

## **Minutes of Southleigh Parish Council**

**Date:**

**Time:** 08:00pm

**Present:** Councillors John Reed (JR), Claudine Beard (CB), Karen Luff (KL), Stuart Terry (ST), Jacqui Stokes Clerk (JS)

### **A = Action to be completion**

#### **1. Apologies**

Helen Parr  
Matt Moore

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

None given

#### **3. Public Question Time**

None

#### **4. Approval of minutes dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Approved by Chairman John Reed

#### **5. Matters arising from minutes dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

- Stubhayne Bridge – repairs have taken place. Councillors discussed that the road was closed for 4 weeks they are disappointed with the works have taken place, the problem has not been resolved

**A = JS to email Steve Kelly to express the Councillors disappointment that the problem has not been resolved at Stubhayne Bridge and the fact that that as the road was closed for a significant period of time that it is disappointing that not all of the pot holes have been filled, nor has the drain on the junction been addressed. JR has asked that MH, PA, HP are also copied in to the email.**

- Ongoing issues of drainage, potholes and overhanging trees throughout the village.
- Website – JS has not yet got to his but will do a re-vamp after the elections with new councillors

#### **6. Report from County Councillor**

Attached

#### **7. Report from District Councillor**

February and March 2023 Attached

#### **8. Finance**

- Cheques were signed

Chq No	Amount	Reason for Chq	Proposed	Seconded
336	£120.00	Clerks wages	CB	KL
337	£30.00	Village Hall hire	CB	ST

The current bank statement shows a balance of £6,020.29.

HMRC payment of £1,675.94 was received on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

JS now has access to the bank statements and is in the process of setting up on-line banking.

## 9. Planning

Several planning issues have been noted:

- **Land Adjacent to Wiscombe Linhay**

Email in from Clare and Chris Rabjohns (attached)

Concerns have been raised about several shipping containers that have appeared on land adjacent to Wiscombe Linhay.

**A = JS to email EDDC planning enforcement and report the matter.**

**A = JS to email Clare and Chris Rabjohns to advise them to do the same.**

- **Rakeway Head North**

Planning permission was applied for a caravan at this site, this was refused by EDDC. However it has been noted by residents that there are people living on the site in the caravan behind the barn.

**A = JS to email EDDC planning enforcement and advise them of the breach**

- **Farway Countryside Park**

A large barn has been erected on the site, These containers can be seen from the road. The Countryside Park borders Farway and Southleigh. The councillors discussed that there are now also tenants living in the property and a music festival planned for July 2023.

**A = JS to email EDDC planning enforcement but to also include Farway parish Council.**

- **Farway Airfield**

There has been no news on this matter

**A = JS to find out if there has been any decision and update the councillors.**

No other planning applications have been received.

## 10. Highway news

Discussed in matters arising from previous meeting

## 11. Correspondence

None

## 12. Any Other Business

- **Salt for roads**

JR has a pallet of salt in bags

A pallet has also been taken up to Lees Farm and is with Michael Williams

The general opinion is not to fill the salt bins up, as the salt will deteriorate. If a cold period is prolonged, then the salt bags can be put in the bins.

If anyone in the village needs salt for the roads then they can contact JR or Michael Williams.

- **Coronation**

There has been no success with plates so KL will be ordering mugs

Date of the bring and share BBQ organised by the village hall committee is Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

PC to cover the cost of the band, village hall committee will give the invoice to JS.

- **Elections**

Date of elections is 4<sup>th</sup> may 2023, this is for parish and district councillors.

KL will be standing down as parish councillor

There will be a requirement for a new councillor. JS has a couple of ideas.

Councillors discussed not advertising the position to avoid having an election.

**A = JS to send KL forms for resignation**

**A = JS to speak to possible candidates who would/could join as a parish councillor.**

**A = JS to advertise the elections process on the website and on the village notice boards**

- **Colyvalley planning group**

This has not progressed.

- **Village roads and speeding**

JS raised the issue of villagers and delivery vans speeding through the village. JS has been nearly hit by a village member driving too fast for the roads.

Councillors discussed the fact that people do not know what is round the corner and everyone does need to slow down.

Councillors agreed that 10 signs can be ordered and put up on the roads leading in to the village.

Councillors discussed a message being sent out on the village WhatsApp group to ask villagers to be considerate and set an example and slow down.

**A = JS to order signs and to not wait for the next meeting**

**A = JS/CB to liaise regarding signs**

**A = JS to send out a message on behalf of the PC to the village**

- **Burning of non-agricultural waste**

It has been brought to the attention of the PC that there are two farms within the village that are burning non-agricultural waste (fridge freezers and aerosols).

