

WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL:

Minutes of the Parish Council ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 at 7.30pm in Winkleigh Community Centre

Cllrs Present: Cllrs; Phillips (Chair), Whitehead (Vice-Chair), Jacobs, Findlay, Maddocks, Goldsworthy, Hodgson, Naylor. District Cllr Newton, and 11 members of the public were also in attendance.

The Chair informed the room that an audio recording was in progress to aid with the minutes and would be deleted once draft minutes were issued.

Public Session:

A)

- A member of the public raised the issue of whether the Council has an emergency plan for the village, considering the recent power cuts. Cllr Goldsworthy responded that this is something Cllrs would like to look at revising.
- A member of the public raised the issue of traffic slowing in the village, and reported on several matters, see *Supporting Document* (on the website).
- A member of the public asked whether the Council had tabled a cost for their part in the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee since the meeting of the 12th January 2022, and if so what was the amount.
- PCSO Brown reported that we've had two crimes recently, both of which are of a statutory nature – the station had 22 reports from the village recently aswell, 13 of which were relating to highways, concerning recent power cuts. She recommended people purchase old phones for emergencies, and cigarette port chargers for cars to charge their existing phones in the event of another power outage.

B) County Councillor Saywell's Report

See *Appendix A*.

C) District Councillor Newton's Report

Cllr Newton reported that he has a number of open cases in the Parish. Confirmed that TDC had agreed their budget for the next year on the Monday past, including raising the precept by the maximum allowed amount. They have had to increase the construction costs element by one million pounds to take into account the rise in material price since those quotes were given. He also noted that when TDC takes over running the three leisure centres currently run by 1610 they will be expending 450k per site. TDC's own projections say that their reserves will run out in 4 years at current rates, so they have set up a special working group to investigate how they can avoid that outcome. Furthermore, TDC are doing a survey of long-term vacant houses, to see what can be done about them.

1.2.22: Welcome

The Chair formally welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

2.2.22: Apologies for Absence to be received and considered for approval (Chair)

Apologies from Cllrs Bayley and Turner were received.

3.2.22: Declaration of Interests (Chair)

None to declare at this time.

4.2.22: Minutes of Previous meetings (Chair)

Cllr Goldsworthy proposed that an amendment be made to the minutes of the 26/01/22 concerning who proposed section F in those minutes, seconded Cllr Findlay, All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR208/21*

Cllr Jacobs proposed the minutes be accepted, duly amended, as a true and accurate record of the events minuted, seconded Cllr Hodgson, seven in favour with one against. *RESOLVED RR209/21.*

5.2.22: Discussion of approval for working group memberships (Chair)

Cllr Goldsworthy proposed that himself, along with Cllrs Findlay and Naylor, be approved as members of the external working group pursuant to planning applications, seconded Cllr Jacobs, All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR210/21.*

Cllr Maddocks proposed that herself, along with Cllr Phillips, be approved as members of the Council to assist the working group pursuant to the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, seconded by Cllr Phillips. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR211/21.* Cllr Jacobs proposed that the Council set up an internal working group to review and reappraise WPC's standing orders with membership to be approved in the next ordinary meeting of the Council, seconded Cllr Findlay. *RESOLVED RR212/21.*

6.2.22: Annual Parish Meeting matters

Cllr Hodgson reported that Emily Willoughby, Project Lead for the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere with TDC, had agreed to speak at the APM.

Cllr Whitehead proposed that the Council approve her as the keynote guest speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting, seconded Cllr Phillips, All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR213/21.*

7.2.22: Report on the Youth Parish Council, and external speed-watch group (Cllr Maddocks)

Cllr Maddocks asked for suggestions on how the Council should go about setting up a Youth Parish Council, and to what extent they should be involved in it. Cllrs have registered their interest in getting involved in whatever results Cllr Maddocks' investigations bring up. Cllr Maddocks also reported that Winkleigh Parish Speedwatch Group had been set up externally to the Council and was functioning very well, PCSO Brown commented that the service is aware of this and will organise training.

8.2.22: Gateway Signage

Cllr Phillips raised the issue that time was running out to get funding for the relevant welcome sign, and suggested that all Cllrs send in any relevant photos to the Locum Clerk to send to TDC as soon as possible.

9.2.22: Financial schedule (Clerk)

Cllr Hodgson proposed that the Financial schedule presented as a supporting document be approved by the Council, and the Locum Clerk be authorised to expend such amounts therein, seconded Cllr Goldsworthy. All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR214/21.*

10.2.22: Cllrs Verbal reports not requiring discussion or resolution and future agenda items

Cllr Naylor reported that he had been liaising about new light fixtures in the town and would collate information and send it to the Clerk to be tabled for further discussion. Cllr Phillips explained in response to an earlier question that whilst there is money available for use in relation to the Jubilee Celebrations, what exactly that money can be spent on has to be examined and considered.

11.2.22: Next Meeting – Wednesday 23rd March 2022 7.30pm – Winkleigh Community Centre

12.2.22: Confidential matters (PART II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2).

a) Resolution required to move the Council into Part II.

Cllr Hodgson proposed the Council moved into Part II, seconded Cllr Phillips, All in Favour. *RESOLVED RR215/21.*

d) Chair to return the meeting to public session to hear resolutions

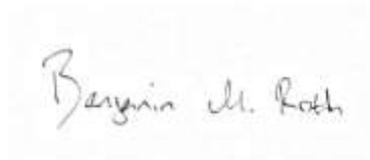
The Chair returned the meeting to public session.

Cllr Findlay proposed that the Locum Clerk affix a notice to the Cemetery Noticeboard alerting Burial Plot Owners to any terms and conditions in their contracts which may have become relevant considering recent additions to the monuments, and that the notice be affixed before the 2nd of April 2022, allowing appropriate modulations to be made by the burial plot owners within a 60 day period from the publishing date, seconded Cllr Hodgson, *RESOLVED RR216/21.*

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21:28

Benjamin M Roth (Locum Clerk)

Date Published: 10/03/22



Benjamin M Roth

Appendix A:

“Storm Eunice

As you all know, Storm Eunice caused severe disruption and damage over the weekend, with winds reaching up to 100mph in some places. The Highways Network Operations Control Centre took almost 1,300 calls during the storm period and a team of 150 Highways Officers, contractors and more than 70 tree surgeons cleared debris including rocks, trees, and branches from minor roads. Over 400 trees were uprooted. Gritters also had to be deployed due to falling road temperatures.

There were extensive power outages across Devon, and in particular Torrington Rural. I am well aware of the issues we had locally with the Four Seasons Park Home estate and raised this with the Emergency Planning Team at DCC who passed this onto Western Power Distribution, though DCC does not have the power to reprioritise WPD’s restoration plans. At the peak of the storm on Friday, WPD were dealing with over 60,000 premises across Devon and Cornwall, and nearly 10,000 of those were registered as Priority Customers, and I know that some residents at Four Seasons who were registered as priority customers.

DCC’s Incident Management Team took the decision to proactively contact certain groupings of people known to DCC Adults and Childrens services, where they potentially would be vulnerable if left with no power. This happened, and a number of welfare issues were successfully resolved.

A386 landslide

As you may also be aware, prior to Storm Eunice we had a major landslide on the A386, outside Torrington and just north of the junction with the A3124, which caused the road to be closed for just over a week as DCC brought in specialist contractors to stabilise the rock face and remove over 1000 tonnes of debris. The road is open again now, albeit under traffic lights, while work continues to secure the remaining rockface.

20 mph schemes – Expression of Interests for School Sites

I was pleased that the Cabinet at DCC agreed to allow 20mph schemes to be progressed in 22/23 for those communities that request them.

Previously, a trial was going to be undertaken in Newton Abbot to make the entire town 20 mph. But it is worth highlighting now that the residents of Newton Abbot did **not** support a community wide 20, **nor** did they support 20 as a default in residential streets. **They did, however, support 20s outside schools** and Highways will be working with County Councillors to develop a study around this.

With the outcome of our Newton Abbot consultation in mind it is essential that we have a strong indication of community support when DCC assesses requests for 20s. Therefore, the County Council proposed to involve Town and Parish Councils in the application process and invite them to liaise with Elected Members in submitting applications.

To make the most of this opportunity, I am minded to put forward **Townsend Hill** as a site for a 20 mph limit. I know residents have faced issues on the Hill due to the development works, but as part of the planning permission for this development, traffic calming should be installed along Townsend Hill. The new traffic calming, combined with a 20 mph limit would I believe further deter the use of this road as a ‘rat run’ to cut through to the A3124, as well as improving pedestrian safety.

