

## **East Down Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the East Down Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm**

- 1. Attendance: Cllrs Mr M Wright (Chairman), Mrs J Kift, Mr K Phillips, Mrs D Fry, Mrs E McClenaghan and Mr R Crossman**
- 2. Apologies for absence – County Councillor Andrea Davis**
- 3. Declarations of interest/Dispensations: There were none**
- 4. Public participation: There was one member of the public present**

#### **Part ‘A’**

- 5. County Councillor’s Report in full at end of minutes**

- 6. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

It was proposed and seconded and RESOLVED to ACCEPT and sign the minutes.

- 7. Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

- 8. Planning Applications**

- There were no planning applications received.
- Ashelford Farm; a reminder had been sent to Ken Miles at DCC requesting a response to our previous correspondence. No response was received by the time of the meeting.

- 9. Update on Potholes in the Parish**

- Most of the major potholes have been attended to but some still remain. Cllr Crossman is checking that the outstanding ones are registered on the DCC website. The resurfacing between Kentisbury Ford and Long Lane is a significant improvement.

- 10. Update on dumping of contaminated soil from Bowden Corner to Indicott Cross**

- A reminder requesting a response to our original correspondence had been sent and a response is awaited.

- 11. EDPC website options and Cabinet Office initiative for parish councils to use a .gov.uk domain names**

- Carried forward to the next meeting.

- 12. Financial statement of accounts and to agree payments**

- Bank balances were:

Parish Council A/C: £5,988.79

Parish Paths A/C: £1,060.83

It was proposed and seconded to APPROVE the online bank transfer to be raised for Clerk's salary (£125 for September).

The ring-fenced amounts from historical grants that were agreed to be moved to another account have not yet been moved to the agreed account.

### **13. Chairman's Items**

- **Register of Interests 2024-2025** – final form is still outstanding.
- **Foul water issue (update)** – Plans have been to resolve the issue by the end of October. The EA have been involved and will monitor after implementation. It was also noted that a number of drains in the parish are still blocked leading to excess surface water. Cllr Crossman will contact DCC and request resolution.
- **Administration of Bank accounts and payment authorisation** – on-line authorisation in place and active.

### **14. Correspondence**

- **Cara Stobbart** – invitation to DALC AGM
- **District Cllr Julie Hunt** – temporary closure of Seven Brethren (Barnstaple) Recycling Centre from end September to mid-October
- **Kate Tregellas, Arlington National Trust** - Home Fam Community Hub

### **15. Date for next meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 7:30pm**

### **Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted information)**

There were no items under Part "B"

The meeting closed at 20:04

## September 2024

### Highway Repairs

#### Road Closure A361 Mullacott

#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September-Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

The reason for this road closure is to undertake drainage and patching works to the A361 following investigations which have highlighted issues on the existing drainage system, with this section of carriageway forming part of the primary gritting route it is important that these issues are resolved for the safety of the travelling public. The sections of carriageway which require closing are narrow and we are governed by the New Roads and Streetworks Act on the live carriageway widths and the resulting traffic management required, as the sections being worked on cannot be undertaken under lights due to the safety of both the work force and travelling public. DCC will be setting up a concrete barrier just past the turning to Cheglinch Lane as there will be deep excavations to expose pipework.

#### More repairs will be coming in the area, including the A399 and A39

Since April, more than 18,000 square metres of road have been patched in over 350 locations across the county. These repairs have targeted sections of road which are deteriorating, patching extensive areas before potholes or safety defects form.

Dragon patchers have been used on double-shifts to complete more than 5,250 patches, covering over 33,000 square metres.

And a new carbon saving road repair material, called Elastomac, has been used to repair around 7,000 square metres of Devon's roads following successful trials on small to medium size patches.

Elastomac is a surfacing material which is partly made of recycled road planings and recycled tyres. It reduces waste and carbon emissions while also being quicker to cure than traditional material used in pothole repairs, reducing traffic disruption. *This is the system booked to be used on the A 399.*

Around £2 million of the funding is being invested in drainage improvements, while over 10km of double white lines have also been refreshed along with road markings at 175 roundabouts and 197 zebra crossings.

This year's wet spring accounted for levels of potholes recorded between April and July being 54% higher than the same time last year.

To tackle potholes, we also invested an extra £2 million in highway revenue funding this year, on top of the £10 million capital funding. This has helped contribute to the repair of more than 47,500 potholes across the county so far this year.

The £12 million injection from Devon County Council is in addition to the £59.486 million of funding Devon has received from the Department for Transport (DfT) for its highway maintenance programme this year.

The annual major resurfacing programme for the A-road network in the county is also currently underway.

I of course apologise for any inconvenience caused by the repairs and upgrades.

## **Link Road Update**

Several key areas of the upgraded North Devon Link Road are due to open later this month (September).

The £67 million improvement scheme aims to improve safety, Improve journey time reliability, improve network resilience and support economic growth.

As the work by contractor Griffiths nears substantial completion, sections of the A361 will be opening at different stages.

Here's what is due to open by the end of September:

**Landkey roundabout and pedestrian/cycle bridge** - The new Landkey roundabout will replace the old T-junction to improve safety. It has been designed to accommodate a fourth arm that will allow access to the proposed Westacott development area to the North of this roundabout. A new cycle and pedestrian bridge has also been built at this roundabout to connect to the future Westacott development.

**Landkey roundabout to Harford Cross** - Drainage has been improved and a central hatched area has been introduced to discourage overtaking. It also includes the start of the average speed camera section; monitoring speeds between Landkey roundabout and Aller roundabout.

**Harford Cross to Yarnacott** - This section has been widened to provide overtaking lanes, with a length for eastbound traffic and another length for westbound traffic. The widening involved substantial earthworks, with structures below the road, such as culverts, being extended. New drainage has been installed on this whole section to cope with predicted climate changes.

## **Borners Bridge Junction and Hacche Lane Junction**

Borners Bridge is a new elongated roundabout which replaces the old, staggered crossroads. The roundabout improves safety, particularly for vehicles making a right turn. Right turns will also be prohibited at Hacche Lane T-junction to further improve safety.

The roundabout has been constructed over the Mill Stream with an extended structure below the roundabout. The adjacent bridleway has been maintained, with new footways connecting to the roundabout.

**Portmore roundabout to Landkey roundabout** - This section has been resurfaced and includes a central hatched area to discourage overtaking. In November 2022 it was agreed that an overtaking lane and footbridge originally planned for this area had to be removed as a result of rising costs of construction materials and energy, compounded by the war in Ukraine.

The remaining elements of the scheme are scheduled to open by late October, with West Buckland Junction planned to be the final area to open. These are:

**Yarnacott to Riverton** - This section has been resurfaced with a central hatched area to discourage overtaking. All drainage in this section has been renewed.

**Riverton to West Buckland Junction** - The road has been widened to provide a number of stretches of overtaking lanes in each direction. This whole section has had new drainage designed to accommodate predicted climate changes.

**West Buckland to Filleigh Bridge** - This section has been widened to provide overtaking lanes for eastbound traffic and drainage has been improved.

**West Buckland Junction** - A new junction has been constructed with a new overbridge to replace the old staggered crossroads. This new junction improves traffic safety, particularly for vehicles making a right turn.

After all sections have opened to road users, final audits will be carried out, landscaping and some minor work will continue.

Andrea Davis

*County Councillor*

*Combe Martin Rural Division*

[Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk)