

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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

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

Apologies Cllr D Rogers 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 24<sup>th</sup> June were agreed and signed.

2. Clerks Report, i. Web site, Cllr Millward has been working on this, the website is being built, a domain name has been agreed it is [beafordvillagedevon.org.uk](http://beafordvillagedevon.org.uk), an email address will be put on the website as a contact: [parishcouncil@beafordvillagedevon.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@beafordvillagedevon.org.uk) It will give every parish organisation space to contribute to the website. Cllr Millward was thanked.

3. Chairman's Report.

i. Play equipment, the question of the S106 money from the Marshalls Mead development was discussed, the criteria for releasing the money is to be confirmed Cllr Lock is to look into it. All the relevant notices are in place and the equipment has been sprayed 8 times since the equipment was reopened including the seats. Cllr Pearce was thanked for carrying out the spraying and keeping a record of when the spraying took place. Cllr Rodgers has offered as well, the Parish Council are now looking at purchasing a nap sack sprayer as this seems to be an ongoing job, likewise Cllr Huxtable was thanked for power washing the bus shelter. More rubbish has been evident around the Village Green recently. It was raised regarding the rubbish bin in the bus shelter and the one beside the school this one has been damaged, these do not seem to be being emptied regularly, TDC are to be contacted.

ii. Helicopter flying, Geoffrey Cox MP has been informed of the problem and has been working on this, local residents to the airfield have been submitting letters.

4. Highway Issues, there is to be a further road closure on 17<sup>th</sup> September for poles to be erected by Openreach, this closure will be from Green Warren House to Abbots Hill.

**The DCC website is [devon.cc/report-it](http://devon.cc/report-it)**

5. County and District Councillors items, Cllr Saywell **Coronavirus Cases**

Latest stats as of July 29<sup>th</sup> are 1235 confirmed cases within the DCC area (no new cases in the last 4 days). 53 in Torridge, 121 in North Devon, 72 in West Devon. Torridge did see 2 new cases on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and 3 on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Having been in touch with the Director of Public Health I can confirm none of these new cases were within Torrington Rural. The 3 recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> July came from routine testing of key and front-line workers. There have been **no** outbreaks recorded within the community. These stats appear a lot higher since the last meeting, this is because the Government is now including 'Pillar 2' (non-hospital lab testing) in the data. They were historic cases added onto the existing data. Public Health England have been sharing the Pillar 2 data with DCC throughout, so these 'increases' did not come as a surprise to County Officials. DCC is ranked 149 out of 150 upper-tier local authorities for having the lowest amount of coronavirus infections in the population, with only North East Lincolnshire ranked lower. Torridge is ranked the lowest out of the lower-tier local authorities in the whole country! So we are in a good position. But don't get complacent, keep up social distancing and keep washing your hands! Lastly, we have seen no evidence of a spike so far,

let alone a second wave, caused by the re-opening of pubs and hospitality and the tourism sector. Today the Director of Public Health confirmed none of the recent cases had been linked to tourists! **Local Outbreak Management Plan** DCC now has its 'Local Outbreak Management Plan' in place to deal with any local outbreaks. These are defined as 2 or more cases in a community in separate households. A range of measures, depending on the severity of the outbreak, will be used to contain and stamp out any outbreaks. We are though not anticipating having to close down Devon over the Summer, however some individual commercial premises maybe temporarily closed if an outbreak is traced back to them. Because our infection rates are so low we are in a good position to deal with any outbreaks, avoiding the need for local lockdowns.

**Highways** Thanks to Government Grants there will be an additional £27m added on top of the existing Highways Capital Budget for this financial year. As part of the pilot highways project Torrington Rural is in, Darryl Jagger from DCC Highways should be contacting the Clerk shortly outlining which schemes Highways will be working on locally for this financial year. The Council can request a follow up virtual meeting to discuss Highway's findings with the Officers and Engineers.

**Torrington Town Hall:** I have been asked to advertise the availability of the Town Hall in Torrington which is open again and can accommodate events etc. safely with social distancing. A jobs club has also been set up at the Town Hall, I am waiting for details but as soon as I have them I will send them to the Clerk as this may be helpful for anyone who has lost their job due to the pandemic. **School Re-openings.** DCC is working closely with all schools in Devon, including Academies and Free Schools, to help manage the safe reopening of schools in September.

Cllr Lock reported that since lockdown began TDC staff with many working from home have had 27,000 phone calls, 198,000 emails, 460,000 hits on the website and 540,000 people looking at the TDC facebook page. TDC have maintained the waste and recycling throughout the area. The repairs to the Westward Ho slip have been completed

6. Tennis Court, Cllr Huxtable has met with Mr Hartford, one of the Trustees has died and the other has not been able to be contacted and Mr Hartford would like to resign as a Trustee. At the next meeting Mr Hartford will resign as Chairman and nominees for the trustees will be considered, a new Chairman will be appointed a candidate for secretary has hopefully been found. Thank you to MR Harford for granting the Parish an excellent facility.

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

477	TDC Payroll	£361.40
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479	Zoom Mr. B Millward	£14.39
480	Ink Mr. R Pearce	£59.50

#### 8.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, amended plans.	This application will be presented at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> September TDC planning meeting.
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	

- i. Cllr Lock has endeavoured to contact Ms Helen Smith the case officer for the Towell Lane proposal. The question was raised why did highways not raise an objection to this area of land before being included in the Local Plan
- ii. Regarding the Marshalls Mead proposal Mr Michael Newcombe from DCC would be happy to talk to councillors, the revised plans for the entrance have been drawn up by professional

engineers, and Mr Newcombe DCC colleagues are not opposed. Cllr Underhill will put forward the Parish Councils comments at the September planning meeting. Councillors asked to see the script before, only material planning considerations can be considered, the planning meeting will be a virtual meeting, but will be relayed on You Tube to find this go to TDC for the link. The registration to speak has to be submitted 3 days before the meeting. 277

- iii. TDC Enforcement 1/0433/2019/FUL appeal on land at Reeds Farm.
- iv. The applicant from Canns down Press has contacted the Parish Council regarding a forthcoming planning application that is to be submitted, following discussion a site meeting is to be arranged with an invitation to the applicant to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

8. Police Report, no report.

9. Caretakers Report & Hall report, the DAAT agreement has been signed.

The Hall committee has lost two members so the committee was reduced to 6 but now has 7 members, but further members would be welcomed. The Hall is not anticipated to be opening until December, but if conditions change an earlier opening will be considered. But there are lots of rules and regulations. The field has been mown. Mr Mick Hurley is the acting chairman with a meeting scheduled to be held in September, an outdoor market may be considered. In normal times 15 regular events are held in a week in the hall, some boxes of books were left outside the hall for anyone to take.

The play equipment is open and everyone appears to be happy, there has been an increase in picnics on the Green

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletters

Cllr Millward has attended a virtual climate meeting the previous ones have been helpful but now they seem to be political and a protest so at present not useful to the parish.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020** Parish Council virtual meeting  
**7.30pm**

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

Forthcoming meeting: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Parish Council virtual meeting.