To allow for assessment and prioritisation for schemes to be delivered in 22/23 all submissions must be complete by 31st March. I would be grateful if the Parish Council could let me know if they are supportive of submitting an application for Townsend Hill.

I can submit the application myself, but it would be helpful if I could also tick the box that says the Parish Council supports it.

At this very early stage though, I cannot guarantee that this scheme will be approved! It will be competing with other scheme proposals not only in Torrington Rural but throughout all of the County. There is only a limited budget and a finite resource to implement these schemes. However, I also work on the principle that if you don't ask, you don't get. And even if we are unsuccessful, I will continue to push for this scheme in future financial years.

Please note, this scheme is also for school sites early. While the finer details can be worked out later, it would not cover the entire village. Happy to discuss this with the Council/Councillors further.

DCC Budget

When not dealing with landslides, storms and power outages, the major work this month has been setting and approving the new DCC Budget for the 2022-23 financial year. In summary, the revenue budget will increase to £629 million, with a 10.5% increase (£29.6m) for Adult Social Care, 10.8% (£17m) for Children's Services.

Since the provisional budget was produced, it had been possible to include another £1 million on drainage and potholes and maintain £329,000 to support community groups. In addition, there would be an £8 million contribution from the NHS to help deliver adult and social care. DCC's Council Tax precept will increase by 2.99% (the lowest since 2015).

While funding has increased for services, it has been an extremely tight budget to set. DCC is taking nearly £23 million out of reserves to help balance the budget, and according to our Chief Executive, **76% of DCC's expenditure goes on just over 3% of Devon's population**. I hope that gives you an idea of the challenges we face. There is a huge demand on our Adult and Children's Services as we now come out of the pandemic. Demographic pressures are also increasing our spend, with an ageing population and adults with disabilities, health conditions, learning difficulties, etc. living longer.

Our aim throughout as a Council and Administration is to protect the young, the old and the vulnerable. And that will remain... but I also want to see ways we can ensure we do this in the future without necessarily spending more than three quarters of our budget on just 3% of the population. That will be the big challenge in the coming years/decades....

Devolution Bid

Devon has been shortlisted along with 9 other County areas for a devolution deal with the Government. Exact details remain 'TBC', with negotiations due to start shortly with Ministers. The intention is to negotiate as Team Devon – *all* the Districts, Unitary Authorities, Town and Parishes working with DCC to get more powers and decisions devolved to a local level.

DCC Strategic Plan

DCC has published its new Strategic Plan for the next four years. Those priorities, [available on the council's website](#), are:

- Helping Devon respond to the climate and ecological emergency, and working to protect and improve our natural environment
- Working together to ensure all children are safe, healthy and can thrive with opportunities to fulfil their potential
- Helping Devon achieve inclusive economic recovery and sustainable growth, ensure more people can take advantage of opportunities, and invest carefully to improve infrastructure
- Making Devon a fairer place, address poverty, health and other inequalities, and ensure support for those people and families struggling most
- Help people to be healthier and more resilient, ensure everyone gets the care they need, and support people to live their lives well
- Support all our communities to be safer, better connected and more resilient with a focus on communities at greatest risk or in greatest need

Annual plans will be produced every year to set out what the Council is doing to reach those strategic goals, and it is asking for the public's input to the annual plans, inviting people to let the council know what could and should be done in order to achieve the priorities. You can respond online by scrolling to the bottom of the webpage here - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan/>

Free School Meal Vouchers

Families of nearly 19,000 children in Devon have been sent supermarket vouchers this February half-term thanks to one-off government funding that DCC have used to continue our drive to combat holiday hunger the county.

Over the past year, DCC have invested over £4.7 million worth of government funding on providing nearly 140,000 supermarket vouchers for families who qualify for free school meals so their children don't go hungry over the school holidays. Securing additional one-off funding means the scheme is able to operate again over the upcoming February half term break and Easter holiday, with vouchers worth £15 per child per week automatically sent to families of children currently receiving free school meals to help them buy food.

Covid Update

I hope this is a promising 'sign of the times' that I have been able to leave this update until last. As of the 22nd February, Covid infection rates have been falling in Devon and are now back to pre-Omicron levels in the County. Hospitalisations have also been falling and throughout the 'Omicron wave', the numbers in intensive care have remained very low (in single figures).

I hope this update is useful. As ever, if there is anything you need me to look into locally please get in touch."