

Meeting of the Council
16th January 2025
MINUTES

PRESENT: Ian Horsnell (Chair), Richard Poole, Richard Toller, Nan Maxwell, Cheryl Pocock, Roger Gay, Jon Ride, Ute Gojrzewski (temp clerk) and 16 members of the public

2025/001-Apologies: Adele Poole

2025/002-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None.

2025/003-Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted as accurate.

2025/004-Announcements from the Chair: none

2025/005-Democratic 15 Minutes/Public Question Time: Richard Holloway (member of the public) clarified the content of the petition regarding the Tiverton Staghound Hunt, or indeed any Hunt group. It is asking to stop all hunt related traffic from entering the village, not allowing the hunt followers to go through, as well as stopping hunting itself within the village perimeter. The petition is not meant to be "anti-hunt". About 75% of the villagers do not want the hunt in and around the village. Not all of them signed the petition out of fear of retribution from hunt supporters. The police have not been acting appropriately to complaints. The campaign group have approached Ian Room (local MP) and are waiting for a follow.

The general idea is to start communicating with the hunt organisers, in this case the Tiverton Staghound Hunt.

Although the Labour party has a trail hunt ban in their manifesto, the council does not want to confuse that with the issue the village experiences from the hunt followers.

Also see minute item 2025/14

2025/006-County Councillor's Slot-Not present.

2025/007-District Councillor's Slot-Not Present.

2025/008-Financial Matters.

2025/008.1-Account Balances. Community Account £327.19, Business Premium Account £3,530.68

2025/008.2-Transactions since last PC meeting:

Donation to the Citizens Advise Bureau of £30, Interest of £12.24 paid into the Business Premium Account

2025/008.3- Richard Poole presented his proposed budget for 2025/26, with the amendments decided at the last council meeting. The precept request of £2800 was agreed by all and will be submitted to NDCC.

2025/009-Dispensation Requests-There were none.

2025/010-Planning Matters-

79597: Rodways Queens Nympton, Prior notification for erection of one agricultural storage shed, 17.12.2024 - the council has no objection

2025/011-Village Hall – There has been little activity since Xmas. The maintenance work is still ongoing. Thanks to Roger for helping to erect the Xmas Tree.

2025/012 - Parish Clerk Vacancy - There has not been any interest over the holiday period. May make a concerted effort around the village again, then consider the paid route with an advert on DALC.

2025/013 - Phone Box – The phone box will close at the end of February for painting/decorating. It should re-open at the end of April.

2025/014 – Hunting: update on activities regarding the antisocial behaviour of the hunt supporters: Cllr Ian Horsnell talked to the police in Barnstaple. He was promised a call back, which hasn't happened yet. The council do not want to give the impression their activities are anti-hunt, but

emphasize the bad behaviour of some of those who follow the hunt on their quad bikes without any consideration for their environment. The village campaign may elicit some media attention and it was discussed if the council should voice an opinion or issue a statement. Comments on NALC from other councils facing similar issues, suggest as a first action to communicate with the hunt in question, as it is their followers causing the harm. No further action has been decided as yet.

2025/015-Speeding Signage- The council agreed to purchase a speed limit sign at the cost of £140. The decision was proposed by Richard Toller, seconded by Jonathan Ride.

2025/017/018- Updates on council policies The Council agreed to review all standing orders, policies and regulations

Some have been reviewed, amended and agreed upon, others still need a little more work. Apart from bringing all up to date, the aim is also to simplify.

2025/019 - Correspondence-There was none.

2025/020 – AoB: The councils insurance will need to be renewed in the April/May timeframe. Richard Poole is asking to get another quote – all councillors agreed.

2025/021- Date of Next Meeting: 20th March 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm