

**Minutes of East Down Parish Annual Meeting
on Monday 13th May 2019 at East Down Village Hall 7.30 p.m.**

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

Cllr Mr M. Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies. none

2. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting on 21st May 2018 had been accepted and signed on 16th July 2018.

3. Matters arising from the minutes. none

4. Chairman's Report.

Chairman's report 2018 /19

The Council had a fairly quiet year in 2018/19.

We considered eight planning applications and were able to comment on most of them with the exception of "QA&B" Which we have no role in deciding.

We were able to provide significant financial support to the East Down Produce Show, which the organisers made into a great success, and I hope we can continue to support this local event.

The Parish Council finances are very healthy, with good reserves and a number of ringfenced sums for planned future expenditure, including the Parish Paths Partnership. The Council has not been able to survey the Parish Paths in their entirety this year, but I am hopeful that we may be able to survey over the summer months, which would open access to further funds in addition to those ring fenced. Councillor King is to be thanked for undertaking clearance work on the paths.

Councillors should be congratulated on their meeting attendance, as should our district councillor, Joe Tucker. Meetings have discussed what was needed and have generally finished promptly, and I would like to thank everyone for their help in achieving this over the last two years of my chairmanship.

Although public participation is welcomed, there were few issues that drew a gathering, the most notable being concerns about developments at Churchill which were duly reported.

As in previous years, our Parish Clerk has worked hard to support the Council including having to deal with a still increasing amount of emails and correspondence. The clerk has also been instrumental in the process of generating a Parish Emergency Plan, a vital document to support the Parish in the event of various emergencies, and for which funding will be available for mitigation measures, e.g. keeping the drains clear.

Among issues of general interest was the delays near North Devon District Hospital, and along with many others we wrote to both the hospital and Devon County Council. I am pleased to report that the problem appears to have been resolved by the hospital creating new parking spaces, much to the relief of East Down parishioners who can now get back from Barnstaple predictably.

Thanks to Councillor Crossman who has liaised with Chris Wallis to again undertake the small clearance works on our behalf and continued to work on the defibrillator project.

Thanks are again due to Councillor Kempf for representing East Down at the Rural Alliance meetings.

Thanks to Councillor Phillips for his snow warden duties, including storing supplies and checking on the grit and salt stocks for the local bunkers.

Thanks are due to Councillor Tarr for his continued maintenance and update of the Council website which is kept up to date and is a useful structured source of information for both parishioners and visitors to the parish.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was recorded.

5. Financial Report. Parish Council bank balances 31st March 2019
Parish Council Account £5621.33 (income over expenditure £87.07)

Earmarked sums: £600 Computer Equipment, £255.21 balance on defibrillator grants, £323.32 High Visibility clothing and £500.00 Village Hall award towards maintenance and repairs.

Parish Paths Account £1156.83

6. Pine Charity. Bank Balance £78.06. The Annual Return not yet completed owing to further information required this year by the Charity Commission.

7. Parish Paths Report. This was included in the Chairman's report as we are currently without a co-ordinator.

8. Any Other Business.

Annual Crime Figures for the Parish from 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019

Violence with Injury 3

Violence without Injury 3

Other Sexual Offences 2

Criminal damage 1

The meeting closed at 7.38 p.m.