

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Present Cllr G Underhill (took the chair), Cllr C Steer Cllr R Huxtable Cllr R Pearce Cllr B Millward Cllr S Berry Cllr D Rogers and Mrs A Snell clerk

In attendance Cllr A Saywell – County Councillor, Cllr R Lock Cllr M Clarke - District Councillors

Apologies

Declaration of Interests – Councillors are invited to declare any discloseable pecuniary interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting, including protocol for audio/visual recordings a meeting. They are also reminded to consider whether in the light of recent activities any items within their Register of Interests should be updated.

Public Participation.

- 1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July were agreed and signed.
- ii. A short meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October to respond to the Eaglescott planning application the response letter was sent.
2. Clerks Report, i. Web site, Cllr Millward is still been working on this, there has been issues with Microsoft emails, but will soon be completed.
- ii. Ownership of the Village Green and complaint, from the records held it shows that the Village Green is owned by the Parish Council since April 1972 under the V11 in the Register of Town and Village Greens, but a new sign is to be erected as the hard standing area is not a public car park, and the Parish Council hold no liability for any car that is parked in this area. Some property's namely Trixie Terrace and Green Cottage are allowed to park in this area as they have no other parking, no school parking is permitted. The complaint has been successfully dealt with.
3. Chairman's Report.
  - i. Play equipment, Cllr Pearce is still spraying the equipment twice a week, the gate is to be fixed at the weekend, thank you to Cllr Huxtable, Cllr Rodgers and Cllr Pearce for all the work they are doing on the Green.
  - ii. Helicopter flying, more information has been circulated.
4. Highway Issues, Cllr Berry and Cllr Millward have met with Darryl Jagger the meeting was mainly about the new system and how TDC highway problems will be prioritised. The areas most affected by the weather which has a greater adverse effect on the highway will be sorted out first e.g. the water runs down to Beaford bridge 5 days a week will be prioritised over a road that only runs 2 days a week, but main roads will always be put first. They would like to Parish Council to prioritise the areas most effected and draw up a list to advise the highways department. A notice will be put in the Bugle asking parishioners to notify Parish Councillors so any problem areas can be added to the list.

**The DCC website is [devon.cc/report-it](https://www.devon.gov.uk/report-it)**

5. County and District Councillors items, Cllr Saywell Coronavirus Stats – As of 28<sup>th</sup> October DCC area of Devon now up to 4,526 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic. This is a weekly increase of 572. By way of comparison... in Torridge there were just 18 cases in the last 7 days. North Devon 43 in 7 days, West Devon 38 in 7 days. The larger weekly increases are coming from the East and South of the County. The University outbreak in Exeter was successfully contained by the DCC Public Health Teams, University and City Council. Outside of the University of Exeter outbreak, infections in the rest of the County are cases picked up by the Care Home routine testing programme, plus scattered cases in workplaces and schools, including a few small clusters in GP Surgeries, mainly affecting adults of working age. This means that we all need to adhere to the public health guidelines to socially distance, hand hygiene, wearing face coverings and self-isolating/testing if symptomatic. **Please follow the basics – hand, face, space.**

**We have seen good observance of this in Torrington Rural** – whenever I have been in Torrington and our villages, I've been pleased to see social distancing being observed, and people wearing facemasks, sanitising hands etc. even when it has been busy. We must keep up our efforts. If we stick to those basics, we reduce the risk of virus transmission and will keep our infection numbers in Devon low, avoiding the need for further punitive restrictions. **But please remember to stay safe and socially distant on Halloween and Guy Fawkes night!** Overall, our infection numbers in Devon are below the national average and well below in Torridge. Devon is 70 cases per 100,000 in the last 7 days. Torridge is 26 per 100,000. Lets, keep those numbers low by continuing to follow the public health guidance. All of the data is publicly available and can be found online here - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

**Highways** Despite some technical issues with Microsoft Teams I felt we had a good and productive meeting with Highways with Darryl Jagger. **Schools** I am waiting for the latest figures but earlier figures has indicated a very good return to School with 93% of pupils back in school compared with a national average of 90%. 87% of children with special educational needs were also in school, higher than the national average of 84%. The issue of free school meals has been in the news lately... Since the start of the Pandemic DCC has created a hardship fund to support people, families and children who have needed support. The Council put £1 million into this fund and then increased the sum with our share of the £63million Government money allocated in June which was £700,000. This money was shared between the 8 District Councils based on their electorates. There is still £600,000 available in this fund and we are encouraging any family needing help with meals or financial support to apply to their District Council should they need urgent support in half term or beyond.

