

## **East Down Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting of the East Down Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7:30 pm**

**Attendance: Cllrs M. Wright (Chairman), Mrs S Black, Mrs J Kift, Mrs D Fry, Mr R Crocker, Mr R Crossman, Mr R Tarr, County Cllr A Davis**

The parish council meeting was preceded by a presentation by Kate Tregellas (NT) and Rupert Lane (Consultant) about the National Trust's proposed woodland project at Churchill Farm. It was attended by the Parish Council and several members of the public.

The council meeting followed immediately after the presentation had finished.

- 1. Apologies for absence – District Cllr J Hunt**
- 2. Declarations of interest/Dispensations: There were none**
- 3. Public participation: There were no members of the public present**

**Part 'A'**

#### **4. County/District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Davis highlighted the key sections of her report relating to:

- Vision Zero Road safety Partnership Survey; to inform the objective of eliminating all fatalities and serious injuries on the roads in Devon. She asked that as many people as possible to fill in the questionnaire (link in the full report in Attachment A.
- Devon and Cornwall Railcard; a great value card offering holders significant discounts. Full details in Attachment A.
- Household Support Fund; government funding for those groups in most need. More detail in Attachment A.

#### **5. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

**RESOLVED to ACCEPT and sign the minutes.**

#### **6. Matters arising from the minutes**

Confidential information in published EDPC minutes, covered in Chairman's Items below.

#### **7. Planning Applications**

Due to a missed update of the Parish Clerk email address at NDDC, the planning notices for applications 77762 and 77879 were not received and they were not identified in time to be on the agenda for the meeting, although the information was circulated as pre-read. As a result, a response to these applications could not be resolved at the meeting, though they were briefly discussed. The consultation period for both will expire before the next meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the

Clerk would request a consultation period extension on 77762 as there were concerns raised about this application.

The Chairman advised that guidance on the running of councils had provision for this type of occurrence, e.g. should an extension not be granted. A motion was therefore proposed and seconded that should this situation arise, to **DELEGATE** authority to the Clerk to respond to the NDDC on behalf of the council. Following a majority vote it was **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the motion.

## 8. Financial statement of accounts for the year and to agree payments

### **Bank balances October 2023**

**Parish Council Account (EDPC): £8,048.62**

**Parish Paths Account (P3): £1,060.83**

**Cheques signed for Clerk's salary (£125), Earth Anchors Ltd (£477),**

**Community First Insurance policy (£126.44 per annum for 3 years)**

## 9. Chairman's items

- **Recharge for Election from NDDC** – it was **RESOLVED** to pay the amount requested once the Clerk has the invoice in his hand.
- **Insurance Renewal** – it was **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the renewal premium of £126.44 on an LTA, which holds this year's price for the following 2 years.
- **Confidential Information in published EDPC minutes** – following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that minutes of confidential meetings or parts thereof had not and would not in themselves contain confidential or sensitive information and therefore could be published. It was further **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will remain the only person who can amend minutes and for the avoidance of doubt, would **AUTHORISE** the publication of Draft and Final minutes of the council to the web master for release to the EDPC website.
- **East Down Church** – Cllr Crossman reported back on the meeting about the church. The congregation is now very small and there are insufficient volunteers to sustain its operation. A mailshot is planned (by the Church Council) to the Parish asking for additional volunteers or run the risk of losing the church, particularly if one of the main funding contributors were to withdraw.
- **Foul water issue (update)** – Cllr Crossman updated the Council about his latest contact with the EA. The matter is progressing slowly as the EA and Environmental Health are yet to agree a budget for a camera for inspecting the pipework, especially from a surface water drain to a potentially disused chamber that may still hold residue that when flushed through, by significant surface water, may be dislodging some residue that potentially is a contributor to the foul water issue. Cllr Black kindly suggested that Parkin Estates Ltd have a camera that may be suitable, if this would help advance the

investigations. Some dyeing tests have been undertaken by Cllr Crossman but are still inconclusive. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Crossman would inquire about Parkin Estates cameras and seek an estimate for gutter clearance to see if this helps with the investigation and report back to the next meeting.

