

DRAFT

East Down Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the East Down Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 18th November 2024 at 7:30 pm

Attendance: Cllrs Mr M Wright (Chairman), Mr R Crossman, Mrs J Kift, Mr K Phillips, Mrs D Fry, Mrs E McClenaghan

- 1. Apologies for absence – Cllr R Crocker, County Councillor Mrs A Davis, District Councillor Mrs J Hunt**
- 2. Declarations of interest/Dispensations: There were none**
- 3. Public participation: There were none**

Part ‘A’

- 4. County Councillor’s Report – to be found at the end of the minutes**

- 5. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

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

- 6. Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

- 7. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications.

- 8. Update on Ashelford Farm –** Case Officer’s report has been received. Although planning permission was required for the work done, as NDDC found the work done acceptable, no retrospective application will be required. Matter closed.
- 9. Broadpark, East Down –** this relates to a parcel of land that borders the road down to Bugford and in part borders the River Yeo. It currently has a Yurt, an old barn on it and at least one caravan. A Parish Councillor received a report of alleged unauthorised activity on the plot. The matter was discussed by the Council as it was originally assumed that it may be a planning issue but none were identified. There had been an appeal against an NDDC Enforcement notice, which the owner won. The inspector’s report of 26th March 2021 legitimised the assorted structures that are on the site. The Council did note that if there are issues of noise, anti-social behaviour or environmental concerns that may time to time occur in East Down generally then affected parishioners should contact Environmental Health at NDDC, the Police or the Environment Agency respectively, at the time the incident occurs. No further action is required from the Parish Council at the present time.

- 10. Update on Potholes in the Parish**

- Councillor Crossman provided an update of the major defects that he has reported to DCC, namely near Ashelford Farm and the one at the beginning of Bugford at the Stonecombe Hill end. A number of other defects were also reported and although DCC provided expected dates for repair, these were not met. This will be raised with County Councillor Davis.

11. Financial statement of accounts and to agree payments

- Bank balances were:

Parish Council A/C: £4,498.94
 Parish Paths A/C: £1,060.83
 Ring Fenced Grants A/C: £2,103.35

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

Lloyds Bank have advised that free banking will no longer be supplied to the Parish Council. Changing banks was discussed and it was felt that it would be difficult to find free banking elsewhere and that it was not worth the disruption of changing banks at this time.

12. Precept for 2025/2026

NDDC have requested the completion of the Precept Form for the next financial year. Following discussion, it was proposed and seconded to request the same Precept as last year.

13. Chairman's Items

- **Foul water issue (update)** – works have been completed and commissioned. It was RESOLVED to remove this item from the agenda for the time being. It can be reinstated in the event that further issues arise.
- **Update on website and .gov.uk domain** – exploration work is continuing.

14. Correspondence

- NDDC Precept form
- Devon Mobility seeking additional funding sources
- NDDC advising Council Parish Forum meeting date
- Jack Clifford, NDDC Planning Enforcement Office with report on Ashelford Farm

15. Date for next meeting – 9th December 2024 at 7:30pm

Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted information)

There were no items under Part "B"

The meeting closed at 20:10

East Down Parish Council

County Councillors report

November 2024

Bus Fare increase and Concessionary Bus Passes

Unfortunately, in the budget the bus fare cap was raised from £2 to £3 in December, this is very disappointing as I admit I was expecting £2.50. rural residents like ourselves are disproportionately affected by the rise as it is a cap and many urban areas the fare would be below £3 anyway.

If anyone wants to apply for a concessionary bus pass if you are over the statutory retirement age in addition bus passes are also available to people with certain disabilities. If you are applying for a bus pass based on disability (and you are not eligible for a pass based on your age) the link is; [Apply for a bus pass - Travel Devon](#)

To complete a paper application, you can [download a bus pass application form here](#). To have the form posted to you please call [01392 383688](tel:01392383688) or [01271 383688](tel:01271383688) or email at nationalbuspass@devon.gov.uk.

To plan your journey the interactive bus map is very helpful;

Devons interactive bus map: <https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/interactive-bus-map/>

Link for service updates from Stagecoach SW; [North Devon Bus Service Updates - Are North Devon Buses Running Today? | Stagecoach](#)

Highway Repairs

Following on from the Mullacott closure the A3123 between BerryDown and Lynton Cross the new drainage scheme is now installed at Stapleton Farm.

More repairs will be coming in the area, we can expect to see a lot of patching and resurfacing as well as more drainage works in the coming months. Hopefully this winter will not be as wet as winter 23-24.

Colder Weather and travelling.

Colder weather is forecast for later this week.

Last winter's biggest issue was the prolonged wet spell which caused extensive damage to Devon's highway network. This led to a 31% increase in pothole repairs between January and April, compared to 2023, and 94% more than the same period in 2022.

However, in terms of dealing with icy conditions, last winter was relatively quiet, with Devon County Council's gritting teams only using around 6,200 tonnes of salt – which was less than half the amount used the previous winter.

