

IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 13th March 2025 at 7pm

Present:	Cllr T Hill – Chair Cllr A Carter-Woodwark - vice chair Cllr D Fox Cllr H Bellamy	Cllr C Hill Cllr J Gardner DCC Peart TDC Cllr Gearon WW - Mr. Aaronson
In Attendance	Mrs Clarke - Clerk	2 members of the public

Item(a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)
157/25	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: The Vice-Chair opened the meeting at 7:00pm (as the chair was due to arrive later) and welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Cllr Batting.
158/25	THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: held on Thursday 13 th February 2025 were agreed and signed.
159/25	THERE WERE NO DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.
160/25	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <p>One Parishioner raised an issue in relation to damage to the Devon bank on footpath 20, given the time of year and the disturbance to emerging flora and small animal habitats.</p> <p>Pictures were shown and the item has been raised on the Facebook page, Ideford Village Life. This is a section from Higher Colleybrook through to the kissing gate, only on one side of the bank. Councillors wanted to establish who carried out this work, Cllr Peart indicated that it would have been contractors and indicated he would follow this up. Holden Lane has also been closed both ends with signs in place. Mention was made of the previous months minutes in relation to maintenance being carried out before the end of March 2025.</p> <p>Councillors were dissatisfied and concerns were raised about the destruction of the Devon bank and about the wildlife and ecology aspects.</p> <p>Another parishioner Mr. Hull raised his planning application that was put in over a year ago. There were biodiversity concerns at that time and Ms Rush (TDC) has subsequently confirmed there are no longer any adverse effects and no dilemmas for bio-diversity and/or bats. Cllr. Bellamy indicated he should contact TDC planning to move the matter forward. Cllr Carter-Woodwark, thanked him for attending.</p>
161/25	<p>REPORTS: 161.1 County Councillor Peart :</p> <p>Public health grant for 25/26 has been ring-fenced. There is an additional £200 million nationally to fund public health services and support, shifting from sickness to prevention, this represents a (disappointing) increase of £1.67 million to £33.3 million. We were £37.62 per head to £39.20 per head- a lot less than Plymouth {£67.45 and Torbay {£81.96} . We have asked why there is a difference and not had a reply yet.</p> <p>Waste Disposal - a Deposit Return Scheme for single use plastic bottles and cans, is set to launch in October 2027. Consumers will pay a deposit when purchasing drinks and once the containers are returned to a collection point (i.e. local supermarket) the deposit will be refunded. Return rates averaging +87% in European countries. This is a scheme that used to operate in the UK some decades ago. An estimated 6.5 billion tonnes currently go to the landfill or are incinerated every day. Meaning a large amount of plastic, aluminium or steel is used once and then buried or burnt. This change is welcomed.</p> <p>161.2 District Councillor Gearon</p> <p>The Government are recommending new unitary authorities through the devolution process. Local Councils are being asked to develop proposals for local government reorganisation with a timescale of the earliest 'go live' date in 2028. Local views will be obtained during the consultation period and engagement with Town and Parish Councils will be vital to ensure they are added to the final proposal. An interim plan for Devon needs to be submitted before 25 March and thereafter final submissions before 28 November 2025. The physical geographies are complex and economic areas for each local authority must be considered.</p> <p>161.3 Neighbourhood Beat Manager PCSO Bunce - In the period, 1st February 2025 to the 28th of February 2025, there was one recorded offence in the Ideford area, of criminal damage - starting fires.</p>
162/25	<p>PARISH MATTERS:</p> <p>162.1 Updates on roadworks, highways, parking issues and potholes:</p> <p>Footpath maintenance and clearing has started, mention of using the available TDC budget before the end of the year. Councillors referred to the public participation where this was discussed, it was felt this was not tidying but destruction. The councillors felt it would be necessary to discuss this type of work before it happens, however there may be insufficient time available to do this prior to any maintenance. Cllr T Hill will</p>

contact Steve Gardner and in particular request they do not work on the other side of that particular bank.