**A = JS to make a report to Environment Agency and to provide the location of the farms**

- **Defibrillator**

This is in hand by the village hall committee and once an invoice has been received then they will pass to JS to action.

- **Wiscombe Hill Climb dates**

**A = JS to add these to the website**

### **13. Date of the next meeting**

AGM 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 07:45pm

**A = JS to invite WI, Southleigh Fayre committee, Village Hall Committee and Church (PCCC)**

Meeting closed at 09:00

Minutes agreed and signed

.....  
Signature – John Reed

.....  
Date

## 6. Report from County Councillor

February Report – Cllr Marcus Hartnell, Seaton & Colyton Division

### Budget 2023/24

The County Council budget for 2023/24 has been considered by the three scrutiny committees and will go onto Cabinet and then Full Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> February. I attended the full day Corporate Scrutiny Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January.

Through my reports you will be aware of the financial challenges facing Devon County Council (DCC). The two biggest challenges are inflation and demand for services, particularly within the Integrated Adult Social Care & Childrens & Young Peoples Futures service areas. The table below gives an overview of the service budgets.

The approved service revenue budget targets for the 2023/24 financial year are set out in the table below.

	2022/23 Adjusted Base Budget *	Inflation and National Living Wage	Other Pressures	Savings, alternative funding and additional income	2023/24 Target Budget	Net change	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Integrated Adult Social Care	311,968	29,535	29,999	(32,200)	339,302	27,334	8.8%
Childrens and Young Peoples Futures	176,205	9,585	32,376	(9,563)	208,603	32,398	18.4%
Public Health, Communities & Prosperity	20,308	874	617	(404)	21,395	1,087	5.4%
Corporate Services	42,213	4,470	623	(2,458)	44,848	2,635	6.2%
Climate Change, Environment & Transport	79,117	7,037	214	(4,468)	81,900	2,783	3.5%
<b>Service budgets total</b>	<b>629,811</b>	<b>51,501</b>	<b>63,829</b>	<b>(49,093)</b>	<b>696,048</b>	<b>66,237</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

You will see that the investment required to cover inflation and National Living Wage increase is £51.5 million and a further £63.8 million to cover service demand pressures. All services have found savings or additional income as part of ongoing efforts to control budgets. Overall, the revenue budget will increase by 10.5% with the focus of additional investment for those who need help most, including vulnerable adults and young people.

By way of contrast, the highways capital budget for maintenance & potholes is £52.8 Million, which is part of a 3-year settlement from the Department of Transport ending in 2024/25. This settlement was agreed before inflation took hold, and therefore has not increased to allow for inflation, meaning the council is grappling with meeting rising costs with a fixed income. At the scrutiny meeting I proposed that Government be lobbied to fund DCC more to address the pressures faced with our deteriorating road network. This was agreed unanimously.

### Cut price bus fares are being offered to help passengers save money.

Bus passengers in Devon can take advantage of a cap on single bus fares as part of the Department for Transport's new fares initiative, through the Government's Help for Households campaign. Bus users will pay no more than £2 for a single journey when boarding the bus anytime in January, February and March.

With people up and down the country facing the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis, many can save money whilst choosing a more sustainable method of transport. A recent report by Stagecoach found that motorists replacing some journeys by bus and active travel could save up to £6,000 a year. In addition, the report found that having the right measures in place to encourage people to make the switch, including cheaper fares, could help remove one billion miles of car journeys each week and cut CO2 by nearly 400,000 tonnes per week.

### **A3052 Resurfacing update.**

Good progress is being made resurfacing sections of the A3052 between Branscombe Cross and Seaton Tower, with works scheduled to finish a day later than planned on Tuesday 7th February.

### **Highways update.**

As we go about our daily business it is apparent that our highways are taking a severe battering because of recent cold and wet weather. Safety Defects (largely potholes) are being reported at an alarming rate with Highways gangs prioritising A-roads. Some gangs have been redeployed from routine maintenance to dealing with safety defects, and as a result the planned work at Hooperhayne Lane/Downhayne Road Colyton has been postponed. I continue to work closely with the local Highways Officer to ensure reported defects are in the system and dealt with as quickly as possible. As always defects should be reported online [Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/report-a-problem)

### **Cost of Living Help & Advice.**

The number of households in Devon unable to access or afford the food that they need to ensure that they and their families stay healthy has increased by 70 per cent in 18 months. And more than a third of households say that they plan to switch off their heating altogether this winter to help make ends meet.

