

Minutes of the Council Meeting held 04/03/21, 19:30 Online*

PRESENT:

Cllr Harvey	Chairman	Cllr Dorow		Cllr Wells
Cllr Martin	Vice Chairman	Cllr Goodwin	Cllr Searles	Cllr J Yabsley
		Cllr Northam	Cllr Smith	

In Attendance:

District & County Cllr J Yabsley

9 Members of the public & press
P G Dunn - Clerk

Meeting convened in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020*.

1. Public Session (maximum 3 mins per subject overall max. 15 minutes).

The chairman welcomed those present.

1.1. General Questions.

None.

1.2. Adventure Playground – Working Group Progress Report.

Working Group outlined information and actions taken since the last report.

The Chairman's connection to the meeting failed and the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

The Working Group reported CAD drawings for the proposed layout of the new facility would be ready for the next meeting.

Councillors requested more detail in respect of:-

- Estimates in respect of the Working Group's suggestion for a new public toilet at the Adventure Playground to include connection to utilities.
- Pre-App enquiries to inform what if any planning permissions will be required for the proposals.

The Chairman re-joined and resumed the Chair.

2. To Approve Apologies for Absence.

None.

3. To receive the following Reports (strictly maximum 15 minutes – long reports should be submitted in advance to the clerk to circulate to councillors prior to the meeting):-

3.1. Police update - <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/South-Molton>.

Cllr Smith reported the costs of policing the G7 in Cornwall would be funded by the Government.

3.2. District and County.

Cllr Yabsley reported:-

- The District Council's thanks for the review report of street nameplates and advised they hoped to progress the recommendations.
- The billing of the Section 106 developer funding was in the process of being completed.
- NDC to increase council tax by £5 on a Band D property.
- DCC to increase council tax by 4.99%.
- Fire Service to increase precept by 1.99%.
- Police to increase precept by 6.73%.
- Town & Parish Councils to increase precept by a collective average of 3.3%.

Cllr Yabsley gave his apologies as he had to attend another meeting but would return for item 11.

4. Minutes.

4.1. 04/02/21. To sign if approved, minutes of the Council.

RESOLVED: Cllr Smith proposed, Cllr Searles seconded and all were in favour approval.

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5. To consider Code of Conduct Matters:-

5.1. Written councillor dispensation requests arising.

None.

5.2. Declarations of Interests not declared in the Register of Interests.

Agenda	Councillor	Type	Reason	Dispensation
6.2 72910	Cllr Harvey	Prejudicial	Close associate	n/a

6. To consider the following Planning Matters.

6.1. Planning list.

See planning report appended.

6.2. Planning applications received following agenda publication.

See planning report appended.

6.3. Enforcement Issues Arising.

None.

6.4. Devon Communities response to Housing Needs Survey complaint.

Councillors noted the letter (copy appended) sent by Devon Communities to all residents in receipt of their client's Housing Needs Survey dated 12/02/21.

6.5. NDC Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan.

Taken after item 12 but minuted here.

Cllr Yabsley reminded council of the allocation of recreational land in Mid Devon District Council's Local Plan and the need for the parish council to consider securing this allocation for the future.

7. To consider the following Finance & Policy matters:-

7.1. Finance update circulated to councillors for review.

RESOLVED: To note 03/01/21 Report and Bank Reconciliation including online banking payments raised reviewed with no issues.

7.2. Sanction payment schedule appended & instruct cheque signatories.

RESOLVED: Cllr Martin proposed, Cllr Searles seconded and all were in favour settlement accounts 7.2.1 through 7.2.12, clerk to setup online payments, Cllr Smith to authorise. **Cllr Smith and clerk to action.**

7.3. CAB Funding Request.

Correspondence dated 22/01/21 was reviewed.

RESOLVED: Cllr Wells proposed, Cllr Goodwin seconded and all were in favour a donation of £200 and two request two notices detail CAB services for the public noticeboards. **Clerk to action.**

7.4. Domain Name & Email Provider change of ownership.

Correspondence dated 08/02/21 was noted.

8. To consider the following Property/Environment matters:-

8.1. Highways, Drainage & Public Rights of Ways Issues.

<https://devon.roadworks.org/> | <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Updates on pothole and blocked drain reports received from Cllrs Wells, Martin and Northam.

Cllr Northam advised Bradford Mill was still flooding.

8.2. DCC P3 Survey Update.

The Chairman reported surveys from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been submitted, those allocated to Cllr Yabsley were outstanding. Cllr Goodwin agreed to undertake those outstanding and email the clerk for submission to DCC. **Cllr Goodwin and clerk to action.**

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8.3. Location for a New Dog Waste Bin in the vicinity of Wiriga Way.

The Chairman reported having reviewed Wiriga Way and Brooke Road with dog-walkers. It became apparent that all of the open grass spaces were in fact private land. Two suggestions were put forward Chapple Corner and/or the steps near Merriside Villas. The clerk reported the council already had dog waste bins located at the Veterinary Surgery and opposite Merryside Villas adjacent to the Adventure Playground.

The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Goodwin stated they had not experienced a dog fouling issue in the village of late. It was agreed to take no further action at this time. **Clerk to advise resident** requesting an additional dog waste bin.

