

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 25th November 2020

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

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

Apologies Cllr B Millward Cllr M Clarke

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 29th July were agreed and signed. With a slight amendment.

2. Clerks Report, i. Web site, Cllr Millward is still working on this.

ii. The wording of the sign to be placed in the Village Green was discussed, it was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Pearce, “The Village Green is owned by Beaford Parish Council, no school parking, please keep access clear at all times” all in favour. And the second “Beaford Parish Council, owners parking vehicles in this area do so entirely at their own risk. Beaford Parish Council accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to vehicles parked in this area. No dogs, all in favour.

3. Chairman’s Report.

i. Play equipment, Cllr Pearce is still spraying the equipment weekly, the gap has been filled and the gate fixed thank you to Cllr Rodgers. The walking of parents, guardians etc and children to the school was discussed, as it is very dangerous, the suggestion was to put a path on the Green side of the hedge or by the Church wall or in Doorstep Green field to try and get the pedestrians off the road, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Highway Issues, the public footpath signs have been reported as being damaged at Rye Park and Towell Lane. The highway priority at present in the Parish is the flooding on the corner by the house just past the Village Hall, proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Pearce, all in favour.

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 24th November DCC area of Devon now up to 7,476 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic. Since the 22nd November that is a weekly increase of 720 infections. By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 59 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon 118 in the last 7 days, West Devon 47 cases in the last 7 days. The good news is daily and weekly infection figures are now falling. However: the infections have only started falling this week... The Director of Public Health issued a statement last week which is worth reading as we still need to “**keep our wits about us**”. Although infection cases have started to fall now in Devon, prior to that the number of infections were rising in the working age population.

According to the DCC Public Health Team, these contacts are spreading in social or communal settings within the workplace. We’re talking staff rooms, kitchens, corridors, car parks – the bits of our day to day life where we’re more easily distracted, and our attention slips. To quote the Director of Public Health: *“It’s the kettle, the fridge, the door handles, the face to face chats too close to each other, the sharing of space often indoors with poor natural ventilation. We have to stay aware and alert to those risks. “There is cause for optimism, without doubt. The challenge to us all – my plea to you – is that we do not let our enthusiasm to return to normal actually set us further back.*

“It’s old and unwelcome news I know, but we must continue with every effort to follow the rules: Keep your distance, at least 2 metres is best. Wear a mask when indoors in public places, and when in enclosed spaces such as public transport

It really is important to wash your hands with soap or sanitizer properly for 2 minutes, and regularly

“These are the basics we all still need to remember. “If you are advised self-isolate, do so properly – that means stay at home and do not meet up with people outside of your household – and for the entire duration. “If you or someone in your household is confirmed as having coronavirus, you must all stay at home. Do not go to work or school. Do not allow visitors to your house. “If you have symptoms, please do self-isolate and immediately arrange a test. Our local testing capacity in Devon is doing well, and we are not seeing those earlier difficulties for people to get local tests quickly. Full statement can be read here -

<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/keep-our-wits-about-us-a-new-plea-from-devons-director-of-public-health/>

Coronavirus in Torridge At my request, the DCC Public Health Team have had a look at the data in Torridge and have confirmed they are low numbers – following the pattern of mostly single or household cases, with a few in workplaces, others from primary schools or picked up in care homes. In general, the cases are scattered, tending to be scattering of 1-2 cases cropping up in workplaces, cases picked up by routine staff and resident testing in care homes etc. Torridge is still one of the lowest places in the country and all positive cases are being followed up, by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health Teams. **Return to Tier System/Next Steps & Christmas**

We expect to hear tomorrow which Tier Devon will be placed in. It is likely to be in Tier 1 or 2 but we will have to wait for the official announcement. Whatever the outcome our communities have been resilient so far and we should be in a good place heading towards Christmas as the residents of Beaford, Torrington Rural and indeed all of Devon have put in a magnificent effort to keep the virus at bay for as long as possible. And it is good news that a vaccine appears to be on the way... But until then, we **must** keep up our guard. Please continue to follow the public health guidance – *hands, space, face* – and continue to observe this over the Christmas holidays. It will be a different Christmas for us all and while I know many will want to see their families again, we **must** be careful and not throw caution to the wind over the festive period. But while it will be difficult, I have no doubt we will get through it supporting each other as best we can in a socially distant way.