DCC are working with local partners, including District Councils, the NHS, and the voluntary and community sector, on ways to support communities, and there are a variety of schemes on offer depending on people's circumstances.

We have a dedicated webpage to help navigate the available support: [Cost of living | Help and advice for people in Devon | Devon County Council](https://www.devon.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

### **Levelling up funding announced for projects in Devon.**

Multi-million-pound schemes to improve transport links in Exmouth and Okehampton are among more than 100 projects receiving a share of £2.1 billion through the Government's latest round of Levelling Up funding.

[DCC have been awarded £15.7 million to complete the Dinan Way link in Exmouth,](#) and West Devon Borough Council has successfully received £13.4 million to develop a new railway station on the eastern edge of Okehampton.

The funding for the Destination Exmouth project will enable the completion of Dinan Way link road, helping to tackle congestion and remove traffic from the town centre. The project, which is also supported by East Devon District Council, will improve walking and cycling routes as well as enhancing the town's transport hub. The West Devon Transport Hub will build on the successful reinstatement of the Dartmoor Line in November 2021. As well as a new station on the outskirts of Okehampton, the scheme will also include cycle facilities and electric vehicle charging points to promote active travel and green travel.

END

## 6. Report from County Councillor

March Report – Cllr Marcus Hartnell, Seaton & Colyton Division

### Budget 2023/24

The County Council budget for 2023/24 was approved at a lengthy full council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February. The budget sees significant increases in spending on services that support vulnerable children, young people, and adults in response to rising demand for those services. A band D householder will see the DCC proportion of their council tax increase by £1.49 per week.

The fact is though, the council tax rise, plus funding we receive from the Government, will not balance our budget book. Spending this much on priority services to meet growing demand means having to make savings in the region of £47.5 million from elsewhere to balance the books. We need to make the most of every pound we spend.

Most of those savings are earmarked to come from adult social care, and last week we launched consultations, putting forward proposals on ways that we could make savings in some specific services. We're contacting the people who used those services directly, to ask them what they think.

The approved service revenue budget targets for the 2023/24 financial year are set out in the table below.

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The approved Budget Book can be found here [Budget Book Master 2023-24.pdf](https://budget-book-master-2023-24.pdf) ([devon.gov.uk](https://devon.gov.uk))

### Seaton to Colyford Multi use trail

A report is being presented to cabinet next week (8 March) recommending approval to construct the new off-road section of the multi-use trail (stop line way) from the rear of properties at The Saltings, following the field boundaries and then connecting to Marsh Lane and onto the Wetlands.

Vegetation is already being cleared with construction planned for summer 2023 and planting and landscaping taking place in October. Planning permission was granted for the improvements in 2011 and it has been the long-term ambition of DCC, (and numerous local members along the way!) to complete the route between Seaton &



Colyford to provide a safe and continuous trail that promotes walking, wheeling, and cycling as well as the wider benefits for local tourism and accessibility to the Wetlands. Link to full cabinet report below.

[Seaton to Colyford Multi-Use Trail - Final.pdf \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Welcome to new DCC Chief Executive Donna Manson**

In February Donna Manson joined DCC as our new Chief Executive. A message from Donna can be viewed here: [Hello, from our new Chief Executive - news \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Be prepared for the unexpected**

Communities in Devon are being invited to apply for funding to help them be better prepared for emergencies or unexpected events.

Independent charity Devon Communities Together is working with DCC and the Environment Agency to provide the funding opportunities.

This latest programme is financed by DCC and the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee local levy funding, and is administered by Devon Communities Together as part of its role in the Devon Community Resilience Forum (DCRF), whose core mission is to help communities prepare for, and respond to, emergencies.

## ***Scheme 1 – up to £250 for communities that wish to develop their own Community Emergency Plan***

The Devon Community Resilience Board (DCRB) wants to encourage more communities to produce a Community Emergency Plan (CEP).

A CEP is a document which helps guide a community to organise a response to a local emergency, from flooding or snow to the completely unexpected. They ideally need to be updated every three years, however some communities in Devon either don't have a plan in place or are not sure how to put together a support document for their community. The aim is that by providing this funding, many more communities across the county will be able to put plans in place to ensure their resilience in case anything happens within their community.

Once approved and completed, the DCRB will upload a completed CEP to a secure government gateway. This enables emergency responders to combine local knowledge with their expertise, allowing an effective place-based, joined-up response.

Devon's communities can bid for this fund to help form their own Community Emergency Planning group.

