

**Minutes of East Down Parish Council Meeting
at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 21st August 2017 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 Councillor Mr J. Tucker and Mrs M. Done (Clerk).

Cllr Martin Wright welcomed everyone and opened the meeting and suggested that Sue Southwell make her presentation before reports from County and District Councillors. This was agreed

1. **Apologies:** County Councillor Ms A. Davis.
2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** none.
3. **Public Participation:** Sue Southwell, Rural Housing Enabling Officer, Devon Communities Together.

Part 'A'

The Chairman then introduced Sue Southwell, Rural Housing Enabler and invited her to make her presentation on Community Led Housing. She then explained that she is part of Devon Communities Together and works as a Rural Housing Enabler together with Colin Savage. The government recognises the need for affordable housing in rural areas and in December 2016 North Devon Council received a grant of £650,000.

This grant covers:

- 2 extra days of Rural Housing Enabler support;
- Support from the Wessex Community Land Trust project;
- Direct assistance to local communities with a housing need.

Further similar amounts are available over the next five years.

Sue then explained Community Led Housing is a scheme led by the community to provide housing in the locality using community led funding supported by RHEs up to the planning stage.

The benefits are that being community driven the site and design meet community needs and properties go to local people.

It has been suggested by the North Devon Rural Alliance that a survey be undertaken across the eleven parishes to establish the current state of housing needs. This survey would cover all ages and health situations where residents may be living in homes being too large, too small, or unsuitable for their health. It would also give an indication of where residents would prefer to live. The survey would also cover questions for people wishing to buy on the open market and self-build.

Evidence based needs are essential before any scheme can start.

Sue then handed round a copy of the letter and survey form that are being sent out from other parishes and explained that each parish in the alliance would have similar paperwork but that the completed surveys would be sent by prepaid envelopes direct to the Rural Enablers Office and not to individual parishes to retain confidentiality. Sue then answered questions and agreed to include additional questions to the form.

Following discussion by the members Cllr Tarr proposed the motion that we participate in the survey; this was seconded by Cllr Crossman and carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Sue for her attendance and she then left the meeting.

4. County/District Councillors' Reports

County Cllr A. Davis had sent apologies by email and added that the County Council is in recess so there is nothing to report.

District Cllr J. Tucker's report covered:

- Local Government Boundary Commission. The Electoral Ward Boundary had resulted in the reduction of councillors by two members and the wards covered had been adjusted so that it was a more even area for councillors to cover.
- Recycling collections now working better and the delivery of overdue new vehicles is expected imminently.
- Police notification of scams.
- Marwood Parish Affordable Homes – the two properties available had 79 applicants.

5. **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 24th July 2017.** Resolved to accept and minutes signed.

6. Matters arising.

Peter Bunch had contacted the Clerk saying that it is better to alert concerns to parishioners including road closures and other matters via the parish website rather than using the newsletter. He will highlight the parish council website in the monthly newsletter. He is still keen to receive notification of any road closures/disruption. It was agreed to invite Peter to the next meeting to discuss communication.

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

P3 Account Bank Balance on 16th August 2017 is £1156.83 (includes VAT refund).

Parish Council Account Bank Balance on 16th August 2017 is £6465.93.

The following cheques not yet presented East Down Village Hall £84 and £50; East Down & Arlington PCC £300.

Ring-fenced money: £600 computer equipment; £323.32 for High visibility clothing; £924.35 for defibrillator.

The following cheque was authorised and signed: Cheque No. 000330 to M. Done £35.00 reimbursement of Data Protection annual renewal

It was resolved to defer purchasing the high visibility clothing until we had people trained and covered by insurance to undertake necessary work.

8. Planning

Decision by Planning Inspectorate (for information only)

Application 63118. Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling (Class QA & B) at Ashelford Farm, East Down, Barnstaple. Notification by Planning Office dated 31st July 2017.

District Cllr Tucker left the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

9. Parish Paths Survey – priorities. The Chairman reported that he was seeking clarification on various matters from Simon Houghton, DCC Parish Paths Warden, who is on leave until 1st September. It was resolved to defer this item until the next meeting.

10. Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of North Devon. This had been covered in District Cllr Tucker's report.

11. Chairman's items.

- **TAP Fund:** work has been done on two drainage problems. Cllr Crossman would obtain a quote from Chris Wallis for our £215.60 TAP allowance.
- **Flooding:** Clerk to contact Highways over flooding at Lower Brockham.
- **Parish Definitive Map Review:** it was reported that the time for representation had passed. There had been two representations to Proposal 2: Bridleway between County Roads at Bowden Corner and Whitefield Hill but since both were from the same source only one was permitted.
- **Reminder: Rural Alliance meeting 12th September** at Bratton Fleming Sports & Social Club starting at 7 p.m. Cllr Mrs Kempf and the Clerk would attend.

12. Correspondence.

Lloyds Bank Statement

ICO – Reminder to renew subscription £35

Receipt for PCC grant of £300

Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of North Devon Warding Arrangements and poster

Emails:

Police monthly newsletter

Police Alert – scams

Planning application 63118 Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling (class QA & B) at Ashelford Farm. Notification by Planning Office dated 31st July 2017.

Parish Forum meeting notes

TAP Fund – Review of TAP Fund guidance

Boundary Commission Electoral Ward Boundary Review

Rural Services Network

Public Sector Executive

DCC Newsletter

Rural Opportunities bulletin

Rural Vulnerability Service

Rural Services Network weekly email

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

Devon's Senior Voice Magazine Summer 2017

Clerks ND Councils Direct Magazine July 2017

13. Date of next meeting. Monday 18th September at 7.30 p.m.
Agenda Items: Communication system - Peter Bunch
Parish Paths Survey priorities

Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted Information) None

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.