

# IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Present:      | Cllr David Fox<br>Cllr Angie Carter-Woodwark<br>Cllr Helen Bellamy<br>Cllr J Gardner    | Cllr T Hill<br>Cllr M Batting                                       |
| In Attendance | Cllr Ron Peart<br>Cllr Beryl Austen<br>Juliette Thompson<br>Eight members of the public | County & District Councillor<br>District Councillor<br>Parish Clerk |

| Item (a)      | Discussion and Decisions (b)  |
|---------------|---|
| <b>021/23</b> | <p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b><br/>The Parish Council Chairman opened the meeting at 7:01pm. Apologies for absence were received from PC Clarke Orchard, PCSO Saul Bunce and D Aylmore.</p>  |
| <b>022/23</b> | <p><b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b><br/>It was proposed by Cllr A Carter-Woodwark, seconded by Cllr J Gardner and agreed by all to approve the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.</p>   |
| <b>023/23</b> | <p><b>REPORT – Chairman of Ideford Parish Council – Cllr David Fox</b><br/>It has been another busy year for Ideford Parish Council, but the year was dominated by the sudden sad death of our Queen in September. News that shocked the Country. Our sympathy is extended to the Crispin’s Family on the death of Fred a much respected member of the community. His good deeds are legendry as he quietly helped so many in the Parish. The Council currently has six members after the resignation of Cllr Maureen Crispin in November. Thanks are extended to her for her contribution during the time she was with us. Parish business has included a number of Planning Applications the majority of which have been supported by the Council. Discussions also take place on current issues as they arise, and Parishioners’ views are taken into account. Our Wildlife Wardens have continued to do an excellent job and regularly attend meetings to report on their progress. Thanks are extended to Cllr Ron Peart and Cllr Beryl Austin for their continued support. Also, thanks to our Beat Manager and our PCSO’s for holding regular PACT Meetings in the Village Hall each month when their duties allow. Finally, I would extend my thanks to our Councillors for their contribution throughout the year and also to our Parish Clerk for her valuable input.</p>   |
| <b>024/23</b> | <p><b>REPORTS</b></p>   |
| <b>024.1</b>  | <p><b>County Councillor – Cllr Ron Peart</b><br/>Devolution deal for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay moves a step closer. A new deal that will transfer money and powers into the hands of local Leaders across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, has moved a step closer with the backing of the Government’s Levelling Minister, Dehenna Davison. Outline approval has been given for a Devon wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities, such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs. The deal wouldn’t require a change to the established democratic structures across the area, or the need for an elected Mayor. Instead, new powers would be devolved to a partnership of existing local councils who would deliver on a joint programme working alongside a wide range of other local stakeholders. Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a final business case to present to Government for approval later in the year. Any final deal would require local consent with the full agreement of all the constituent councils as well as Parliamentary approval. Every penny of the extra £9.4m for Devon, announced in the Chancellor’s budget recently, will be spent on improving our roads and making them more resilient. Most of it will go towards the Local Area Capital Programmes which will reflect local priorities</p> |

|       |   |
|-------|---|
|       | <p>identified through our elected members and Neighbourhood Highways Officers. Using inspections and survey data, the remaining funding will be directed to preventative works to stop potholes forming in the first place.</p>   |
| 024.2 | <p><b>District Councillor – Cllr Beryl Austen</b></p> <p>Ideford is part of the large District ward of East Kingsteignton and has two district councillors as their representatives who deal with matters of concern to the Parish. They attend monthly parish meetings to keep in touch and in the past year matters of concern have included protected Devon hedges and footpaths. Special attention is always given to Planning applications as these are always of importance in the countryside and there are protective measures to retain its quality and environmental asset status.</p> <p>Particularly important are the care of local historic buildings, particularly churches, and maintaining the Devon countryside. Also protecting the environment of the village.</p> <p>With the forthcoming election there will be changes as a considerable number, roughly a quarter, of serving councillors are leaving Teignbridge. Residents of the district are eligible if they have been a resident for twelve months or more or work permanently in the district to stand for election. The Leader of Teignbridge is retiring but remaining a County Councillor. There has been disappointment due to a bid for a cycle path from Newton Abbot to Torquay being rejected. Devon also had bids rejected for cycling in the Axe valley and Collumpton. Teignbridge is being lobbied due to the perception that it does not have enough toilet facilities in the district. Some have been closed in towns and villages over time and requests are being made for new provision.</p> <p>I have appreciated attending Ideford Parish for some years since it was made part of Kingsteignton East Ward. I will not be standing for district having been there since 1995. Thank you for your help and contribution of information and the local needs of your village over that time and for keeping district councillors informed at your parish meetings. It has been a pleasure to serve you.</p> <p>Cllr Beryl Austen was thanked for her service and presented with a bouquet of flowers and a card.</p> |
| 024.3 | <p><b>Devon &amp; Cornwall Constabulary</b></p> <p>No report – apologies received as new IT system is not yet up and running.</p>   |
| 024.4 | <p><b>The Parochial Church Council of St Mary’s Church, Ideford – read by Cllr T Hill</b></p> <p><b>For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022</b></p> <p><b>Aim and Purpose</b></p> <p>The church continues in its aim is to try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship and prayer:</li> <li>• Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish</li> <li>• Mission and outreach work including new families</li> <li>• Providing a continued Christian presence in the community</li> </ul> <p><b>Achievements and Performance</b></p> <p><b>Worship and Prayer</b></p> <p>Following the ending of Covid restrictions the church has returned to being open daily for the use of anyone and everyone in the community. Typically there are two services a month, Holy Communion and Evensong, with a consistent average attendance of about 10 to the morning service but this number increased significantly at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Those who are no longer able to come to Church can receive Holy Communion in their own home. In the absence of clergy availability some occasions, such as Christmas Morning and Remembrance Sunday, are marked by lay led events and are well attended.</p> <p><b>Church Fabric</b></p> <p>Thanks to Teignbridge District Council the churchyard continues to be well maintained. The overall fabric of the church, which is a Grade II listed building, appears to be in good order. It was very difficult to find an architect willing to undertake the Quinquennial Inspection but this has now taken place in February 2023.</p> <p><b>Other Activities</b></p>  |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
|                     | <p>The church is present in the community in a number of different ways. Some of the events are for fundraising but all are aimed at having a social benefit. Activities this year have included a Festive Lunch, sales of homemade jam, a sponsored walk, the Christmas Tree Festival and Advent Windows. The church became a focal point for the community after the late Queen Elizabeth II's death hosting the book of condolence. As in previous years, donations for the local foodbank in Teignmouth (HIITS) are collected throughout the year and particularly at Harvest. The church has worked with the other village organizations (Village Hall and Millennium Green) to organize the Village Fete and Christmas Craft Fayre and it is hoped that this joint working partnership will continue.</p> <p><b>Structure, Governance and Management</b></p> <p>The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met four times during the year. Despite the lack of churchwarden, the PCC has continued to operate successfully in a very collegiate and supportive manner. The work is spread amongst all these voluntary members and brings to the fore their individual talents. The PCC's work over recent years has put the church on a firm financial footing and the PCC are very grateful to all those who support the life of the church.</p> <p><b>Volunteers</b></p> <p>There is a good level of support within the village for maintaining the church, with more than 30 people giving their time and talents in many ways, including providing flowers and church decorations, bellringing, winding the church clock, playing the organ, verging, cleaning, maintaining the fabric of the church and the churchyard and fundraising. The PCC express their thanks to these people and did so directly through the Church Christmas Cards. Also the Parish Newsletter for Ideford, Luton and Ashcombe is compiled and distributed by volunteers. As a small community, there is much overlap of participants between village organizations and church members play a significant part in the life of the village. This year the church has been working with an emerging group in the community, Sustainable Ideford. The village Wildlife Wardens have also planted wildflower seeds in a small area of the Churchyard and swift boxes are going to be housed in the Bell Tower this coming year.</p> |
| <p><b>024.5</b></p> | <p><b>Ideford Village Hall – read by Julie Parker</b></p> <p>After the long lockdown due to Covid restrictions, it was business as usual for the Village Hall. Bookings are pretty much back to normal with a number of regular hirers bringing in much needed income.</p> <p>The Hall costs in the region of £4.5k per annum to run.</p> <p>Hiring charges have not been increased to bring them in line with inflation as we wish to keep the hall affordable for all users. This is however under review.</p> <p>The major problem we now face is the aged boiler, and the time has come to look for a replacement. Estimates have been gathered with all quotes averaging between £7 -8K! Funding is being explored to help make this project successful. We are trying to get all our ducks in a row for when the inevitable happens. (already in the last 12 months the boiler has required 5 x repair visits all at a cost of over £1k which is in addition to the running cost!)</p> <p>On top of this...the boiler is incredibly fuel inefficient! Modern heating systems have considerably advanced from this one.</p> <p>Due to how the hall is used, sustainable options have been looked into but don't work for this hall. Heat pumps too costly and solar panels cannot be supported by the roof.</p> <p>Suspected rising damp in the Committee Room was also identified and remedial work has been carried out. The damp has caused damage to the flooring which will need replacing at some stage (only 2 years old!!) Our thanks are extended to Simon Pitt for his invaluable help with this problem.</p> <p>Fund Raising has continued both by the Hall and in collaboration with the Millennium Green and St Mary's Church which has proved hugely successful. Thanks are extended to everyone both Trustees and Friends of the Hall for their dedicated work on these occasions. Already pencilled in are Barn Dance for June, summer vintage rally (led by James French) TBC, Autumn Fete, wine and Wisdom (Nov) and Christmas fete. All the afore mentioned are to cover the massive running cost of the hall.</p> <p>A meeting of Trustees was held in January to update the Deed of Trust, and this has now gone to the Charitable Commissioners for ratification.</p>  |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
|                     | <p>Our aim for the coming year is to encourage people to use the Hall as a Community Hub. The hall is planning running free workshops such as first aid, and other events, following the successful Drop In Cafe organised by St Mary's Parishioners.</p> <p>Without the running costs covered, we would not be able to give back to the community in this way.</p> <p>Already we have a number of 'friends of the village hall' who help with keeping outside maintained, flower displays and watering, kitchen duties when required shopping runs for events etc. this is growing in number also.</p> <p>We are always looking for new Trustees and Friends to come and join us.</p> <p>This hall is such a wonderful resource for the village and by building collaborative relationships is really what the whole ethos of village living is about.</p> <p>Our thanks are extended to Cllr Ron Peart for his continued interest and help during the last 12 months.</p>   |
| <p><b>024.6</b></p> | <p><b>Ideford Millennium Green – read by Cllr T Hill</b></p> <p>Chairman's report: Ideford Millennium Green Trust 2022-2023</p> <p>Trustees: Lynne Edwards, Anthony French, Dr Sarah Oxenham, Jenna Bryant, Jane Hill, Tom Hill, Dr Sam Kirkwood.</p> <p>The Millennium Green has had a good year, but we do continue to make a financial loss due to continuing ongoing running costs, full financial info can be heard at our AGM April 25th please come along.</p> <p>After receiving planning permission to replace the storage box on the green, with a permanent structure, we are now applying for Grant funding to help build the structure. Sadly so far we have been unsuccessful, but will continue to explore different options.</p> <p>We had 2 successful events on the Green last year. The Jubilee lunch was really well supported, and the combined barn dance in the evening with the Village Hall was a great success with over 120 people attending.</p> <p>The Village fete and dog show made a welcome return in September, with funds being split equally between the Green and Hall and the Church.</p> <p>We are looking forward to our coronation Lunch and High tea with maypole dancing on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>The green received over 100 trees and shrubs to replace hedgerows and to plant around the stream. At the moment these have all been potted up, until we have completed the New building, as we do not want any to be damaged.</p> <p>We are in the process of replacing the Millenium green bench which sadly has been damaged and the wood is rotting.</p> <p>The committee would like to thank the trusted team of Millennium Mowers who I am sure you agree have kept the Green looking very smart all year. Thanks go to Robert Gillet, Tom Hill, Derrick White, Sam Kirkwood, Dominic Morby, and Tristan Oxenham. Also extra thanks to Anthony French and Tim Coleridge for their assistance in additional maintenance matters.</p> <p>I would also like to thank Anthony French and Rob Coombes and Tom Hill for your help help in laying the hedges around the green. Sadly these should have been laid a few years ago, but covid and time restraints prevented this from happening. We have also removed some dead and dying trees affected by Ash dieback. The time and skills donated to the green is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>The hedge will now be able to grow back thicker. There have been comments from some of the village, upset that mature trees have been cut down. I would like to remind the community that none of these trees were older than the green, and to preserve a healthy hedgerow it does need to be maintained to keep it as a hedge. Dead and dying tree's need to be cut down for health and safety. The Green is always on the look out for new members and trustees, so I would suggest that anyone with concerns joins the committee.</p> |