Further guidance and support on creating the group can also be provided from the DCRF with in-person attendance from a Devon Communities Together Resilience Project Officer. <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/grant-funding-emergency-flood-resilience>

***Scheme 2 – up to £1,500 for small scale works and resilience equipment (once a CEP is in place)***

Experience has shown that a wide range of small resilience measures can make a real difference to communities. This funding is available to communities to improve their own resilience with equipment and small scale works, and may range from the provision of sandbag stores and other flood protection equipment, road signs, tools and personal protective equipment, to one off small scale works to reduce risk.

DCRF recommends that a Community Emergency Response Team defines its own shopping list to meet local requirements. Examples of resilience measures can be provided by the DCRF, other communities, or Devon County Council to help a Community Emergency Planning Group consider what might be best for a particular area.

**Fairtrade – directly supporting food producers.**

Devon has successfully renewed its Fairtrade status for each of the last 14 years, by promoting and encouraging people to choose Fairtrade goods and support food producers across the world.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working wages and conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. More information can be found here: [Home - Fairtrade Foundation](#)

By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices to farmers and food producers, which must never fall lower than the market prices, Fairtrade enables the poorest and weakest producers to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight has begun and runs until Sunday 12 March. It is highlighting the urgent threat to the future of the foods we love and the livelihoods of the people who grow them, as they face the worst effects of the climate crisis.

According to the Fairtrade Foundation, food such as coffee, bananas and chocolate could become more difficult to buy due to climate change.

The current financial crisis is also taking a heavy toll on many people who are struggling to make ends meet, particularly so for smallholder farmers and workers, with the costs of fuel, fertiliser and food all increasing beyond what is affordable. See our DCC priorities here: [Did you know that Devon is a Fairtrade County?](#)

END

## 7. Report from District Councillor

Report of DC Helen Parr, March 2023

Council Meeting Feb 23

### 1. The Budget-

Conservative councillors did not support the Budget on 2 grounds-

#### Car Parking Charges

Public Toilets, whilst recognising that this is not a mandatory service, they are a vital service in a tourist area like East Devon, and the Conservatives did not support the sweeping closures which had reduced the public toilets from 27 to 14.

As I reported previously, the Local Government Finance Settlement was higher than expected, and EDDC was allocated an additional £349,000.

However £85,000 had to be taken from the Reserve to balance the Budget.

The Council cannot continue to use Reserves to balance the Budget- it is unsustainable.

### 2. Motion re Transgender Rights-

A motion re EDDC revising its Equalities policies to ensure Transgender rights were included, and Agreeing in principle to sign up to Stonewall's Diversity Champions Programme for employers, was passed by the Council.

I considered the Stonewall programme presented an issue of concern- Police Scotland is the latest public body to withdraw from the diversity scheme, following on from the BBC, House of Commons, Equalities and Human Rights Commission, the House of Lords and Ofcom. and Abstained as I could not support that part of the motion.

### 3. Voter ID- Voters in the May Local Elections will need to show photo ID, [except for postal voting]

The forms of ID you can use to vote are:

UK passport

A passport issued by an EEA (European Economic Area) state or a Commonwealth country

EEA identity card

Driving license (including provisional licence)

A biometric immigration document

Older person's bus pass

Disabled person's bus pass

A blue badge

A PASS identity card

Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)

## 9. Planning - Land Adjacent to Wiscombe Linhay

From: c.rabjohns <c.rabjohns@btinternet.com>

Date: Mon, 13 Mar 2023 at 6:42 pm

Subject: Use of agricultural land

To: <southleighparishclerk@gmail.com>

Good Evening

We would like to raise our concerns over the use of the agricultural land that is adjacent to ours at Wiscombe Linhay. Some years ago now this field had planning permission granted for a barn, which has more recently burnt down, since June 2022 the owner has been placing large metal shipping containers on his field. During a conversation with Chris (when there were 3 or 4 containers) the owner said that he was converting two so that he could spend occasional days there during the summer, even fitting a rainwater harvesting system for a shower. We are now almost 9 months later and there are 8 large multi-coloured metal shipping containers, a large caravan-style porta cabin (which arrived last week), a small towable caravan, and a large generator on the field; we are concerned that this could turn into a small village of inhabited shipping containers. It's also a real eyesore in our area of outstanding natural beauty.

We are unsure of what can be done but felt it should be brought to your attention and discussed at your meeting. Attached are a couple of pictures to give you an idea,

Kind regards

Chris & Clare Rabjohns







