

Meeting of the Council
20th March 2025
MINUTES

PRESENT: Ian Horsnell (Chair), Richard Poole, Richard Toller, Nan Maxwell, Cheryl Pocock, Adele Poole, Jon Ride, Ute Gojrzewski (temp clerk) and 9 members of the public

2025/019-Apologies: Roger Gay

2025/020-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None.

2025/021-Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted as accurate.

2025/022-Announcements from the Chair: Council to discuss retrospective planning application 79694 for a lawful development certificate for existing extension and alterations to dwelling via email

2025/023 & 032 - Democratic 15 Minutes/Public Question Time and update on issues with hunt:

Following the approach to the Parish Council by concerned residents regarding the abusive and anti-social behaviour and reckless driving of quad bikes of hunt followers going through the village, members of the council have had a meeting with senior members of Tiverton Staghouads.

The organisation has a code of conduct regarding behaviour on a hunt and this is reiterated in person at the start of a hunt to all participants and followers. They are aware that any anti-social behaviour damages their reputation and seek to do whatever they can to prevent this. They are planning to ensure that those following on quad bikes are registered by colour and registration plate by the Staghouads.

They are prepared to ban followers where they can be identified by this method. If these details can be provided as evidence of those behaving abusively/dangerously, the Council now has a contact to forward them to. Without evidence they can't take action and there will be quad bike riders who are unknown to them.

With regard to legal recourse, quad bikes that are being driven on the road must be approved, registered, taxed and MOT'd if required and the driver must have a driving licence and insurance. They can be prosecuted if driving dangerously or carelessly, or on a footpath or land where they don't have permission. In order for reckless or abusive behaviour to be addressed by the police, it will need to be reported to the police as a crime and this again will need evidence. This will also apply should further action be sought, such as through a Community Protection Notice.

In summary, Tiverton Staghouads will take action if the individuals can be identified and if evidence can be provided, plus the behaviour can be reported to the police as a crime.

However, the public attending again requested that the Council declare George Nympton as a 'hunt free zone' and the Council will further consider this.

2025/024-County Councillor's Slot-Not present.

2025/025-District Councillor's Slot-Not Present.

2025/026-Financial Matters.

2025/026.1-Account Balances. Community Account £93.36, Business Premium Account £3,443.17

2025/026.2-Transactions since last PC meeting:

Community account: Reimbursement to Jonathan Ride for "Please drive carefully" road sign £149.34, Transfer in from Business Premium account £100, Reimbursement to Jonathan Ride for website hosting £184.50

Premium Business Account: £12.49 interest, £100 transfer into community account

2025/027-Dispensation Requests-There were none.

2025/028-Planning Matters- see above 2025/022:

Queens Nympton – new 79694 Ley Farm Queens Nympton South Molton Devon EX36 4LE,
Application for a lawful development certificate for existing extension and alterations to dwelling

2025/029-Village Hall – There was a good Xmas lunch. The maintenance work is still ongoing, but needs funds. Mother days afternoon tea planned.

2025/030 - Parish Clerk Vacancy – Still no interest, will go with advert on DALC

2025/031 - Issues with not being able to log into parish email account: hopefully have identified the owner of the recovery phone number to fix it.

2025/032 – see above under 2025/023

2025/033-Speeding Signage Thanks to Jonathan Ride for purchasing the sign

2025/034 – Review of standing orders: They are to be adopted, however some comments were made: point 11 data protection needs more wording, 17/18 could be taken out or should be in line with the financial regulations agreed recently

2025/035 – AoB: Some parisheners asked to have binbags and gloves provided to be able to collect litter, the Council does not deem this to be practical.

2025/036- Date of Next Meeting and AGM: 22nd May 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm