

## IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm**

Present:	Cllr T Hill – Chair Cllr A Carter-Woodwark Cllr D Fox Cllr H Bellamy	Cllr M Batting Cllr C Hill
In Attendance	Cllr R Peart (DCC)	Mrs J Thompson - Clerk Nine members of the public

Item (a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)
	<b>PART ONE (OPEN TO PUBLIC AND PRESS)</b>
<b>015/24</b>	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Cllr J Gardner and TDC Cllr K Gearon.
<b>016/24</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:</b> It was proposed by Cllr D Fox, seconded by Cllr A Carter-Woodwark and agreed by all to accept the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 as a true and accurate record.
<b>017/24</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</b> None.
<b>018/24</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</b> None
<b>019/24</b>	<p><b>REPORTS:</b> Cllr R Peart (DCC)</p> <p>On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, our councillors agreed a 4.99 per cent increase for our part of the council tax for this coming financial year.</p> <p>It comprises 2.99 per cent for general services with an extra two per cent specifically for adult care. It means an extra £1.56 a week on their bill for an average Band D householder.</p> <p>It allows an increase of 10.4 per cent on climate change, environment and transport.</p> <p>Councillors also agreed an extra £1.5 million to boost regular road drainage since the target budget was set last month to tackle the increase in potholes caused by this winter's heavy rainfall.</p> <p>Agreement was also given to bring the homelessness budget back up to £1.45 million to support the work of district councils and homeless organisations for another year.</p> <p>NHS waiting list falls for third month in a row, with huge improvements at the Royal Devon, Here's how patients have benefitted at the Royal Devon. Between December 2022 and December 2023.</p> <p>Of 166 NHS organisations, we had the eighth largest reduction in overall size of our waiting list. We achieved the milestone of having no patients waiting longer than 104 weeks.</p> <p>Of the 33 NHS organisations which achieved this, we had the most long – waiters to start off with and therefore saw the largest improvement.</p> <p>The number of patients waiting more than 78 weeks reduced by 74%</p> <p>The number waiting more than 65 weeks reduced by 53%</p> <p>The number waiting over a year reduced by 44%</p> <p>NHS dental services in Devon</p> <p>Dental Recovery Plan</p> <p>On February 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 a new recovery plan aligning to national priorities, and ensuring the needs of our local communities are being prioritised.</p> <p>This plan is an important next step in improving patient access to NHS dental care and supporting dental services to return to pre- pandemic levels of activity.</p> <p>Supported by £200m of new government investment, the plan sets out how we will grow the workforce, including providing targeted funding for dentists to work in areas that have historically struggled to recruit and retain staff, raising the minimum Unit of Dental Activity value to £28 to help make NHS work more attractive to dental teams, and offering dental practices a new patient premium payment to treat patients who have not been seen for over two years.</p>

	<p>To attract new NHS dentists and improve access to care in areas with the highest demand, around 240 dentists will be offered one off payment of up to £20,000 for working in under-served areas paid over three years.</p> <p>Across the South West 47 practices now providing 750 additional appointments every week Additional children’s orthodontic capacity in the South West with 20 orthodontics practices who have treated an additional 650 children during the 2022/23 period.</p> <p>We are supporting an oral health improvement initiative called First Dental Steps where health visitors and midwives are trained to give oral health care advice to families with children under two and have care packs [toothbrushes and toothpaste] to families in need – this work is being undertaken in partnership with local authorities and supervised tooth brushing programmes are running in schools in areas of deprivation.</p> <p>Cllr K Gearon (TDC) – read by the Clerk. I attended the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. There were two demonstrations outside the Teignbridge offices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Save Queen Street. I have been heavily involved in the campaigning to save Queen Street and have worked closely with business owners and residents to gain an understanding of the impact the planned changes will have to them and the town. I have also spoken with residents of Kingsteignton and Ideford who are concerned about parking, particularly for those with disabilities, as there will be less spaces. There are also concerns around how traffic will be redirected impacting on traffic flow to Kingsteignton. The campaign goes on.</li> <li>2. Closure of Teignmouth Hospital. The proposed closure of Teignmouth Hospital has staff and residents campaigning against its closure stating its role is vital to the community. In recent years the hospital was used as a Red Zone during the COVID pandemic highlighting the importance of its existence. With increasing demands on neighbouring hospitals, Teignmouth Hospital provides crucial services to the community. The campaign goes on.</li> </ol> <p>I have recently attended the Licensing Sub Committee which helps determine if taxi drivers vehicles are fit for purpose. At times, tough decisions are made to ensure the safety of the local community. As ever, I have been helping residents with planning queries and other community issues.</p>
020/24	<p><b>PARISH MATTERS:</b></p> <p>020.1 Instead of setting up a Secret Santa scheme, Cllr’s were more in favour of a scheme to acknowledge those who have made a significant contribution to the parish. Further discussion deferred to June/July.</p> <p>020.2 It was agreed to adopt the Ideford Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan – thanks to Cllr J Gardner, Cllr C Hill and R Aaronson. The action plan is a living document and will be reviewed regularly.</p> <p>020.3 To discuss and agree dates for the village litter pick was deferred.</p> <p>020.4 TDC will be installing a litter bin on the corner of Rixafer Road / Fore Street. After monitoring the area, TDC felt that there was no need for a bin in Town Farm Lane.</p> <p>020.5 To receive any updates on roadworks, highways, parking issues and potholes and discuss and agree any action: Rixafer Road is on the DCC list to be resurfaced. The roadworks from Longthorn to Chudleigh have been extended to the end of Easter. It has been confirmed that works by Byways will not affect the current diversion and access route. Cllr R Peart to request that Butts Lane be added to the DCC resurfacing list. Clerk to request car owners park considerately when using the footpath past Longthorn to the A380.</p> <p>020.6 Sustainable Ideford have drawn up a plan of work for the forthcoming year, many of the items feeding into the Biodiversity Action Plan. The next public meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p>020.7 The Wildlife Wardens have attended courses on hedgerow management, using an app to survey hedges and generate a management plan which can be used by landowners to apply for grants</p>
021/24	<p><b>PLANNING:</b></p> <p>021.1 The following planning applications were discussed: 24/00060/FUL – Hillcrest Stables, Hestow Road Temporary rural workers dwelling (retrospective) The following comment had been sent to TDC. When planning application 05/03393/FUL was granted on the site, condition three stated that the land should be used solely for private equine use and no commercial use shall be carried out at any</p>