| <p><b>024.7</b></p> | <p><b>Parish Paths Partnership (P3) report for Ideford Parish Annual Meeting – read by the Clerk</b></p> <p>I have done my best to keep an eye on the Parish Paths over the last 12 months and have, at various times, cleared undergrowth and fallen trees and branches and replaced path markers and signs when required.</p> <p>Repairs were carried out by Devon CC to the footbridge on the Watery Lane Path No. 25 and a new sign was erected at the start of Footpath No. 3 on Ideford Common.</p> <p>I completed the full annual survey of all the footpaths &amp; bridleways in Jan/Feb 2023, with the findings reported to the Devon C.C. Rights Of Way Officer. I am pleased to say that all the footpaths and bridleways remain in generally very good order.</p>   |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
|                      | <p>I am disappointed to say that the problem of litter and fly tipping continues, and on many occasions during the last year, I have collected bags of rubbish whilst walking the paths and have reported larger items to Teignbridge Council whose 'Blitz' team have been most efficient in clearing the rubbish. I would ask everybody to keep an eye out for litter and fly tipping and to report anything they see. I do not have any suggestions for changing people's bad habits, but I am sure that litter, which is left for any time just attracts more, so it is best dealt with quickly. Reporting Fly Tipping can be done very quickly and easily on mobile phones or any other devices by entering 'Teignbridge report fly tipping'</p> <p>I am always interested to hear from anyone in the Parish with suggestions or comments about the paths and my contact details are included each month in the Parish Newsletter.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank Simon Comerford, who regularly deals with issues on the Watery Lane Bridlepath and also to Robin Aaronson who helped with a particularly difficult problem on the Bridlepath No. 21 through Well Covert.</p> <p>David Aylmore.<br/>P3 Co-ordinator.</p>  |
| <p><b>024.8</b></p>  | <p><b>Ideford Bellringers Report - read by the Clerk</b></p> <p>During the year we have continued to meet on Thursday evenings but have struggled at times to have enough people. If it was not for the continued support from Mark, Jenny &amp; Kathy from Tedburn St. Mary, then there would have been virtually no ringing at Ideford during the year. As it is, we often struggle to get enough people to ring for even special occasions in the Church such as Christmas &amp; Easter so we really do need more people to join us if this most traditional English village activity is to continue.</p> <p>If anyone would like to try their hand at ringing, just come along on a Thursday evening at 7.30 and you will find a very warm welcome (and a cuppa &amp; biscuits!!).</p> <p>Our Peal of Bells is popular with ringers from other Churches, and we often host groups of visiting ringers who come not only from other parts of Devon, but also from further afield. We have not forgotten about the plan to display a plaque to acknowledge all those individuals and organisations who so generously contributed to the cost of the new bell ropes in 2020/21 and hopefully this will be in place during this summer.</p> <p>Looking forward to May, we do hope to have enough people to 'Ring for the King' on the weekend of the Coronation and if any retired bell ringers would like to join us, even if it is just for this one occasion, they would be most welcome.</p> <p>David Aylmore.<br/>Tower Captain.</p> |
| <p><b>024.9</b></p>  | <p><b>Ideford Short Mat Bowling Club – Jill McCord, Chairman - read by the Clerk</b></p> <p>Our club with its ageing members is still managing to run and we have been fortunate to gain a few more local members.</p> <p>Although not enough for league play we have organised friendlies with Kingsteignton and Exminster and take part in games against visiting teams on bowling holidays at Torquay hotels. Our club nights are very social with tea and homemade cakes and we also have an annual club meal at a local Inn.</p>   |
| <p><b>024.10</b></p> | <p><b>Sustainable Ideford – read by Cllr J Gardner</b></p> <p><b>Annual report</b></p> <p><i>We are grassroots, solution-focused group of residents interested in promoting and enhancing all aspects of sustainable living and wildlife protection in and around Ideford.</i></p> <p>We meet every 6 weeks or so. From 12th April we have started open meetings in the Village Hall. We welcome anyone from our community to share ideas and support projects. Last night we had another seven residents join us and two others sending their apologies.</p> <p>We have started to more firmly establish the focus for the group and are actively disseminating our message across the village. We will build on this momentum in the coming year.</p> <p><b>Recap 2022 to 2023</b></p> <p>To understand community priorities, we ran an initial online survey and then canvassed residents at the village fete in 2022.</p> <p>The key area of interest was environmental/ecological protection/stewardship. The fete survey also included things such as reduction of carbon footprint, protection of trees and other local flora and fauna, solutions to litter, how to reduce use of plastic, solutions to energy costs and so on.</p> <p>The various activities and projects we have initiated since then aim to find solutions to those</p>  |

