

East Down Parish

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of East Down Parish held in the Village Hall on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7:30 pm

Attendance: Cllrs M. Wright (Chairman), Mr R Crossman, Mr R Crocker, Mrs D Fry and Mr K Phillips, Parish Clerk K.L. Fletcher. No members of the public attended the meeting.

East Down Parish Council Chairman's Report 2023/2024

The Council met regularly during the year, and have progressed a number of issues on behalf of the Parish:

- Continuing the ongoing works to clear blocked drains and gulleys to resolve flooding issues
- Road salt bins have been maintained and filled
- Replacement of the Parish Noticeboard by the Pyne Arms
- Still progressing the foul water issue in the village which is now being addressed by the Environment Agency and North Devon District Council
- Following up potential planning infringements

The high number of planning applications continued, with 12 received during the year which were all considered and responded to as appropriate.

Thanks are again due to all councillors for their individual contribution to meetings and outside activities, including Rod Crossman again for his continued dogged determination to resolve the Parish drainage and foul water issues.

Two Councillors resigned during the year, and in particular, thanks are due to Rick Tarr for his long service to the Parish, including management of the EDPC website, which he has kindly agreed to continue with.

After advertising the vacancies, the Council was pleased to invite Keith Phillips to return to the Council, and to invite Erica McClenaghan to join the Council; both accepted.

Also resigning this year was our Clerk, Geoff Dwyer, who had been in the role for two years. The Council expressed their thanks for his work.

We were also fortunate, after a recruitment process, to have a new Clerk, Keith Fletcher join us in late 2023. Keith lives locally and will be known to many in the Parish. Although new to being a Parish Clerk, Keith has taken on his duties well and thanks are due to him for his efforts.

The Council is also grateful to our County Councillor, Andrea Davis, for her help and support during the year, while acknowledging that also she cannot attend every meeting due to a diary clash with Morteheo Parish Council but does take the time to update the Council of County Council issues regularly with a written report.

Disappointingly, the same cannot be said of our District Councillor, Julie Hunt. Despite repeated requests and invitations, she has not been able to either attend any meetings this year, however she has sent the occasional report.

While the parish council funds remain healthy, increases in costs required a small uplift in the precept.

Martin Wright