- **Replacement of Council notice board progress report** – Cllr Crossman advised that the replacement noticeboard has been delivered and it was **RESOLVED** that he would seek an estimate for it to be erected on the current headboard and report back to the next meeting.
- **Potential unauthorised access at Ashelford Farm (update)** – the Clerk reported that he had spoken to NDDC and established that the case reference was 13817 and that the matter was still pending but would be dealt with as a potential enforcement case. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would enquire on progress to NDDC each month and report back to Council.
- **2024-2025 Precept** – A financial projection to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was provided to the meeting and discussed. The East Down Precept has remained constant for several years. The outcome of the discussion was that in the face of rising costs an increase to the precept should be requested. A motion was proposed and seconded and following a majority vote it was **RESOLVED** to request a 5% increase for the next financial year from NDDC. It was further **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would complete the Precept Submission form that he had recently received from NDDC before the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 deadline.

#### 10. Correspondence

- County Councillors Report for November
- DALC Bulletin
- Confirmation of the time of the National Trust Churchill presentation and supporting information.
- Notification from NDDC that there will be a recharge for this year's election (but the invoice was posted to the wrong person)

#### 11. Date for next meeting - 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm

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

There were no items under Part "B"

The meeting closed at 21:25

## **Attachment A**

**East Down Parish Council  
County Councillors Report  
November 2023**

### **Vision Zero Road safety Partnership Survey**

**It would be very helpful if you could have a look at the survey below which will help to inform the Vision Zero Road safety Partnership to prevent fatal and serious road traffic collisions in Devon and Cornwall by 2040.**

**It is completely confidential and takes around five minutes to complete depending on your responses.**

**Devon and Cornwall Survey (VZSW) ([smartsurvey.co.uk](https://smartsurvey.co.uk))**

### **Devon and Cornwall Railcard**

**Residents in Devon and Cornwall can have a Devon and Cornwall rail card, this can be bought for only £12 either at the station or online, it entitles the holder a third off rail journeys in Devon and Cornwall (including Torbay and Plymouth) a third off for a friend and up to four children at £1 each.**

**Online link- Railcards online ([gwr.com](https://gwr.com))**

**If you go to the station to buy your card take along a proof of residency like your Council tax bill or your Driving licence.**

### **Household Support Fund**

**Earlier this year DCC secured £10m from the fourth round of the Government's Household Support Fund to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024**

**The money comes with conditions on how it can be allocated and is to support households in most need – those that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials. It is also intended for those that may not be eligible for other government support.**

**So far under this fourth round of the scheme, over £5 million has been used to support more than 38,000 households across Devon.**

**And now with winter approaching, DCC are working with Team Devon partners (district and city councils) and other community organisations to provide our most vulnerable residents with rapid short-term financial support to help them over the coming months.**

**The homeless, low income families, those who are suffering from ill health and ethnic minorities are just some of the many groups who will benefit from schemes including**

**free school meal holiday vouchers, hardship payments, pre-payment and credit energy meter support, community grants and funding for minor energy efficiency measures.**

**For this coming winter, Devon's district and city councils have over £2 million to offer 'one-off' financial help to those who are struggling to pay for their food and utility costs or other household essentials. Help may also be available for unexpected or exceptional circumstances, for example, rent arrears prior to being in receipt of appropriate housing benefits.**

**DCC are also working with the Devon Community Foundation to provide grants to voluntary sector organisations supporting communities that don't always get the help they need. Their 'Food, Fuel and More' grant scheme was very well received earlier this year and will re-open this winter with a further funding pot of over £260,000.**

**The scheme will offer large grants of up to £25,000 to organisations that support homeless people or people in temporary or insecure housing. Groups supporting households with disabled residents or those suffering ill-health which has a direct impact on household income and an ability to meet food and energy bills, are also encouraged to apply, along with organisations that support Asian, black, traveller, Gypsy, Roma and ethnic minority communities who are not accessing support through other channels. They will also be operating a small grants scheme of up to £2,000 for smaller community initiatives.**

### **North Devon Link Road**

**Information about any upcoming closures and diversions**

**<https://community.alungriffiths.co.uk/projects-in-your-area/north-devon-link-road/>**