

**Minutes of East Down Parish Council Meeting
at 7.40 p.m. on Monday 16th May 2016 at East Down Village Hall**

Attendance: Cllrs K. Phillips (Chairman), M. Wright (Vice Chair), Mrs E. Kempf, M. King, Mrs L.Yardley, District Councillor J. Tucker and Mrs M. Done (Clerk).

County Councillor Ms A. Davis arrived at 7.45 p.m.

Cllr K. Phillips welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Mr R. Crossman and Mr R. Tarr
2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.** None
3. **Public Participation.** none

Part A

4. County/District Councillors' Reports

District Councillor J. Tucker reported that:

- the administration of the District Council is now under the Conservative party;
- Austerity measures involved cuts to services
- Council Tax increased significantly
- Car parking charges increased
- Hospital closures – media coverage is incorrect: there are no known plans to close A & E, Maternity Wards or Stroke Department.
- Affordable Housing continues to be of real concern with over 2000 on housing waiting list.

Cllr Tucker concluded his report by thanking East Down Parish Council for its support over the past year. Cllr Tucker was thanked for agreeing to support the purchase of the defibrillator and related training with a donation from his District Councillor Grant.

County Cllr A. Davis reported on Devon County Council's Highways budget of £38,785,000 The money will be used for structural repairs that extend the life of everything that makes up the highway, including repairs to road surfaces, retaining walls, bridges, and street lighting.

A separate Highway Revenue Budget of £26,975,000 funded from Council Tax, Business Rates and a decreasing amount from the Government Revenue Support Grant, pays for reactive work like repairs to large potholes, winter and emergency events, cutting back vegetation, gully emptying and ditch cleaning.

The development of the Devon Highway Strategy has also helped stretch the available funding as far as possible. Devon County Council have been targeting busier routes with some success, and surveys show that only 2 to 3% of the A and B road network is in need of structural maintenance soon.

Most of Devon's road network is made up of minor roads and the condition of these remains a concern with about a quarter in need of structural repair. With the capital funding from Government providing just over half of the maintenance funding needed to keep roads in their current condition, the overall condition of the network will continue to deteriorate. However inspections and repairs to keep these roads safe will continue.

Devon Local Nature Partnership has asked everyone to help bees by planting bee-friendly flowers, wild flower seeds and avoiding pesticides. More information on the website: www.naturaldevon.org.uk

County Cllr Davis was asked for a donation from the County Councillor grant towards the defibrillator and training. Andrea asked for an email to be sent to her with the details. She then left the meeting.

5. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 18th April, 2016.** Resolved to accept and signed.
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 18th April, 2016. Resolved to accept and signed.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes.** None

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

P3 Account Bank Balance 25th April, 2016 was £1340.61. All cheques presented.

Parish Council Account Bank Balance 29th April 2016 was £5848.12. This included BACS of £1318.38 (50% each of precept, grant and grant assistance). Two cheques not yet presented.

The following cheque was approved and authorised: Cheque 000302 to M. Done for £36 reimbursement of Audit fee.

The Clerk would post the completed audit papers to the external auditor and Cllr Tarr agreed to hold all the financial papers for inspection by any of the residents during the inspection period.

8. Spending Review.

Following discussion on the Council's finances the following motion was proposed and seconded:
East Down Parish Council will ring-fence one full year's expenses plus contingency of £1000 to cover election costs etc. Total to keep in reserves £3500. Approved unanimously.
Discussion on future spending to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

9. Planning

Application No. 61047 Extension to dwelling, Mowstage, East Down, Barnstaple EX31 4LY.

Following inspection of the plans and discussion it was agreed unanimously to recommend approval. The Clerk would advise the Case Officer.

10. Chairman's items

Residents' alert system. Cllr. Crossman had asked the Clerk to report that the first sub-committee meeting had taken place and several promises of money had been received.

TAP Fund – gullies and drains needing attention. The Clerk to clarify with Victor Gough of Highways whose responsibility it is to clear ditches.

11. Correspondence.

Exmoor National Park – invitation to site visit on Friday 13th May about the proposed reinstatement of the Lynton and Barnstaple railway.

Gifts to impress – leaflet on Queen Elizabeth commemorative gifts

Parish Paths – letter advising on grant for 2016-2017 of £200 already received.

Lloyds Bank statements

Emails

Rural Opportunities bulletin

DALC various emails

Rural Services Network weekly email

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

Magazines

Clerks & Councils direct

12. Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that owing to the Clerk's holiday the next Parish Council meeting would be Monday 25th July, 2016 at 7.30 p.m. Clerk to amend booking details for Village Hall. Cllr M. Wright agreed to take delivery of all papers and emails during this period and should any planning applications be received an extraordinary meeting would be called by the Chairman/Vice Chair. Cllr Tarr would do the necessary arrangements and post the notice and advise the Case Officer on the Council's recommendation.

Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted Information) None.

Agenda item: Spending review of forthcoming year.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.