

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

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

Apologies 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.

Speaker: Mr Clive Leworthy Community Ambassador and Mr Tony Watkins Devon Business Development from Airband.

Airband are in partnership with Connecting Devon & Somerset, they have been commissioned to build a brand new, ultrafast FTTP (Fibre To The Premises) broadband network to transform connectivity in your area. • Over the coming weeks and months Airband will be working in rural areas across the county, including weekend work, but rest assured that disruption will be kept to an absolute minimum. • Work may involve accessing existing underground ducts and telegraph poles. • Residents may also see some new telegraph poles being erected at various locations. For the most part, these new poles will be situated along roads away from residential areas. • Airband are working closely with the local authorities to plan and implement the network build.

FTTP stands for Fibre To The Premises. At Airband they provide this service across our network, bringing ultrafast speeds of up to 1Gbps to customers in more rural areas. There's no line rental or phone line required, so the price you see is the price you get. What is Fibre To The Premises (FTTP)? Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) replaces old copper broadband lines; fibre optic cables are run from your local exchange direct to your premises. Fibre broadband that's faster and more reliable because the fibre cable comes right into the building, there is less 'contention' which gives you a faster and more reliable broadband experience.

Updates will be received during the installation if you register an interest. When requested you will get a triple check that there are no issues with getting the connection. Then an Airband engineer will connect a fibre optic cable from the nearest pole or underground duct to your property, then connect to your router.

It is anticipated the baseline will be around £30 per month, with a one-off fee of £25 to £30 for the installation and £11 per month for calls etc. If you register you will be kept up to date but there will be no commitment. The question was asked if people are already in a contract, Airband will fund up to £250 for release from the contract for early termination. The question was asked regarding the Village Hall this would be treated as a residential application. There will be two types of application residential and business, the business will be more expensive but will have a quicker repair and after service.

The presentation will be put on the Parish website.

Mr Leworthy and Mr Watkins were thanked for attending.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February were agreed and signed. It was noted if the condemned tree was cut to a stump and not removed it would not affect the wall.

2. Clerks Report, i. Web site, [www.beafordvillage.org](http://www.beafordvillage.org) please visit, there are links to the Autumn Show, Church and Village Hall, more organisations will be asked to publicise when the lock down is eased.

.ii. The Village Green signs have been erected.

iii. Report on virtual chat with Mr. Michael Newcombe DCC highways, a reply email was received but no response as yet.

3. Chairman's Report Play equipment, Benches. Two quotes have been received and were discussed it was proposed by Cllr Steer seconded by Cllr Rodgers to accept the quote from Corido, for 4 Balmoral 6ft Teak Park Bench - Street Bench with ground anchors and soft Ground Anchors with installation tool at a total cost off £1539 plus VAT, this was carried so will be ordered. These will be situated, two on the Village Green one on the piece of grass opposite the railings entrance to the Village Green and one near the end of Coombe Lane.

A youth shelter was also discussed, pictures have been seen for one called the Dartmouth which will hold 30 people, this is too large but is a guide, quotes will be obtained for discussion at the next meeting. The shelter could be used for any community group.

Play equipment, Cllr Pearce is still spraying the equipment weekly,

4. Highway Issues. i.. Regarding the Halsdon footpath, 5 responses have been received with a further 3 to come these will be forwarded to the correct department.

IT IS REQUESTED THAT DOG OWNERS KEEP THEIR DOGS UNDER CONTROL OR ON A LEAD WHEN WALKING THE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS.

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

5. County and District Councillors items, Cllr Saywell reported that the statistics, –tats **Coronavirus** Stats – As of 23<sup>rd</sup> March the DCC area of Devon now up to 19,830 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> March that is a weekly increase of 126 infections, with most new infections coming from a spike in East Devon. By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 8 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon 5 in the last 7 days, West Devon 6 cases in the last 7 days. In the 'Winkleigh and High Bickington MSOA' (which includes Beaford), there were fewer than 3 infections recorded in the 7 days to 19<sup>th</sup> March. When there are less than 3 cases the Government does not show the data to protect individuals' identities.

More community testing sites are being rolled out throughout the County, targeting areas with higher infection rates first. Infection cases continue to fall in Devon, though the rate of decline has now slowed, but overall our infection rate per 100,000 remains very low (15.7), compared with the national England average of 55.7. We have seen a small increase in infection numbers in Torridge District – though 4 of the 8 infections recorded in the last 7 days come from the 'Shebbear, Cookworthy & Broadheath' MSOA. Because of this small increase we no longer have the lowest infection rate in England, however overall our infection rate remains very low at just 11.7 per 100,000.