time. There is also a covenant on the land, put on when the land was sold to the previous owners, stating no mobile homes/caravans.

The proposal states that "there will be an essential need for a dwelling on the unit to provide the necessary on-site supervision once the business is operational, otherwise the proper functioning of said business will be severely affected". The Parish Council do not consider the keeping of chickens and horses necessitates the need for living on site, otherwise every stable and field could request the need to have a person on site.

The access to the site is limited and access is only from the Kingsteignton direction, this is not going to be suitable for a growing successful business that will bring in potentially large horse boxes. Paragraph 3.1.1 of the Appraisal refers to "access to the site via an existing gated entrance". There has been no planning permission granted for a new access with a driveway banked either side with earth leading on to a 60mph road.

We request that the proposal be referred to the TDC Biodiversity Officer for comment, as this is a retrospective application and there has been no bat or wildlife surveys carried out.

The parish council does want to support new and developing businesses in the area but are concerned in this case, it is perhaps not the most suitable site for this business.

The applicants were attending the meeting and introduced themselves. In response to the comments already submitted by the PC, they explained that the land was not livery or riding stables and the covenant was removed when the previous owners sold the land. They had been advised that a biodiversity survey was not needed as their proposal was temporary however, the applicants considered biodiversity at the heart of all that they do. They explained that they had reinstated the existing gateway and that it would only be in occasional use.

The PC felt that it was difficult to support retrospective applications, particularly when ecological surveys were not carried out and would ask that TDC request that these surveys are required, whether submitting retrospective or standard applications.

A summary of the applicants' response to be sent to TDC as an addition to our previous comments.

24/00187/FUL – Higher Colleybrook Farm  
The siting of various agricultural buildings (retrospective).  
It was noted that wildlife and bat surveys had been completed when the house was built, but clarification that no further or updated surveys were needed for this application, is to be requested.

24/00231/FUL – The Sanctuary, Higher Colleybrook Farm  
Change of use of land from agriculture to solar photovoltaics (part retrospective)  
Cllrs supported this proposal.

24/00104/FUL – Coombe Hill Cross, Ideford Coombe  
Erection of a dwelling  
Cllrs understood that there were concerns about the stability of the site, even though they have not seen the report on this – a copy of the report to be requested.  
Cllrs agreed with the objections made by the TDC Biodiversity Officer and the need for bat and wildlife surveys to be undertaken.

021.2 There were no planning enforcement reports or updates.

**022/24 CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILLORS:**  
The blocked drain by Stapley field has been reported.

**023/24 CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE:**  
023.1 The balance of accounts on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 was £12,562.06.  
The bank reconciliation for February 2024 was agreed by all and signed by the Chair and Clerk.  
023.2 It was agreed by all to make the following payments:

£18.00	Village Hall	Venue Hire March
£18.00	Village Hall	Venue Hire April
£27.00	Village Hall	Venue Hire Sustainable Ideford

Payments made since the last meeting:  
Monthly DD to Scribe Accounts £12.00 + VAT.

	DD to CPRE £60.00 023.3 Legal and administrative update: This year's internal audit will take place on Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024.
<b>024/24</b>	<b>TO DISCUSS AND AGREE HOLDING A PART TWO MEETING:</b> The Council are excluding members of the public and the press to progress a matter of a confidential nature. Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960. Local Government Act 1972, ss 100 and 102. It was agreed to hold a Part Two Meeting to discuss the recruitment process for a new Parish Clerk.
<b>025/24</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2024. Annual Parish Meeting followed by Ideford Parish Council meeting. The Chair closed this part of the meeting at 8:40pm
<b>026/24</b>	<b>PART TWO MEETING (CLOSED TO PUBLIC AND PRESS).</b>
<b>027/24</b>	<b>TO VOTE ON ANY MATTERS RAISED DURING THE PART TWO MEETING.</b> It was agreed to interview applicants for the role of Clerk & RFO.
<b>028/24</b>	<b>CLOSE THE MEETING.</b> The meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

DRAFT