

Minutes of the Virtual Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the
Wednesday 5th May 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 R Lock Cllr M Clarke - District Councillor

Apologies Cllr A Saywell – County Councillor

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.

Election of Officers

Cllr Underhill was proposed by Cllr Millward seconded by Cllr Steer to be re-elected as Chairman; Cllr Underhill accepted the post.

Cllr Steer was proposed by Cllr Rodger seconded by Cllr Berry to be re-elected as Vice Chairman; Cllr Steer accepted the post.

Parish Hall Representative, Cllr Berry was proposed by Cllr Pearce and seconded by Cllr Millward, Cllr Berry accepted the post.

Advisory Committee Cllr Underhill and any Councillor able to attend agreed to represent the Parish Council.

Snow Warden Mr Wheeler has agreed to be the parish snow warden and will liaise with Cllr Steer Footpath representative Cllr Huxtable accepted the post.

Village Green representatives Cllr Huxtable and Cllr Rodgers

Cllr Pearce is the representative for the Church and school and to look after the bins.

Cllr Millward is the representative for the website and climate and environment.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th March were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report, i. Web site, 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. The website has recently been updated.

ii. Report on virtual chat with Mr. Michael Newcombe DCC highways, a reply email was received. A further email was sent, the suggestion of a pavement along the road from Green Lane was noted this is to be investigated with Mr Newcombe. One of the residents does not wish to be involved. Mr Newcombe will be contacted again.

3. Chairman's Report Play equipment, Cllr Underhill has been in contact with TK Play who has reserved the three pieces of equipment that was agreed at the last meeting. The Village Green is looking in good order. The benches have been well received. But it was reported that the one by the garage is broken, Cllr Huxtable kindly agreed to look at it.

The skate park was discussed, it was felt to be an excellent idea but not to be sited on the Village Green, alternative sites near the hall are to be investigated. And with the additional housing planned in the village it could be an ideal asset. Potential fund raising may be required for this. The youth shelter was also discussed, and is to be revisited later in the year.

4. Highway Issues. i. Regarding the Halsdon footpath, the letters have been forwarded to the correct department, when the reply is received this will be passed to the people who wrote the letters to reply and carry the issue forward, this could be a long process a minimum of two years.

ii. It has been reported that there has been vandalism of footpath signs around the village the person responsible has been caught on camera. The perpetrator is to be asked to come forward. This is an offense.

The lay-by at the end of Coombe Lane has been used to unload lime, but the lay-by was left in such a mess following the removal of the lime, the person who's lime has been contacted and asked to tidy up the lay-by. The person who had the lime has forwarded the name of the contractor and supplier of the lime they will be contacted to rectify the damage.

It was raised when discussing the Snow Warden that the containers have gone brittle and the salt hard, the new Highway Superintendent is to be asked for advice and a solution.

St Georges Lane was discussed the children are playing along it, it is not a public highway it is a public footpath and bridleway but more traffic is using it and the pot holes are getting larger. The suggestion was to put up precautionary signs advising of children playing, Cllr Clarke has kindly agreed to supply the signs, proposed by Cllr Millward seconded by Cllr Huxtable all in favour.

The state of St Georges lane was discussed, but it is a private road and is for access only and not a through road, but is being used as one, the residents are to be contacted.

The public footpath on the road towards Torrington has been cut too narrow by mistake. The owner Mr Nimmo kindly gave grass seeds in the past for the Village Green and an overdue thank you is to be sent. **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, –**Coronavirus** Stats – As of 5th May the DCC area of Devon now up to 20,337 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.

Since the 1st May that is a weekly increase of 108 infections, with most new infections coming from the South and East of Devon. By way of comparison... in Torrington there were just 10 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon was 14 in the last 7 days, West Devon 5 cases in the last 7 days. Infection numbers are now broadly static over the past couple of weeks, seeing 10-15 new cases a day on average, but given low numbers we are seeing marginal rises/falls but can play out as large percentage swings. We are seeing infection cases predominately in young people and working age adults (picked up through asymptomatic testing) so it is important we all still adhere to the public health measures and restrictions (Hands, Face, Space, Fresh air) both within work and outside work. DCC are still encouraging people to get a rapid Lateral Flow test twice a week, even if you have been vaccinated as you can still catch COVID and be infectious. Please visit **Devon.cc/testing** to find out how you can get tested.

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 Councils earlier this month but the main points for vaccine rollout: **683,712 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose** between 8th December – 25th April, **while more than 270,000 second doses have been given. Latest estimate is more than 90% of anyone over 50 in Devon has received their first dose. In total 68.4% of the adult population in Devon, those aged 16 +, have received a first dose.**

Phase 2 over the vaccine programme (under 50's) has commenced. Please wait to be contacted and then you can book your 1st and 2nd jab. **If you have an appointment for a first or second dose these appointments remain in place and it's 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 – remember hands, face, space, and fresh air!

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 jab administered locally.

Local Covid Testing Rapid Lateral Flow community testing is now available in Torrington. This is for anyone without symptoms but aimed specifically at key workers/people who cannot work from home etc. The DCC Mobile Testing site at Torrington is available on: **Tuesday** 3:30 pm to 7 pm – Sydney House Car Park, EX38 8AA. **Friday** 11 am to 2:30 pm – Sydney House Car Park, EX38 8AA. My understanding is no appointment is necessary to get a test at these walk in locations. Home testing kits are also available. More information can be found at devon.cc/testing

Local Highways Matters

The new Neighbourhood Highways Officer for our area is Russell Hookway who is taking over from Darryl Jagger. Russell previously worked for the North Devon area Highways Team and Cllrs there spoke very highly of him. Please give him some time to familiarise himself with the area though I am sure he will get to grips with Torrington Rural and the issues we face here very soon.

Cllr Lock reported on the proposed development at Towell Meadow, no further information has been received. Cllr Clarke reported he is still involved with homelessness, housing, licencing, Standards and disability, so if any resident has any queries on these topics, please contact him.

6. Tennis Court, Cllr Huxtable has been in contact with Miss Farr, regarding contacting Mr Hartford about the grass.

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

499	Community First	£269.47
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i . The Bank account stands at £14,555.78

8.i. Planning

P C recommendations

TDC

	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	
1/0181/2021/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,	

9. Police Report, it was reported in the last 30 days there has been one crime of a burglary. And one phone call logged transport related.

10.Ways to improve the Village and Parish Environment.

i. Cllr Millward attended a meeting of TDC climate change group, highlighting the link between preserving the living environment and climate change, looking after natural things like trees and grass and the ground will look after the rest. Also: the effects on agricultural land. The recording of the meeting is available online.

11. Caretakers Report & Hall report. The play area is still being sprayed. Cllr Pearce did report tree limbs down on the Green. All is fine with the hall

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters have been circulated.

ii. The Police newsletters have been circulated.

iii. A letter has been received regarding purchasing a Memorial Plate in the shape of an unknown Tommy, this is to be looked into regarding siting and size required.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 23rd June 2021 Parish Council meeting **7.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 27th July in the Parish Hall