

## East Down Parish Council

Meeting at East Down Village Hall on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at 7.30 pm

**Attendance:** Cllrs Mr M. Wright (Chair), R Crocker, Mrs D Fry, Cllr M King

**Also in attendance** District Councillor J Tucker

### AGENDA

**Apologies for absence from meeting-** Cllrs R Crossman, Mrs J Kift, K Phillips, R Tarr, County Councillor A Davis

1. **Declaration of interest/Dispensations** - None
2. **Public participation-** No members of public present

#### Part 'A'

3. **County/District Councillors' Reports**

District Councillor Tucker reported briefly as follows

- The levels of Covid infections are still rising
- North Devon Council are contesting the revoking of a flood defence grant
- Grants are available for green initiatives
- Affordable Housing white paper is due shortly

County Councillor Davis had apologised for her non-attendance and a copy of her report is attached to these minutes

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**  
**RESOLVED to accept and sign**

5. **Matters arising from the minutes**

- Progress report on gully/drains clearing - Chris Wallis has not yet cleared the drains but is aware of the problem
- A camera survey will be carried out of the drain associated with foul grey water
- Dog waste bin and bags with the landowner at Hammet Park
- Memorial tree now planted

6. **Planning Applications. \_Application 74837 at Loscombe Farm East Down Barnstaple Devon EX31 4NA** Received too close to meeting date to advertise, time extension requested from NDC and consideration deferred to next meeting.

7. **Financial statement of accounts for the year and to agree payments**

- **Bank balances February 2021**  
**Parish Council Account: £7742.45**  
**Parish Paths Account: £1060.83**
- **Clerks salary (£105.00), Site protection software (£354.24), Dog waste bin bags (£6.99), Postage (£4.14) Memorial tree collection costs (£30.00)**

8. **Chairman's items**

- There were none

9. **Correspondence** Noted. Revised code of conduct to be considered at next meeting

10. **Date for next meeting** April 11<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Part 'B'** (Confidential Restricted information) None

## **East Down Parish Council County Councillors report March 2022**

### **Coronavirus Update**

Currently cases in all age groups in Devon and increasing numbers. It is estimated that around 1:20 residents in Devon infected.

The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

### **Devon County Council has approved its lowest council tax rise for seven years.**

It means council taxpayers in Devon will be asked for an extra 87p a week to help fund vital services for the most vulnerable children and adults.

The council tax rise of 2.99 per cent is the lowest since 2015.

However, there will still be spending increases of over 10 per cent on both children's services and adult services and health to keep up with a rocketing rise in demand.

Councillors will take £22.9 million from their emergency reserves to help support the much-needed services and there will be savings of £30 million.

Recognising the strain that household budgets are under with big rises in the cost of living. We are supporting the budget by taking money out of reserves to help offset the pressures that families and pensioners are facing.

DCC has a responsibility to look after the young, the old and the vulnerable and they account for 77 per cent of this budget. We have a finite amount of money to spend and we have to allocate it to protect those most in need.

Since the provisional budget was produced, it had been possible to include another £1 million on drainage and potholes and maintain £329,000 to support community groups. In addition, there would be an £8 million contribution from the NHS to help deliver adult and social care.

The budget for 2022/23 is one of the most challenging the authority has faced.

The pandemic has placed immense strain on the health and social care system over the last two years.

Demand for services, significant cost increases and the increasing intensity of care required is causing huge pressure on the authority's budget. This coupled with the need to invest in and improve the services to children has meant investment of almost £80 million is needed in these services next year – this level of investment is unprecedented.

The spending review and the settlement has brought an increase in funding for the authority but not sufficient to cover the increased costs we are facing. Savings of more than £30 million are required along with a significant contribution from our reserves in order to set a balanced budget for 2022/23.

The budget calls for an extra £29.6 million to be spent on adult care and health in the new financial year. That's an increase of 10.5 per cent.

There will be an increase of £17.1million for children's services – a rise of 10.8 per cent.

Overall the county's spending will increase from £580 million to over £629 million – a rise of 8.4 per cent.

The council tax for an average Band D home will rise by £45.18 to £1,556.46 – that's just under 87p a week.

Alongside the revenue budget, the county will spend £165.2 million on capital works in 2022/23.

The capital programme for the next five years stands at £485.9 million and for 2022/23 is £165.2 million.

**Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;**  
**Report a problem - Roads and transport (devon.gov.uk)**  
**0345 155 1004**

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

*Andrea Davis*  
*County Councillor*  
*[Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk)*