



**St Giles on the Heath with Northcott Hamlet  
Parish Council**

**“Working with you, For you”**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Parish Councillors Present:** Cllr Atkinson (Chairman), Cllr K Hamlyn, Cllr R Nicholson, Cllr S Trusler, Cllr Bowyer, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Russell, Cllr Williams, Cllr Thorne, District Cllr Gibson, District Cllr Hackett.

**In attendance:** Clerk Kayleigh Walker, members of the public: 0.

**1. PUBLIC SESSION**

1.1 No members of the public present.

**2. RECEIVING APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 Cllr Curtis, Cllr Paulger, Cllr Dimmock, Cllr A Nicholson.

2.2 The Clerk requested declarations of interest were made at the the time of the agenda item.

**\*The Chairman bought forward item 5.2 to allow the District Councillors to attend other matters\***

5.2 District Cllr Gibson reported that there was a full council meeting last night to discuss budgets for the coming year. He advised the main focus now was devolution and confirmed the DCC elections would go ahead in May. Cllr Gibson said that although nothing is confirmed it looks likely that Devon & Torbay will become unitary. District Cllr Hackett added that there was a two year time frame for the devolution. Both Cllrs were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, were previously circulated. The Clerk confirmed a change to the wording of item 5.5. The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman signed a copy. Proposed by Cllr Russell , seconded by Cllr R Nicholson. The Chairman signed a copy.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 None.

**5. REVIEWING CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT**

5.1 County Cllrs report - none.

5.2 District Cllrs Report - minuted above.

5.3 Following the January meeting the Clerk added ‘Hamlet’ to the policy where required and added ‘suitable financial statements’ to the application procedure. Changes proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr R Nicholson and agreed by all.

5.3 a. Citizens Advice - Cllrs agreed not to offer a financial grant but to offer to pay for hire of the hall to enable Citizens Advice to run a drop in session for residents. Proposed by Cllr Trusler, seconded by Cllr Thorne and agreed by all.

5.3 b. North Devon Record Office - Cllrs agreed not to offer a grant. Proposed by Cllr R Nicholson, seconded by Cllr Williams, agreed by all.

5.3 c. St Giles Womens Guild - Cllrs Bowyer and Fisher decalred an interest in the item and left the meeting voluntarily. Cllrs agreed to award a £100 grant. Proposed by Cllr Russell, seconded by Cllr Williams, agreed by all.

5.3 d. St Giles Short Mat Bowls - Cllrs agreed to award a £100 grant. Proposed by Cllr R Nicholson, seconded by Cllr Fisher, agreed by all.

5.3 e. St Giles Cemetery Fund - Cllrs agreed to award a £100 grant. Proposed by Cllr Trusler, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, agreed by all.

5.3 f. St Giles Churchyard Maintenance - Cllrs Thorne, R Nicholson and Trusler declared an interest and voluntarily left the meeting. Cllrs agreed to award a £100 grant. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Bowyer, agreed by all.

5.3 g. FPTA - Cllrs agreed to award a grant of £300. Proposed by Cllr Thorne, seconded by Cllr Fisher, agreed by all.

5.3 h. St Giles on the Heath Community Shop Project - Cllrs Thorne, Hamlyn and R Nicholson declared an interest and voluntarily left the room. The Clerk read an email from Cllr Paulger with comments and concerns relating to the financial information provided. The Chairman stated that advice had been sought from Staci Dorey at TDC and it suggested that any decision was deferred to a future meeting once clarity over the financial position of the project had been sought. Concerns included the outgoings far exceeding the income, the rental income being far lower than deemed fair and no indication as to funds in the bank or how the deficit would be paid. Cllr Trusler stated that when the building was established it was

Chairman Sign and date .....1.....



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agreed at the time that any rental income would be at a peppercorn rate as an incentive for someone to run the shop. Cllr Williams agreed a peppercorn rent was a good incentive but that it should increase inline with everything else. Cllr Fisher reported that according to documents the rent had gone down significantly. The Chairman questioned why the committee had not submitted full accountants documents if they had them. Cllr R Nicholson was asked to return to the meeting to clarify matters. Cllr R Nicholson advised the accountants costs were for previous years accounts and not the most recent and also that any deficit was being paid for by money already in the bank. The Chair asked why Cllr R Nicholson stated that no further information would be shared and if it was a problem they would withdraw the application. Cllr Thorne and Cllr Hamlyn were invited to rejoin the meeting. The Clerk clarified that during the discussion it had been made clear that Cllrs supported the shop project and wished to see the shop continue but were not satisfied that the information provided gave enough clarity over the project being economically viable and that the concerns were with the long term viability of the shop building which is vital to the village. Discussions continued on the same topics and no conclusion could be reached. The shop committee refused to share any further accounts and Cllrs R Nicholson, Thorne and Hamlyn agreed to withdraw the application. Cllr Hamlyn stated that he would tell the parish what the parish council had done.

5.4 Playing field - The Clerk advised that she had provided NRP Ltd with a number of groundworks recommendations and is waiting for further updates on when the repair work will be complete. At present the advice is not to use the playing field. The Clerk will continue to follow this up with some urgency as Cllr Hamlyn advised that people are becoming frustrated with not being able to use the field.

5.5 Noticeboard and playground sign - Cllrs discussed the quotes received and agreed to proceed with BJR . Proposed by Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr R Nicholson and agreed by all.

5.6 Register of interests - Cllrs completed the necessary form and handed them to the Clerk to send to TDC.

**6. REVIEWING PROGRESS OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

6.1 Parish Meeting - Cllr Atkinson advised that the speedwatch meeting would go ahead on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Coronation Hall. Cllr Fisher was asked to put a notice on the blackboard. A representative from Speedwatch will be attending to provide information on how to join and what it entails. All welcome.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 The Clerk shared that the neighbourhood highways officer had inspected the flooded area in the village and had added it to the contractors list to jet the pipes.

7.2 Cllr Thorne reported that the road to Boyton Bride was in awful condition. The Clerk clarified that this was discussed at the last meeting and that highways advised that only individual pot holes that meet the criteria would be repaired at this stage.

7.3 Cllr Hamlyn asked who was inspecting the playground on a weekly basis, the Clerk will add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

**8. FINANCES**

8.1 Authorisation of expenses – Coronation Hall hall hire February meeting £18, Pidsignz playground sign £183.44, Joe Rice first aid £216.00, DALC new councillors' guide £4.10, Richard O’Dwyer lights in phone box £66.24, J Sanders grass extra cut 160125 £240.00, Dan Genders hedge trimming £96.00. Accounts proposed for payment by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr R Nicholson and agreed by all.

8.2 Current account as of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - £7697.89.

8.3 Monthly budget sheet – circulated for Cllrs information only.

**9. NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

9.1 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 7:30pm

**10. CLOSE**

10.1 Meeting closed approx. 9.05pm.