

**Minutes of East Down Parish Annual Meeting
on Monday 15th May 2017 at East Down Village Hall 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Cllrs Mr K. Phillips (Chairman), Mr R. Crossman, Mrs E. Kempf, Mr. R. Tarr, Mr. M. Wright (Vice Chair), and Mrs M. Done (Clerk)

Cllr Mr K. Phillips welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was disappointing that there were no members of the parish at the meeting.

1. Apologies. Cllr Mr. M. King, District Cllr J. Tucker, County Cllr Ms A. Davis

2. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting on 18th April 2016 had been accepted and signed on 16th May 2016.

3. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

4. Chairman's Report.

This is the Chairman's report on progress made by the Parish Council in the last twelve months.

The Parish Council was pleased to award a grant of £100 to the Village Hall towards purchasing more tables to use at functions in the Village Hall including the annual Produce Show, Parish breakfasts and Bingo and quiz nights.

Cllr Crossman asked the Parish Council for its approval for applications to be made for funding and grants from various organisations and businesses to purchase equipment for first aid, defibrillator and training which the Council supported. There is now a defibrillator and First Responder kit installed in the porch of the Village Hall thanks mainly to the efforts of Councillor Crossman. He has also organised training sessions in the use of this equipment and first aid and more than forty local people are now fully trained. A frame with certificate, all trained responders and sponsors will be fixed inside the Hall. We hope the defibrillator will never need to be used but it is reassuring to have it and a number of people qualified in its use and certificated in First Aid.

In November we hosted an informal Drop-In evening attended by over thirty parishioners. Its purpose was to gather views and opinions from parishioners on the proposals by Devon County Council affecting various footpaths and bridleways following the Definitive Map Review of the parish. Cllrs Tarr and King were particularly busy at the Drop-In evening with the proposals on the paths.

It was also an opportunity to highlight the proposed Defibrillator and First Aid project and gather names for the courses. The Community Alert system was also discussed and explained how it would work. This is considered to be important in light of the report from the police that East Down has suffered seven crimes during the last twelve months which is a huge increase from recent years. BT was once again proposing to remove the public phone box even though we had submitted a petition which had resulted in retaining this important facility and so a further petition was prepared and signatures collected for submission.

Recent changes to planning regulations has resulted in an increase in applications to convert redundant farm buildings into dwellings. Further regulations permit conversion of more modern farm buildings and there seems to be little power to prevent this even if considered inappropriate.

I would like to record thanks Richard Tarr for his work in maintaining the parish council website and also for his work on the Parish Paths. He completes all the paperwork on the bids for maintenance and improvements following surveys of the paths, most of which he walks himself.

Cllr Wright, our Vice Chair, is who we look to for advice on wind turbine' matters. His knowledge and expertise in this field is much appreciated and his contributions valued.

I would like to thank all councillors including Lorraine Yardley for the time given to parish business. Lorraine resigned her seat on the Parish Council due to pressures of work and we are hoping to co-opt someone to this vacancy.

Finally, I would like to thank Margaret, our Parish Clerk, for the work she does and the experience she brings to our meetings. Her guidance of procedure is greatly appreciated by myself and I am sure by all councillors.

I have enjoyed being Chairman for the past two years with the support of my fellow Councillors and now it is time for a new Chairman.

A vote of thanks was recorded for the Chairman.

5. Financial Report. Parish Council bank balances 31st March 2017

Parish Council Account £4926.95

P3 money of £1050.07.

The Public Works Loan Board is now cleared.

Earmarked sums: £600 Computer Equipment; £201.39 balance on defibrillator grants

6. Pine Charity. Bank Balance £78.06.

7. Parish Paths Report – Mr. Richard Tarr.

Again, there was no P3 workshop this year due to lack of funding but there was a small ‘walk and talk’ day organised but nobody from East Down expressed an interest in attending. It is hoped to see a return to the P3 workshop this autumn where it is always interesting to see the situation in other parts of Devon.

Following a wet winter in 2015-16, I am pleased to say that several outstanding jobs have been completed, most particularly the removal of a stile and other works on footpath 15, together with a new kissing gate and other works on footpath 1.

The annual path survey again presented a challenge as it was difficult to find volunteers to walk the paths. I was fortunate in receiving assistance from Ray Thomas and Peter Bunch who between them completed the six out of twenty paths I had been unable to check.

As a result of the survey we have applied for and been awarded £350 in further grants towards various jobs ranging from hedge cutting, gate works, waymarking and bramble clearance.

We are fortunate in having an excellent County Paths Warden, Simon Houghton, who has been tireless in his attempts to deal with a small number of repairs to paths.

We have received no outside reports of paths in need of maintenance but need to organise a paths survey this summer. It would be useful if anyone walking a path would make notes and let me know the condition of the path. All I need to know is the path number and a general condition report.

8. Defibrillator Report – Cllr R. Crossman.

Some months ago it was agreed to apply for funding to purchase first aid and defibrillator equipment and training hoping to interest enough people to run two training courses.

We have raised in excess of £4000, with a further £100 still promised. This leaves us with a balance of approximately £500 which would cover one further course in the autumn. To date we have run four courses broken into eight sessions and trained forty two people. Two people have yet to complete the training as they missed the second part owing to sickness or work demands.

Provision has been made for these two people to complete their training and receive their certificates. The result of this phase of the project has exceeded my expectations. There are currently sixteen people interested in being trained, some of whom were unable to take up places on the courses that had been booked.

The second phase of the project is about to start. Each household which has not had someone complete one of the courses will have a visit in the next few months from Sally and Mike Corfield. They will give the same first aid booklet each trained responder received on the course. Sally and Mike will also collect telephone numbers and other information to add into the alert system. The first aid booklets will contain a list of all responders grouped by area. People calling the emergency services will give the name of the nearest responder whom the emergency services will then contact to go to the incident.

The third phase of this project is the village alert system which will be developed with the data (telephone numbers, etc.) gathered through Sally and Mike's visits.

The main aim now is to continue to build on the relationships and communications which have been developed during the last four or five months and it is planned that the project will be completed and up and running by the end of the year.

A vote of thanks was recorded to Cllr Crossman

9. Any Other Business. None.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.