community priorities. There is much more to do but we have started as follows:

### **Parish News**

A-Z – articles on tips and tricks for living more sustainably. These are published monthly and have received positive feedback. Articles are also on the Sustainable Ideford page of the Parish website with additional info and useful links to other sites.

### **Parish website**

This now has a dedicated Sustainable Ideford page with news and links: <https://www.ideford-parish.co.uk/sustainable-ideford>

### **Projects**

- We won a TDC grant for £100 for wildflower seeds, bug boxes and swift boxes (some alteration required and soon to be installed).
- Wildflower seed was planted in part of churchyard winter 2022/23 and visit to St Marys belfry to investigate approaches to installation of swift boxes too place recently
- We continue to work closely with our Wildlife Wardens to look at joint projects (see ref to camera below)
- Exploring further grant applications: **Wild About Devon – Community Wildlife Grant Scheme 2023 | Devon Communities Together**

Links to Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT - ([www.actionclimateteignbridge.org](http://www.actionclimateteignbridge.org)))...– Rob Gillett is now on their Steering Committee and involved in an initiative to apply use of ACT’s Carbon Footprint Tracker both at community level and personal level for those interested. The tracker was presented at our meeting 12th April this year and discussion took place re it’s application/use locally. We plan to approach PC, Village Hall, MG, work with PCC to apply the tools – where there is interest. We have also explored running an energy roadshow in the Village Hall to explore ways of supporting residents with energy efficiency and reduction.

Developing links to the Chudleigh Wild Scheme (e.g. bat surveys, bird surveys, annual orchid counts)

Exploring how to link to/join/replicate the work of local Community Action Groups (e.g. visit to Dawlish Skills Share)

Identifying/measuring local significant or ancient trees to share data with the Woodland Trust  
TBC – wildlife camera: to be purchased as shared community resource: tracking wildlife in private gardens, collecting data for sharing with community via Parish News, foundation for knowledge base for sharing with community on how to encourage more wildlife/create more sustainable spaces.

### **Village Fete stall summer 2022**

We had lots of visitors and shared information from ACT as well as our own projects. We also asked visitors to mention their areas of interests on a whiteboard (see start of report) and generally used the occasion to introduce ourselves. There was good interest. Some of the information we shared is now available for viewing in the Village Hall (which we plan to review). We also handed out small mind maps to young people on various sustainability ideas.

### **Future focus on Parish Council matters**

Finally – and most importantly - I’d like to thank the Sustainable Ideford group members and supporters for their ideas and efforts over the past 12 months. I’d also like to thank Councillors for their support for the group over the past year and for the provision of a budget.

While our group will continue to develop various projects, we, as a Parish Council, also now have an opportunity to enhance focus on sustainability where relevant on Council matters (for future discussion). For example:

Planning applications: to ensure that where ecological reports form part of applications and recommend actions by developers or residents, that we explore how to support these recommendations.

Maintain a degree of vigilance over environmental issues or concerns that are raised by residents and support solutions that are fair and sensible.

Continue to support projects in the village, where there is clear evidence of wider community interest.

024.11

### **Wildlife Wardens – read by Robin Aaronson**

The Wildlife Wardens have been active in Ideford since September 2021, either on our own or through Sustainable Ideford, to which we also belong. We have worked for wildlife in a number of different ways:

|        |  |
|--------|--|
|        | <p><b>1. Raising awareness of the wildlife we have and the need to conserve it. For example:</b><br/>         Conducting a survey of wildlife seen by residents<br/>         Setting up a photographic display in the Village Hall<br/>         Regular articles in the Parish News and posters in the bus shelter.<br/>         Running stalls at the Artisan Market and the Village Fete.</p> <p><b>Creating or improving habitats:</b><br/>         Making a wildflower area in the churchyard<br/>         Putting up swift nesting boxes in the church tower (ongoing)<br/>         Restoring the Fever Trees<br/>         Distributing 200 saplings supplied by the Woodland Trust and helping a farmer apply for Free Trees<br/>         Offering a slug pellet amnesty (WWs are still willing to dispose of them).</p> <p><b>Surveys:</b><br/>         Surveying the state of hedges in the parish<br/>         Monitoring bat flight paths (with Chudleigh Wild)<br/>         Monthly measurement of water quality in the stream at Muddy Bottom</p> <p><b>Advice:</b><br/>         Assisting the Parish Council on planning matters<br/>         Supporting residents with concerns about the environment.</p> <p><b>Training:</b><br/>         Attending numerous courses, e.g., on plant identification, hedge-laying, composting, rewilding, fungi, bats and moths.</p> |
| 025/23 | <p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b><br/>         Cllr R Peart and the Clerk to inform the Highways Officer that many of the lines on the key road junctions are wearing or worn out.</p>  |
| 026/23 | <p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (to be confirmed)</b></p>   |

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed Annual Parish Meeting at 7:50pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_