

East Down Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of East Down Parish Council held in the Village Hall on
Monday 17th July 2023 at 7.30 pm

Attendance: Cllrs M. Wright (Chairman), Mrs S Black, R Crossman, Mrs J Kift..

1. **Apologies for absence.** Councillors R Crocker, D Fry, R Tarr and County Councillor A Davis
2. **Also in attendance** None
2. **Declaration of interest/Dispensations** – There were none
3. **Public participation** There were no members of the public present

Part ‘A’

4. *County/District Councillors’ Reports*

- County Councillor A Davis had apologised for her absence and had forwarded her report a copy of which is attached to the Councillors minutes.

5. **Minutes** of the Meetings the open and confidential minutes held on the 19th June 2023.

RESOLVED to accept and sign

6. **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were none that were not on the agenda

7 **Planning Applications**

- **Planning Application 76831 Middle Maddox East Down Barnstaple Devon EX31 4NA** Change of use and conversion of stable and adjoining corridor to a lounge & hallway.
RESOLVED to Recommend **APPROVAL**

8 . **Financial statements of accounts for the year and to agree payments**

Bank balances Jun 2023 Parish Council Account: £7448.46 and the Parish Paths Account: £1060.83

Cheques were signed at the meeting for Clerks salary (£125.00) and Snow Wardens mileage (£51.60)

9. **Chairman’s items**

- **Foul water issue** (update) Cllr Crossman had contacted the NDDC again regarding this long-standing problem and following the matter had finally been sent to the Environment Agency as NDDC had not been able to progress a solution. The Environment Agency had been aware of the issue for a number of years. **RESOLVED** to continue to pursue the matter with the Environment Agency and Cllr Crossman to update the Council every month.

As a separate issue it had been noted that the adjacent gulley needed cleaning, Chris Wallis had pointed out the costs of clearing the Gulley cost of clearing the Gulley and the farmer had been approached to include the clearance of the gulley in his normal hedge clearing. **RESOLVED** to monitor the situation

The Council again thanked Cllr Crossman for the amount of work he had put into these issues.

- **Appointment to sub committees** deferred to next meeting when a schedule of roads etc should be available. It was suggested that routes could be allocated for routine, passing inspections by Councillors whilst carrying out their normal day to day activities. **RESOLVED** that a mission statement outlining how this could be achieved be brought to the next meeting.
- **A schedule of gulleys and drains had been prepared**
- **Council Notice Board** Councillors discussed the requirements and examined the information tabled at the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the notice board be replaced at a maximum cost of £500.00 (excl VAT).

10 Correspondence

- County Councillors report
- Grants and community News
- DALC newsletter
- ... and general correspondence

Date for next meeting August 21st 2023 at 7.30 pm

Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted information)

The Chairman moved that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw

Clerk Position

Main points covered in discussions

- Members discussed the details of the advertisement for the clerks position which had been advertised widely in Parish magazines and newsletters.
- Councillors were asked to spread the news of the vacancy round the village and outlying areas to attempt to raise interest for a local candidate.
- 2 Expressions of interest had been received and members agreed that they could contact the clerk for an informal discussion

The meeting closed at 8.20

July 2023

North Devon Link Road

At Borners Bridge a roundabout is operational. A new road layout now in place. Whilst this is not the final design, the roundabout is accessible for the residents of North Molton, whilst Station Road remains as left turn only.

There are new speed restrictions in place for the safety of the workforce and speed cameras are in place it is now 30mph

There are some work under lights all along the Link Road over the next few weeks, this is night time only.

Recycled Bikes available at Recycling Centres.

Fully serviced, reconditioned bikes are on sale at many of Devon's recycling centres from this week. This week is international Bike Week (5-11 June) and this initiative will reduce waste and offer more people access to cycling.

With some brands of bike as much as 20 per cent more expensive than a year ago, it offers those who want to saddle up a chance to do so at an affordable price.

A specially trained team at SUEZ, who run the recycling centres on Devon County Council's (DCC) behalf, will repair the bikes from their new 'Re-Cycle Hub' at the Brunel Road facility in Newton Abbot.

They will repair old bikes, no longer wanted by Devon residents, and give them a new lease of life.

They will then sell them through the network of reuse shops in Devon's recycling centres. Each bike will be serviced and include a warranty.

Each year an estimated 10,000 bikes come through the recycling centres in Devon as residents outgrow them, break them or get frustrated that they're taking up valuable space in the garage.

£2 Bus fare until October 2023

Bus users will pay no more than £2 for a single journey when boarding the bus anytime until end October 2023. The fare will then be £2.50 from November 2023 to November 2024.

For more information on the £2 single fares scheme, terms and conditions and exclusions, visit the [Travel Devon website](#).

Road defects (Potholes)

As you'll be aware, an extremely high level of pothole defects across the network, following the cycle of prolonged cold and wet weather we experienced over the winter. To put this in context, around 26,500 potholes have been identified and passed to our contractor, Milestone, since January – this is around 8,000 or 30% more than for the same period last year. January alone saw almost 7,400 potholes identified, the most of any month in over 3 years. Similarly, the inspection team have assessed almost 35,000 reports of potholes from members of the public since January, compared to just over 14,000 last year.

To tackle this backlog, teams across the Devon Highways partnership have worked very closely to enable re-prioritisation of resource so that safety critical defects on our highway network could be identified and repaired as effectively as possible. In order to achieve this some of our works programmes required adjusting, with schemes postponed or re-planned to free up available resource. We also had to make the difficult decision to temporarily cease identification and repair of serviceability (i.e. those that don't meet the intervention requirements of our Highway Safety Policy) highway defects, so that the focus could remain on those defects that represented the biggest risk to users of our network. At times, we have had

over 40 pothole repair gangs working across the County, along with repairs and inspections taking place during evenings and at weekends.

I am pleased to report that, the number of potholes currently with Milestone for repair has now stabilised, sitting at around 800 (down from 3000 at its peak in February) and is much more in-line with the sort of volume we'd typically expect for this time of year. On this basis a number of the additionally resourced gangs have now returned to programmed works and we have very recently re-introduced the identification of non-safety defects, as we fully recognise the benefit of acting proactively and repairing these before they worsen and require attention at a later date. In other words fixing non safety defects in the vicinity of reported safety defects.

Aside from traditional pothole repairs, the longer days help a great deal to ensure the dragon patchers are double shifting. There is also an additional 5th vehicle operating in the County this summer.

Please keep reporting any defects you come across.

East Down matters

Cllr Crossman contacted me in the last few weeks about the concrete haunch DCC installed not that long ago. I have checked with the then highway officer who was involved and he confirmed that the cleansing and clearing of it would be down to the Parish, this is the same around the County. (I've been doing my local one from some years!).

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;
[Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-transport)
[0345 155 1004](tel:03451551004)

Live chat is available on the Highways website Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm (4 pm on Fridays). To report a problem with road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs and public rights of way

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