

**Minutes of East Down Parish Council Meeting  
at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at East Down Village Hall**

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

Cllr M. Wright, Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

**1. Apologies:** County Cllr Ms A. Davis

**2. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** none.

Cllrs R. Crossman, Mrs E. Kempf and K. Phillips each signed their amended Register of Interests forms which will be posted to the Monitoring Officer. The Clerk reminded all Councillors that this was a legal requirement.

**3. Public Participation:** none.

**Part 'A'**

**4. County/District Councillors' Reports**

District Councillor J. Tucker's report covered:

- Council Tax on empty properties -change in the law allowing District Councils to increase this tax.
- Prospective District Councillors' event 5<sup>th</sup> February at Brynsworthy Environment Centre starting at 6.15 pm
- Animal Welfare Licensing information
- Enforcement Department currently have 500 outstanding cases.

County Councillor A. Davis's request report covered:

Highways update including highway patching, highway drainage and pothole repairs. Countywide, DCC have added £150,000 to the Public Rights of Way Teams budget for resolving drainage issues at known problem sites on their network but ultimately affecting the highway.

**5. Minutes of meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.** Resolved to accept.

**6. Matters arising.**

Resiting of sign at Brockham Bridge – Cllr Davis arranged for this to be done.

**7. Planning Applications.**

**Reference 65837:** conversion of part of an existing barn to dwelling at Oakford Farm, Shirwell, Barnstaple. Following study of the plans and discussion, concern was expressed that this would be an inappropriate and sporadic development in the countryside. The parish council's recommendation was refusal.

**Decisions by Planning Inspectorate (for information only):** none

**8. Financial Statement of accounts for the year to date and payments.**

**Parish Council Account** Bank balance 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018: £6395.77

Cheque not presented: 000349 for £84

Cheque authorised and signed: 000351 to M Done (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter salary) £300

Ring-fenced money: £600 for computer equipment, £323.32 for high visibility clothing and £255.21 for defibrillator. The Clerk reminded Council that once again requests had been received for invoices for the grant for high viz clothing.

**Parish Paths Account** balance 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018: £1156.83

The Clerk requested and received permission to destroy all financial paperwork up to and including 2010.

**9. Precept 2019- 2020.**

The Clerk presented the budget for the coming financial year and recommended that a contingency of £500 be made towards the parish elections in May. The District Council had proposed to reduce the parish grant by half to £192 again this year. The Clerk reminded Council that last year it resolved to cover the shortfall for that year and the full amount for the following year. The Clerk recommended the precept remained at £2216. Following discussion it was resolved that it was unnecessary to include the £500 for possible election expenses since there is sufficient funds in the account. The Clerk would amend the proposed planned expenditure sheet. It was resolved that the precept would remain at £2116 and the application would be submitted by the Clerk.

The Clerk would return the relevant completed forms to the District Council.

**10. Parish Paths Partnership.**

- Following a report concerning the fingerpost at Shortacombe the Clerk contacted Simon Houghton who was already aware and will rectify the situation.
- Grants received to cover projects on footpaths had still not been spent and it was resolved that we revisit the applications and check whether any of these projects had been done by DCC.

**11. Website.**

Cllr Crossman reported that the 'Facebook' and Village Hall news was now included on the Parish Council website and expressed his thanks to Cllr Tarr for doing this.

**12. Chairman's items**

**Drains/Flooding.** Bottom of zig-zag and between North Indicott and Berry Down on the straight section. Clerk to inform Highways.

**13. Correspondence. (All emails)**

Enforcement update

Superfast broadband survey reminder

Police Newsletter

DCC Training Courses

Police monthly newsletter

NDC weekly information sheets, planning applications lodged, determined and enforcement cases closed

Grants information

DALC Devon Communities together

Rural Services Network

Public Sector Executive

Rural Opportunities bulletin

Rural Vulnerability Service

Rural Services Network weekly

Magazines: Clerks & Councils Direct

**14. Date of next meeting:** confirmed for Monday 21st January 2019 at 7.30 p m

**Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted Information):** none.

**15.** The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Members then enjoyed some Christmas refreshments provided by the Chairman.