

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 27th February 2020

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

In attendance Cllr M Clarke and Mr Hartford

Apologies Cllr A Saywell – County Councillor Cllr R Lock - District Councillor and PCSO Brown

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.

Mr Hartford was in attendance to discuss the future of the Tennis Court, it was started as a member's club so the member owns it, there are 16 members and some family memberships. There were 4 trustees one has sadly died so his estate is now the trustee, Mr and Mrs Hartford and another. Mr Hartford would like to pass the trusteeship over to the Parish Council, for it to be one trustee plus others, the members have to be informed and agree to this process. An administrator is required but this is a simple operation to send out renewal notices collect membership and change the key code annually. At present the family membership is £30 and £15 for an individual. The grass area also has to be maintained along with the recreational area owned by Mr and Mrs Hartford for the use of the club. A ball machine comes with the package. The whole area has conveyances and restrictions so will never be allowed to be developed for building, if the Parish Council turn down the offer it will be offered to the members and if they refuse as a last option it will be demolished.

One Trustee could be the Parish Council and ideally two others possibly members, as it is a member's club no individual can own it. It was installed 24 years ago and the resurfacing was done 12 years ago. The shed needs a little attention. Insurance is in place and will have to be continued. Mr Hartford was thanked for attending this will be discussed.

1.i. The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report, i. Welcome new Parish Councillor, Mr Bruce Millward was welcomed to the Parish Council.

3. Chairman's Report.

i. Play equipment, information and photographs have been sent to Viridor as they can use them to put in their magazine. A further grant opportunity is being investigated, the suggestion put forward to claim for, was to replace the open covered seating to include a table on the Green. Mats have been put by the newly installed railings thank you to Mr B Steer. A further suggestion was for a port-a-loo on the Green this will be discussed at the next meeting

iii. The flag no update.

4. Highway Issues, the bridge has been done at Cocksworthy, it was raised regarding the ditches along Beaford Moor and the rubbish that is in them, this will be reported using the link below.

The DCC website is devon.cc/report-it

5. County and District Councillors items, Cllr Saywell reported **The Plough** As you will have seen, The Plough Arts Centre is in some financial difficulty. It is essential that we keep this key facility going – it is more than just a local arts centre, it will be key to the health and wellbeing agenda in the coming decade and I regard it as an asset for Devon, let alone Torrington Rural.

I am working with The Plough and DCC to see whether the Council can support their Crowdfunder initiative... hopeful we can but will involve some technical changes (the project has to become 'all or nothing' for it to be supported by DCC). In the meantime if you want to donate please visit the link here - <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/power-the-plough> .DCC Budget Main event this month has been approving the Budget for the next financial year, which went to Full Council last Thursday. Our settlement from Central Government was in line with expectations – it will not be a harsh budget. The overall revenue budget will increase from £498m to £541m. Of the three principle services, Adult Care and Health sees a £23.7m increase (10%), Children's Services £11.5m (8.5%) and Highways £2.8m (5%) increase. These increases take into account inflation pressures. The next financial year also sees in Children's Services the launch of the 'Edge of Care' service which is designed to stop children from being taken into care. Previous financial investments in the last few years have started to have an effect with children being able to come out of high cost placements which is good news – both for the children and also financially as high cost placements were the main drivers behind previous overspends. Finally, on schools funding, as previously reported, the coming financial year will see a very large increase in the Schools Funding budget of £47.7m (total gross budget is £603m) however it is up to the Schools themselves, not DCC as to how this money is spent. Council tax – DCC's share of the precept will go up by 3.99% - with 2% specifically for Adult Social Care.

Potholes There is a new feature on the 'Report It' website, when a pothole is reported it goes out to the Pothole Inspector to look at. If it meets the safety defect criteria it will then have a 'roadworks' sign placed on it which you can see on the website along with an estimated repair time. There is a massive backlog at the moment so it is taking time for repairs to come through. Extra gangs have been put out on pothole repairs though recent inclement weather conditions will not have helped. I would say though if you have reported something and after a month nothing has happened **then please tell me and I will investigate!**

Cllr Lock reported we had a full council meeting at TDC on Monday evening when it was resolved to raise council tax for Band D properties by £5 per annum which relates to 3.09% However 68% of properties fall within Bands A B or C so will pay less – see following: Band A 8,189 properties will pay increase of £3.33 per annum Band B 7,234 properties will pay increase of £3.89 per annum Band C 6,948 properties will pay increase of £4.44 per Band D 5,732 properties will pay increase of £5.00 per annum. Unfortunately, there will be no New Homes Bonus for 20/21 but this will be revisited in 21/22 when further Government funding will be known. CLIMATE EMERGENCY TDC are holding a Climate emergency workshop on Saturday 21st March 10am – 4pm at Caddsdawn – this should be a very useful event.

Cllr Clarke reported that there are two further Climate change events Friday 13th March at Umberleigh Village Hall an all-day event hosted by DCC with workshops, and one at Roundswell on the 7th March from 2pm to 5 pm with speakers from both TDC and NDC. Cllr Clarke is holding a Homeless workshop next week as an update on the policy, if landlords want to get involved TDC will guarantee the rent, the cost to TDC to put people in B and B is in the region of £100,000 a year.

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

464	Beaford Village Hall	£12.00
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7.i. Planning

P C recommendations TDC

1/0407/2019/F ULM	Residential Development for 41 Dwellings including demolition of one dwelling for creation of new access (affecting public right of way) Location: Land Adjacent to Marshalls Mead, Beaford,	Cllr Rodgers declared a prejudicial interest. TDC planning still awaiting further information from the applicant on highway matters. The Planning Officer is talking about the design of properties with the applicant. The Affordable Housing element has yet to be agreed.
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1/0529/2019/C PE	Certificate of existing lawful use of holiday units 2 and 4, known as 'Beech' and 'Oak', at Beaford House, as two independent dwelling houses (including amenity and parking areas) - Holiday Units 2 And 4 'Beech and Oak' Beaford	271
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- i. There is a mobile home that has been sited at Down Farm, TDC Enforcement will be contacted.
- ii. It has been reported that there is a blue container right next to the road at Reeds Farm, this will be reported.

8. Police Report, PCSO Brown reported that there have been 2 crimes, one theft and one criminal damage and three calls with logs created, these were road safety related, and 2 crimes recorded

9. Caretakers Report & Hall report,

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters. ii. Torridge District Crime Reports and newsletters.

ii. A letter has been received from the Plough informing the council of the funding that has been withdrawn and the action they are taking the address the problem, after discussion it was felt the Parish Council could not financially assist at present but would enquire if they are having an open meeting to discuss their prospects.

iii. A Waste and Recycling poster has been received this will be posted on the Notice Board.

An email has been received from a resident highlighting the climate emergency issue, the three meetings will be attended by Councillors and a report made at the next meeting.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25th March 2020 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 29th April 2020 Parish Council meeting.