162.2 Sustainable Ideford. Sustainable Ideford Report March 13 PC Meeting

A Jointly managed event with the Village Hall is planned for 14th June midday to 5pm - Open Gardens

A percentage of any funds raised will go to Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT). There will be some focus on wildlife friendly gardens. Devon Wildlife Trust have offered to some initial support for the event, Cllr Gardner is in contact with them. Volunteer Parking attendants are required.

An application for £300 from the locality fund has been submitted by Cllr Gardner. The A-Z sustainability articles continue to be published in Parish News. Future activity is planned to continue support for St Mary's churchyard 'greening'. The Next SI meeting is planned for 25th March – we are all looking forward to spring and summer.

162.3 Wildlife Wardens report:

The wildlife warden has put solid posts in certain places to prevent any aggressive maintenance and/or mowing in the church in certain sections where wildlife is being encouraged, this looks better for any visitors. The database monitoring project will be launched by Facebook and the parish news. This is where wildlife sightings will be recorded, a draft page has been placed on the current website in preparation by the clerk. Cllr Gardner will discuss moving this forward with Mr. Gillett

162.4 Policy reviews and updates: Standing orders, and the data protection/FOI (freedom of information) were discussed and the clerk will check and update the amendments suggested and put the final versions before the council in the next meeting, which will allow councillors to go through the policies in the interim. Mention was made about the need for councillors to use the parish council email address, as FOI requests will result in a possible inspection of councillors' private devices. The chair explained we had a request for information that was in the public domain and this has dealt with the second part of the request has been referred to TDC.

162.5 Updates from previous meetings: snow/gritter

Bishopsteignton are in agreement to allow us access and use of the parish gritter, as long as we comply with some basic matters, i.e. We have a named volunteer snow warden who will wear the required PPE, and works alongside our own volunteer to achieve the gritted route, as required. Mr. Coombs will be our snow warden with training to be carried out later. The maintenance of their machine does not concern us as we have our own gritter, it's mainly man power. Cllr. Gardner will catch up with Will Voight, to keep him updated. The request for a grant for the parish newsletter is no longer required as it was anticipated that costs would increase, however, this has not been the case.

163/25	<p>PLANNING:</p> <p>163.1 No new planning applications.</p> <p>163.2 Planning Decisions noted: 24/01735/HOU Homefield, Ideford.</p> <p>163.3 Planning Appeal:</p> <p>24/00064/REF Little Haven, Higher Sandygate. Appeal against the refusal of planning application</p> <p>20/01018/FUL and Little Haven Higher Sandygate: Appeal against the Enforcement Notice</p> <p>The council discussed and noted the cases above Cllr C Hill had read the appeal indicating it is well presented and put together. As the council have previously commented on the original applications there is nothing further to add.</p>
164/25	<p>CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILLORS - initially covered in roads 160 and 162.1. A report from Rob Gillett indicated that people have been using quad bikes and trial bikes on the common, he would like to see signs in the car park where this might be more useful. A brief discussion was held on this.</p>
165/25	<p>CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE: A Balance of accounts and the monthly bank reconciliation for February 2025 were approved, the current account has £14,222.58. Approval for the following payments made since the last meeting and payments due namely: CPRE and Scribe accounts which are direct debits. Hall invoices, Clerks invoice. The vat reclaim figure was mentioned.</p> <p>An administrative update was provided by the clerk, and mention was made by Cllr. Carter-Woodward about updating the website with the current details of the councillors. The clerk proposed a refund of £450.00 to the cilca grant/educational trust, the council approved this. The clerk has requested the notice period from the current host providers of the website then transfer the domain name across to the council for ownership. On the budget a few items were brought to the clerks attention.</p>
166/25	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday 10th April 2025.</p>
167/25	<p>The Chair closed the meeting at 20.10pm</p>

Signed: _____ Dated: _____