**School Transport** It is now mandatory for pupils to wear face coverings on school transport. Previous guidance asked pupils aged 11 and over to wear face coverings unless they were exempt, however some did not. From November 2<sup>nd</sup> it will be a condition of travel. The County Council will operate a 'two strikes' policy. If a student is found not wearing a face covering by the school or transport operator on two occasions, and there is no record of them being exempt from using one, they will be refused travel for a period of time. Those travelling on Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport will not be included in this new policy, as the majority of children are in categories which exclude them from wearing face coverings. However, passengers with SEN who can wear a face covering are encouraged to do so.

Cllr Lock reported that the Towell Lane planning had been recommended to be refused on highway issues. The Government is setting out new guidelines for planning, TDC has sent a response. At present there are no plans to open Torrington swimming pool or Holsworthy Leisure Centre, but TDC is still the lowest infection area in the whole country.

Cllr Clarke showed a leaflet "Smart Living" which is being rolled out across TDC to all households it is to help households with climate change and how to reduce emissions etc. Two weeks ago a hostel for the homeless was opened in Bideford at present it is being used as a women's refuge. Cllr Clarke is the Armed Forces Covenant Champion; the information is going to all business and TDC to try and get them to adopt the Armed Forces Covenant. Only 30 veterans are attending the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph this year, and Cllr Clarke is to represent the South West, congratulations to him.

6. Tennis Court, it was agreed to contact Mr Hartford and Katie Farr to set up a meeting to move the committee on to appoint new officers and Trustees, there is at present £895 in the Tennis Court club account, a Parish Councillor will be a Trustee representing the Parish Council.

7. Finance, i Approve and sign the following cheque: -

482	Land Registry charge	£23.94
483	Southwest Fixings	£29.26
484	Bulbs and bin liners (Mr. R Pearce)	£36.42
485	Wicksteed	£70.00
486	TDC payroll	£361.40
487	Mr. M Baker grass cutting	£1040.00

i. Mr C Snell will be contacted regarding cutting the Village Green hedge. Mr Daniel Heal will be thanked for all the work he has done on the Village Green.

#### 8.i. Planning

P C recommendations

TDC

1/0279/2020/O UT	Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of up to 14 dwellings (affecting a public right of way) Land at Towell Lane	
1/0687/2020/F UL	Proposed alterations and extension and addition of solar panels on roof (affecting a public right of way) Location: Myrtle Cottage	Passed
1/0647/2020/FUL	Change of use of office & warehouse into a dwelling with office alongside, with proposed coach house with granny annexe above. Canns Down Press	Passed
1/0814/2020/TC A	The Post House, Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ, Works to trees within a conservation area - Felling of an ash tree suffering with ash dieback	Passed

9. Police Report, During the past month in Beaford there has been one report of criminal damage and 2 incident reports of issues on the road.

10. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment, Cllr Millward and Cllr Berry have met and are to draft a term of reference regarding transport, living and buildings to act as a source of information. It was highlighted that the new proposed properties are all to have air source heat pumps, residents can get 75% of the installation cost if in work and 100% if not in work. The plan is to include more flora and fauna a more diverse environment will lead to healthier living. The plan is to produce a report by April to move forward by policy ideally with new planning's the Parish Council would have a say, the plan is to use whatever knowledge there is in the Parish as there is an architect that deals with putting insulation in older properties. The road is one of the main issues. Another point is recycling the likes of batteries, light bulbs etc that presently go into landfill. Tidiness was highlighted and how to get residents involved, it was suggested to organise a clean-up day, this will be considered in the spring.

Snow Warden, as winter is coming it was suggested to ask for volunteers to be aware of the areas where they live and of the residents that are in greater need and most vulnerable.

9. Caretakers Report & Hall report. The spraying of the play equipment is being undertaken once this week; the field is looking good and the bins are being emptied. The Hall committee are working hard at reopening the first trial will be small coffee mornings so older residents can socialise, the committee are obtaining PPE and floor signs and the service will be waiter service. Other organisations have been approached to see if they would like to return to the hall. The cleaner is happy to return. The committee is now at 7 with Mr Mick Hurley as Chairman and Mr Spencer Taylor as Vice Chair. Dolton have been holding regular coffee mornings, but a register of attendance has to be kept. The Village Hall has put in a new air source heat pump.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The Police newsletters have been circulated. iii. Following a request email there are no Rough Sleepers in the Parish.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020** Parish Council virtual meeting  
**7.30pm**

.....Chairman.....Date

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Parish Council virtual meeting. To be agreed.