Covid Grants Devon County Council has temporarily re-opened the COVID-19 Fund to provide flexible funding resources to organisations working with communities who are disproportionately impacted by coronavirus. This includes those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, and the fund is designed to help mitigate for the social and economic consequences of the second National Lockdown. Applications opened on Monday 9th November 2020 and will close on 2nd December 2020. Applications will need to include details of how much funding will be required and how you have assessed the need for that amount. Grants will typically be between £300 and £700, although in exceptional circumstances we may make offers of up to £1,000 More information online here - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/>

Care Home Visits Devon will be taking part in the national pilot which will allow friends and family to visit loved ones in care homes. A small number of care homes in Devon are taking part in the trial which involves regular testing of one family member or friend per resident so that, when combined with other infection-control measures such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), they can visit their loved one indoors and without a screen, while reducing the risk to care home residents, staff and other visitors. **Schools and Support for**

Parents/Children/Families Despite the lockdown there has been a good return to School with the attendance figures for schools in Devon earlier this month at 93% (higher than the national average). Am waiting for the latest statistics but earlier in the month schools in Torrington Rural were reporting an attendance rate of over 90%. The Government have awarded DCC more than £2 million to support vulnerable people, children and families over Winter. School Holiday Activities and Food Programme will be expanded covering Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021. Councils will distribute the funds rather than Schools as they are best placed to directly help the hardest hit families and individuals, as well as provide food for children who need it over the holiday. Local Authorities will receive the ring-fenced funding at the beginning of December. Alongside this: The Healthy Start scheme payments are set to increase – they support pregnant women or those with children under four who have low income and are in receipt of benefits to buy fresh fruit and vegetables.

Additional funding for food distribution organisations. **North Devon Link Road Upgrade** The Government has confirmed it is awarding DCC £60 million to upgrade the North Devon Link Road between South Molton and Barnstaple. Sections of the road will be widened to provide better overtaking opportunities and improve journey time reliability, and eight junctions will be upgraded to improve safety. Junction improvements also include improvements to Westleigh Junction, Haywood Rd Roundabout and Buckleigh Junction on the A39 in Bideford.

Cycle Path Link from Tarka Trail to Torrington There is a consultation out to use the ‘Rolle Rd’ route to Mill St and the preferred ‘link’ between the Trail and the Town. You can respond here -

<https://www.torringtoncommons.org/2020/10/taddipport-cycle-path-proposal-2020/> Please note the consultation

will close on **November 30th**, so please get your replies in quick! **Deepmoor Recycling Centre** Remains open for essential use.

Cllr Lock reported that there have been positive cases of coronavirus in Beaford and Bridgerule, three North Devon school have had to close. There is now a second grant for Village Halls to apply for of between £1,000 and £1,300. Cllr Lock reported on the Towell Lane planning application, extensive discussions have taken place between the planning officers and the applicant regarding flood prevention, the highways objection is the main stumbling block, the Conservation Officer has been spoken to, to discuss possible open space projects.

6. Tennis Court, a virtual meeting was held on the 18th November, 5 Parish Councillors along with Mr Hartford and Miss Farr attended, it was proposed by Mr Hartford seconded by Cllr Huxtable for Miss Farr to be the new secretary all in favour. Cllr Underhill did raise the point of the pond situated by the tennis court and the dangers there in, Mr Hartford said this was on his land. As a conclusion of the meeting Miss Farr is to set up a further meeting with the tennis club members, (the Parish Council representative is Cllr Huxtable), to elect a new chairman and appoint trustees and move forward with the running of the Tennis club. Point raised from this meeting, could holiday cottages be able to get involved to offer the tennis court as a facility with a collective membership/rate, this will be brought to the Tennis Club meeting.

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

482	Mr C Snell hedge cutting	£60.00
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i. Grass cutting tender it was proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Steer to accept Mr Bakers quote of £920.00 for the 2021 growing season all in favour, it was also asked to request another cut now as the grass is still growing. Proposed by Cllr Huxtable seconded by Cllr Rodgers all in favour.

8.i. Planning

P C recommendations

TDC

1/0279/2020/OUT	Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of up to 14 dwellings (affecting a public right of way) Land at Towell Lane	
1/0863/2020/LBC	Replacement front door - The Old Parsonage Beaford	No objections

9. Police Report, During the past month in Beaford there has been one report of criminal damage and one report of trafficking drugs and 5 incidents reported of issues on the road. Another volunteer has come forward for speedwatch, the training is now online. A car driving in fields and very noisily on the roads late at night has been reported but these incidents need to be reported directly to the police when they are occurring

10. Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment, this will be deferred until the spring.

11. 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 grass seeds are growing well. The benches were discussed as some are in need of repair or replacing, it was suggested to have a memorial bench, prices and designs will be obtained for the next meeting to discuss.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The Police newsletters have been circulated.

It was noted that rubbish and recycling is not being securely tied and put out at the correct time in the village, a note will go in the Bugle asking residents to securely tie their rubbish bags.

Cllr Clarke was congratulated for his appearance on the TV at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 13th January 2021** Parish Council virtual meeting
7.30pm

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 24th February 2021 Parish Council virtual meeting.