Devon's Network Operations Control Centre in Exeter uses CCTV, weather information, traffic and congestion data to monitor Devon's road network 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

As part of the ongoing upgrade of Devon's fleet of 37 frontline gritters, another six gritters have been replaced with newer models ahead of this winter. These replacement vehicles include touchscreen controls to enable drivers to adjust their plough attachments without leaving their cab.

To support active travel, around 14 miles of Exeter's busiest cycle routes will continue to be treated this winter. It follows a successful trial over the last two years of the "Powerflex" vehicle which is small enough to travel on shared use paths in the city.

Around 24,000 tonnes of salt are stored in gritting depots across the county at the start of the season.

There are also more than 3,500 grit bins located across Devon to support community self-help on roads which are not on the gritting network. These supplies must only be used on the public highway. At this time of year, local communities are encouraged to check grit bins in their area. Empty grit bins can be reported via [our "Report It" webpages](#).

More information and advice is available on our [winter travel webpages](#) or for updates on Twitter(X) follow [@DevonAlert](#) and [Facebook](#).

(note to self- reminder to ask about snow warden, grit etc)

Household support funding available until the end of March 2025

To help households that are struggling with the costs of energy, food, water and other essentials.

Devon County Council will receive a share of the Household Support Fund, as we have each year since 2021. This allocation, like previous ones, is a little over £5 million.

The council are now agreeing how we will distribute the funding, working closely with Devon's eight District, City and Borough councils and voluntary and community partners.

Citizens Advice Devon will be one of the recipients to receive Household Support Funding, so that they can continue to support people who are struggling to meet their energy needs. Support comes in the shape of fuel voucher payments, and longer-term relief of fuel poverty through initiatives that help homes become more energy-efficient, and that help people stay warm at home – heated throw, body warmer or rechargeable hot water bottle, for example.

This latest round of Household Support Fund allows DCC to continue to provide Free School Meal holiday vouchers to families whose children are eligible for benefit-related free school meals during term time.

The next Local Transport Plan is currently out for consultation

The full draft document of the plan is available to view on the [Have Your Say webpage](#). The deadline for feedback to the online questionnaire is 11:59pm on Saturday 30 November.

The plan's vision is for well-integrated and accessible transport to facilitate sustainable growth, support net zero carbon targets by 2050 at the latest, improve travel choice and benefit people's health and wellbeing.

A number of priorities are proposed across all areas of Devon and Torbay, including enhancement of bus services and supporting transition to lower emission and zero emission buses, providing bus priority on key routes, improving the integration of rail and bus services, establishing a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging facilities, and expanding pedestrian and cycle networks. All of the proposals are subject to securing funding from a range of sources including Local Transport Plan, Government grants and developer contributions .

It is really helpful to hear what residents think about transport and how we get around and in and out of the County, if you have some time please take a look.

Changes for disposal of upholstered furniture

New environmental requirements will mean that from Sunday December 1 Devon's householders will only be able to dispose of their upholstered furniture at one of eight of our specially designated Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

It follows the introduction of new requirements from the Environment Agency which require our recycling centres to have segregated facilities to handle Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS).

WUDS include sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, recliner chairs, upholstered kitchen and dining room chairs, upholstered garden furniture, stools and foot stools, office chairs, futons, bean bags, floor and sofa cushions.

These items contain large quantities of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs or forever chemicals) and other hazardous chemicals in the textiles and foam.

These chemicals are often used as fire retardants; they persist in the environment, can accumulate in human and wildlife fatty tissues and can be harmful to health and the environment. All WUDS need to be sent for incineration separately where these chemicals are destroyed.

We are now required by the Environment Agency to ensure that all WUDS are segregated and transported separately from other waste.

This segregation will require additional containers and facilities to be provided at HWRCs. However, due to space constraints, only a limited number of sites in Devon will be able to accept WUDS.

This means that the majority of our recycling centres will not have the facilities to accept these items.

The HWRCs that will be able to accept Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating from Sunday December 1 2024 are: –

East Devon; Knowle Hill in Exmouth

Exeter; Pinbrook Road, Exeter

Mid Devon; Ashley, Tiverton

North Devon, Seven Brethren, Barnstaple

Torrington; Bideford

South Hams; Ivybridge

West Devon: Okehampton

Teignbridge: Brunel Road, Newton Abbot

WUDS cannot be accepted at any other Devon HWRC after December 1 and residents will need to ensure that they take their WUDS to a site that can accept them or book a bulky collection with their district council who will charge for the service.

To be very clear we will have to go to Barnstaple with any Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (upholstered furniture, chairs, sofas, floor cushions etc)

The DCC website is very useful for reporting highway problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. [Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

Alternatively, the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

Winter road updates; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/safe-travel/winter-travel/>

Travel Devon website; [home - Travel Devon](#)

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County Councillor

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