**Locally, we are continuing to do well in keeping our infection rates down.** While we hope the vaccine rollout will lead us back to normality, for the time being it is vital that we keep up our efforts to follow the guidance of staying at home and if and when we are out and about to follow the 'hands, face, space' guidance. We should start to see what impact the full re-opening of Schools has had on the figures and as and when I see the figures I will let the Parish Council know.

**COVID Vaccinations** The rollout of the vaccine in Devon and in Torrington Rural continues to go well. I sent a briefing note from the NHS to the Parish Council this week but the main points for vaccine rollout:

**520,901 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose** between 8<sup>th</sup> December – 14<sup>th</sup> March **Latest estimate is 95% of over 70s in Devon have received their first dose, with 92% of 65-69 year olds, and 79.2% for those aged 60-64.** About a quarter of those aged 16-60 have also received a first dose, this group includes frontline healthcare workers and those who are clinically vulnerable. The NHS in Devon are focusing on people aged 50 and over, and those who are clinically vulnerable. Despite the supply issues that may happen in the coming weeks, **if you already have an appointment for a first or second dose these appointments remain in place and its really important that you attend it as planned.** Even when you have been vaccinated, you must still continue to follow the COVID-19 safety rules – stay at home as much as possible and remember hands, face, space. This remains a huge logistical exercise, very much dependent upon the speed and rate of vaccine supplies. Please wait for the NHS to contact you when it is your turn. The roll out

is getting more localised, those who cannot travel far should be able to get their job administered locally. **Return to School** It is still early days but so far the return to school has gone very well, with a 95% attendance rate reported for Schools in Devon. The testing regime for Schools also appears to have been working well so far...

### **Support for Families over Easter – Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

Devon County Council has been awarded £1.69 million from the Department for Education to provide Holiday Activities and Food for children aged 5-16 on benefit related Free School Meals.

**DCC are starting this process for the Easter Holidays and would welcome applications from Torrington Rural** if they can demonstrate it is for the eligible children on Free School Meals.

The timescale for the HAF is 4 hours per day for 4 days over the Easter Holidays, which includes a nutritious hot meal, if you would like to contact the relevant officer, Melissa Filby 01392 383000 or email at [melissa.filby@devon.gov.uk](mailto:melissa.filby@devon.gov.uk), she would be happy to discuss your project and if it fits the HAF criteria. The scheme will be run across all of Devon for the summer holidays.

### **Elections and thank you!**

As you know, the Government have confirmed that the May Elections to Devon County Council **will** be taking place on May 6<sup>th</sup>. I will be standing again but should this be one of my last Parish Council meetings at Beaford, I would like to place on record my thanks to the Parish Council for their kind support over the years and to thank you for all the work you have done for the Parish during the time I have been on the County Council. It has been a real honour and privilege to represent Beaford and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the residents of Beaford Parish for their kindness and support over the last four years. If anyone is unsure or uncertain about voting in the election they can apply for a Postal Vote or a Proxy Vote. Emergency Proxies will also be available for anyone who is told to self-isolate.

Cllr Lock reported on the proposed development at Towell Meadow, The Parish council were asked if the development was passed what objectives they have regarding the S106. The suggestion put forward was to resurface the Village Hall car park but the area is not owned by the Parish Council as it is felt no more play equipment is needed. This will be discussed further to include the Hall committee. It is sad to report that Cllr Clarke's wife has sadly passed away a card will be sent from the Parish Council.

6. Tennis Court, a bank account has been set up for the Club.

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

495	Office expenses	£45.24
496	Corido	£1847.37

i. The Bank account not including the benches stands at £17234.94

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	
1/0118/2021/ FUL	Proposed roof over existing yard. - Land At Upcott Farm Beaford	
1/0181/2021/ LBC	Part retrospective application for conversion of additional barn into ancillary accommodation, retention of patio, erection of wooden fence, alterations to front wall and roof lights, demolition of lean to agricultural building and implementation of new boundary wall. The Old Corn Barn, Beaford,	The applicant has been in contact with the Parish Council regarding the retrospective part of the application.

9. Police Report, it was reported in the last 30 days there have been crime, one crime other than a theft. And three phone calls where logs were created, two transport and one public safety.

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

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report.

The Hall has now got a new heating system which seems very efficient, a hall meeting was held which discussed the best way to reopen the hall and to support and include older people as much as possible, a wish list was discussed with broadband being a priority along with the surface of the car park etc. A suggestion was to make the walls of the outdoor stone areas into seats so they can be utilised and have one area as a sensory garden with fragranced flowers etc.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The Police newsletters have been circulated.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021** Parish Council virtual meeting **7.30pm**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April for the Annual Parish Council meeting