

EAST HARPTREE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2018**

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PAVILION, EAST HARPTREE @ 7.30pm

	<p><i>Present:</i> Cllrs Mike Jennings, Pam Carver, Paul Waldron, John Darvill; also in attendance Cllr Tim Warren and Alan Butcher (Clerk). In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Cllr Jennings took the chair.</p>	
1802E/1	<p><i>Apologies for absence.</i> Cllrs Andrew Jones and Richard Coombs.</p>	
1802E/2	<p><i>Public Forum:</i> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 20 minutes to allow public participation. Some 30 members of the public were present.</p> <p>Evan Wienburg and another from Truespeed introduced themselves to the meeting. They advised that six new poles had been erected in Whitecross Road and it was likely that another five would be required. They had used the “Code” powers which allowed them to erect the poles which were required to ensure that customers towards Eastwood would receive the service. Wherever possible they used existing infrastructure such as WPD or BT poles but, in some cases, this was not possible. Without the new poles they would be unable to offer the new faster broadband service. In response to a question, Truespeed advised that they would be meeting with the AONB shortly to discuss the installation of the poles.</p> <p>Councillors were concerned that the Parish Council had received no information on the proposed works before they had commenced and had therefore been unable to consult with the village or monitor the works. In response, Truespeed advised that they had spoken to all relevant authorities prior to commencement. Truespeed noted they had not been invited to Parish Council meetings to discuss their proposals. They noted that the poles carried a notice allowing objections if they were incorrectly sited.</p> <p>A number of parishioners spoke against the siting of the poles in Whitecross Road whilst others were in support of the installations as it would bring a much improved broadband service to East Harptree. One supporter suggested that the broadband installation such be considered in the same way as water and electricity as a utility. Cllr Warren commented that the Truespeed installation would bring a much better service to the area.</p> <p>Cllr Darvill agreed that it appeared that the relevant procedures had been followed but was disappointed that the Parish Council had not been kept informed before the works started. Cllr Carver agreed but felt that there was now a need to move forward.</p> <p>Chris Head speaking in respect of the High Street highlighted the need for adequate traffic management on this busy part of the village.</p> <p>The Parish Council meeting then reconvened.</p>	

1802E/3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.	
1802E/4	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Motion to postpone the acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 th January 2018 until the meeting to be held on 20 th February 2018. This was so resolved.	
1802E/5	Siting of poles and other equipment for Broadband installations. i) Councillors expressed concern about the lack of information on these works and felt that Truespeed should have spoken to the Parish Council before the works started to outline their proposals. Concern was expressed that such a situation could occur again with another provider. It was felt that the procedure used to enable the siting of the new poles was inadequate. Cllr Carver disagreed, she felt that Truespeed should have provided the information to the Parish Council before starting work. ii) It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council challenge the process which has allowed the new poles and other works to be undertaken without informing the local community and Parish Council. iii) It was proposed that the Parish Council objects to the siting of the new poles in Whitecross Road. A vote was taken with two in favour and two against. The chairman used his casting vote in favour of the proposal which was carried.	
1802E/6	Confirmation of order for Hearing Loop to be placed with Gordon Norris Ltd. i) This was agreed, Clerk to confirmed receipt of grant monies before completing paperwork. A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Coombs for his work on securing the hearing loop and grant.	
1802E/7	<u>Matters of Urgent Report:</u> None.	
1802E/8	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting is 20 th February 2018.	

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
16th February 2018
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