8.4. Adventure Playground Fly Tipping.

The Chairman reported finding 12 bags of recycling during two visits. Councillors discussed options for dealing with the issue.

RESOLVED: Cllr Northam proposed, Cllr Dorow seconded and all were in favour the purchase and erection of "No Fly Tipping Offenders will be prosecuted" with directions to the nearest recycling centres. **Clerk to action.**

8.5. Creation of an improved circular village walk.

The upgrading of footpaths to create a circular walk which could be used during winter was discussed. It was agreed in the first instance to investigate the feasibility of upgrading the path from Grist Mill to the end of Yeo Copse and on up to the Parish Hall. **Cllr Martin to discuss with DCC Public rights of Way Officer, Cllr Dorow to discuss with the Woodland Trust.**

9. Correspondence / Consultations Received for consideration:-**9.1. Mid Devon Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Call for Sites.**

Noted.

10. Dates of Next meetings recommended:-**10.1. Parish Council - 01/04/21 – agenda deadline noon 19/03/21.**

Noted.

10.2. Agenda Items for consideration by the next meeting.

Circular Public Footpath route upgrade proposal.

11. To consider pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 1(2) any public and/or press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

In the absence of Cllr Yabsley's return the meeting declined moving to Part II.

12. Planning Issues.

The clerk outlined issues with the joint North Devon & Torridge District Council's Local Plan in respect of the five year land supply requirements and the determination of a shortfall in the Local Plan by the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr Yabsley returned to the meeting (20:50) and continued to outline more detail on these issues resulting in potential for development applications on land outside the Local Plan defined development boundary.

Cllr Searles stated the parish council should be considering its strategy to manage these issues. **Clerk to agenda.**

6.5 taken at this point in the meeting.

The Chairman requested an update on flooding at Bradford Mill. Cllr Yabsley stated the collapsed drain works were awaiting funding.

WITHERIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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The Chairman stated flooding at Westaway Cross was still an issue. Cllr Yabsley agreed to raise with Cllr Squires.
Closed 21:25.

Planning List (Cllrs can access the Local Plan [here](#) , applications [here](#))

Application No.	Description
72910	Erection of a agricultural building at North Coombe Farm Witheridge Tiverton Devon EX16 8QH Grid Ref: 282513; 117007 Recommendation: Approve
72943	Prior approval change of use of agricultural building to dwellinghouse (Class Q) at Broadridge Farm Witheridge Tiverton Devon EX16 8QB Grid Ref: 280160; 116933 Recommendation: No Objection
72968	Conversion of attached outbuilding to form ancillary living accommodation, erection of extension, repositioning of oil tank & reconstruction of retaining walls to side and rear (Renewal of consent no. 62364&5) at Yeomans Cott Drayford Crediton Devon EX17 4SL Grid Ref: 278083; 113821 Recommendation: Approve.
72970	Listed building consent for conversion of attached outbuilding to form ancillary living accommodation, erection of extension, repositioning of oil tank & reconstruction of retaining walls to side and rear (Renewal of consent no. 62364&5) at Yeomans Cott Drayford Crediton Devon EX17 4SL Grid Ref: 278083; 113821 Recommendation: Approve.
72298	Public Conveniences The Square Witheridge Devon Change of use of part of building from offices to beauty room Decision: Approved

Payment Schedule

Item	Chq Ref	Payee	Purpose	£
7.2.1.	OB	S Sandland	Toilet Management & Cleaning Contract - Feb	300.00
7.2.2.	OB	Dart Electrics Ltd (£428.21)	Repairs to toilet emergency pull cord & switch	50.21
7.2.3.			Installation and Takedown of Christmas Lights	378.00
7.2.4.	DD	EDF Energy Customers Ltd	Toilet electricity charges to 10/02/21	138.95
7.2.5.	OB	Mid Devon Mobility	Grant	200.00
7.2.6.	CC	iNet Telecoms	Council telephone number rental ***9530	3.60
7.2.7.	CC	Viking Direct	1 x Box 200 100l bin bags	22.67
7.2.8.	CC	Hampshire Flag Company	Replacement Union Jack Flag	121.73
** Staff Salaries & Expenses **				
7.2.9.		Redacted in accordance with GDPR	Total:-	835.85
7.2.10.				
7.2.11.				

Invoices Received after Agenda compilation - To Be Ratified

7.2.12.	OB	South West Water Business	Toilet Block Water & Sewerage Charges to 16/02/21	48.93
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Signed:

Chairman.

Dated:

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Devon Communities Together
Units 73 & 74 Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Exeter EX2 8LB
Tel: 01392 248919
Email: janice@devoncommunities.org.uk

12th February 2021

Dear Resident,

Witheridge Housing Need Survey

You have recently received a housing need survey distributed by ourselves on behalf of a landowner.

Although it was clearly explained in the covering letter distributed with the survey that the Parish Council do not support the survey, an administrative error led to the survey being delivered in envelopes which stated that the survey had Parish Council support.

DCT want to apologise for this administrative error and now it has been brought to our attention we are taking action to write to all householders to clarify the position.

Please accept this letter as confirmation that the Parish Council do not support the survey being undertaken.

Yours sincerely,

Rural Housing Enabler

