerk.  This then enabled David to step up as Clerk, thank you David for your help in this.

Our meetings have generally included planning applications, information about Common Moor and the ongoing work with Devon Wildlife Trust, the state of our local roads and our financial status. Sadly we also had an incident on Common Moor with regard to two young Buzzards being shot.  This was reported to the police and wildlife charities.

I would like to thank our Parish Councillors for their continuing work and District Councillors, in particular Councillor Pennington for the support and attendance to our meetings, we really do appreciate this, also County Councillor Morrish who attended regularly until he was unable to do so due to poor health.  We hope to see you back soon.

I am happy to continue in the position of Chair-person temporarily but would be most grateful if another would like to assume the position.

Thank you

Yours Sincerely

Lorraine Drake  Chair-person

**Cllr Carter**

This year we have emerged from a difficult period for many with three years of Covid lockdowns during which the Parish Council used post to communicate a Parish Newsletter supported by local government funding which ended at the end of 2021. This will be reviewed at the end of this Year. This year saw the completion of the first 5 years of a 10 year management of common moor project of with Natural England and Devon wildlife Trust which has generated some Funds for the Parish and has seen the classification move from unfavourable -declining to unfavourable improving. A Friends Group for West and East Putford was established aiming to reactivate community activities whilst raising funds to support local charities and the Church of St Stephen’s which rather than being closed has had its status changed to that of a festival church and parish asset ie available for Wedding, Funerals, Christening main festival Services and parish events. The PC has supported them with Memorial medals for games at the Jubilee Party in 2922 and the Coronation Garden Party in 2023. We have replaced noticeboards in both West and East Putford with two Oak 70th jubilee commemoration boards and funded daffodil bulbs planted around the parish by Friends and Parish members. We have worked hard to keep the County on top of our road repairs but currently still have a way to go, we additionally we have improved access to the Helicoptor landing site we set up in previous years courtesy of the Moulder Family. Our aim for future years is to compete the Common Moor commitment developing community assets and activity support. We are looking for new members to the PC so if you are interested in helping us in these aims please contact me for more information

**West & East Putford Parish Council**

**Financial Report from Parish Clerk 2022/23**

The Parish Council has continued to discharge all of it’s statutory functions during the the last financial year.

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 were approved and both the internal and external audits were completed satisfactorily. The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been audited by the Council’s Internal Auditor. A budget and precept for the 2023/24 financial year have been agreed and the Council has fulfilled all of the required financial reporting requirements.

The Stewardship Agreement regarding Common Moor is now mid-way through its 10 year term and continues to be closely managed. The funding available has allowed the council to increase its reserves and to begin funding a number of projects within he parishes.