

IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on 9th March 2023 at 7pm

Present:	Cllr David Fox - Chair Cllr A Carter-Woodwark Cllr H Bellamy	Cllr T Hill Cllr M Batting
In Attendance	Cllr R Peart Cllr B Austen	Mrs J Thompson - Clerk Six members of the public

Item (a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)
011/23	<p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:01pm. Condolences were given to the family of Fred Crispin, a much-respected former Parish Councillor, who had passed away. Apologies were received from Cllr J Gardner, D Morby, PC C Orchard and PCSO S Bunce.</p>
012/23	<p>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING It was proposed by Cllr A Carter-Woodwark, seconded by Cllr T Hill and agreed by all to accept the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 9th February 2023 as a true and accurate record.</p>
013/23	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS Cllr A Carter-Woodwark as Village Hall trustee. Cllr T Hill as Millennium Green trustee. Cllr D Fox whose wife is on the Village Hall committee.</p>
014/23	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION A resident asked for minutes to be published in the Parish News in a timelier manner. A resident asked for it to be minuted that former Cllr, M Crispin had (at the Nov 2022 meeting) wanted to put forward the point that when parishioners talk, they had been told to shut up by a certain Cllr (but had been prevented from finishing what she was trying to say (minute refs 097/22 and 100/22)). A resident was concerned that photos sent to TDC (minute ref 007/23.3) had been taken without the landowner's knowledge or permission – the PC explained that one of the photos was historic and the other taken from the public highway. Also, the sending of the photos had not been an agenda item – the PC explained that it was a follow up request from TDC on an ongoing planning enforcement matter, a regular agenda item.</p>
015/23	<p>REPORTS Cllr Ron Peart Highways Management. This winter has posed challenges for the Highways and Traffic Management Service. The mix of prolonged sub-zero temperatures and heavy rain led to a rapid deterioration in the condition of the network highlighting the fragility of the asset following decades of under investment. Since April 2022 our inspection team have assessed over 27,000 reports of potholes from members of the public. Over 10,000 reports were assessed in January alone, we were receiving as many as 500 reports per day. The team have been working hard to get on top of backlog with a focus on the safety of the travelling public. Milestone our maintenance contractor, has increased their resources which has seen weekend working and over forty gangs working across the county. At the beginning of the month there was 3,000 potholes waiting to be repaired, this has reduced to approximately 2,000. Following a quiet November, in which we saw very little in the way of gritting treatment, the extended cold snaps in December and January has seen us use over 15,000 tonnes of salt across 2,094 runs the equivalent to 55 full, Countywide treatments on our Primary Salting Network. The average across the last four winters for the same period has been 8,919 tonnes and 1,597 runs. This additional work has a knock-on effect with the planned improvement works. Gritter drivers are limited in how many hours they can work which often means planned improvement works have to be deferred. In addition, with safety of the network taking priority, a number of the patching gangs have been redeployed on to potholes repairs. Again, this means planned improvements will have</p>

been deferred. Neighbourhood Officers will be in contact with Elected Members that have works impacted in their area.

The resolution of drainage assets referred for additional maintenance has slowed in the last few months to support the corporate financial challenged. However, over 10,000 defects have been addressed so far this financial year which clearly demonstrates the benefits of funding a focused programme of drainage asset defect identification. We have over 14,000 outstanding drainage assets defects across the county and works are continuing to resolve them.

Cllr B Austen

Teignbridge unanimously approved motions to take positive action in communicating to all relevant authorities to save Teignmouth. Hospital from closure. It also passed a motion to oppose the proposed changes to the Wild Camping on Dartmoor.

For the first-time empty homes in the district have fallen below 300. The Council keeps records of empty properties as they are sometimes illegally occupied, not in a fit condition for sale or of concern to neighbouring properties if condition deteriorates.

Council meetings are still being held at Buckland Athletic as the work to make the Brunel offices carbon free continues. It is expected that meetings will resume there in April.

The budget has been approved and the share of the council tax payable in Teignbridge now stands at £5.54 for the next year, an increase of 2.99 per cent - well below the rate of inflation.

The council also decided that its car parks will be free after 6 pm. for the next four years with a charge of £1. only on Sundays. Funds were also reserved for council housing, climate emergency, jobs initiative and Tidy Teignbridge.

The most concerning issue is that it has to deal with a revenue deficit of £3.4 million which will require exploring ways of saving money.

With elections coming soon it is believed that the council will be looking for new councillors to replace those not standing, probably about twelve.

Cllr B Austen updated her report by confirming that there were now up to fifteen vacancies at TDC and if anyone was interested in filling any of the vacancies it was a demanding, but worthwhile role. Cllr Austen finished by announcing that she was considering not standing for election in May and that it had been a pleasure coming to Ideford over the years.

016/23

PARISH MATTERS

016.1 It was suggested that notices be put up in Town Farm Lane to educate dog owners to put their dog waste in a bin.

TDC to be asked if they would be prepared to empty a dog bin if it were placed in the narrower part of Town Farm Lane.

It was proposed by Cllr A Carter-Woodwark, seconded by Cllr D Fox and agreed by the majority (one abstention) to start paying the full cost of emptying the dog bin on the M Green.

Contributing towards the proposed hardstanding at the M Green was deferred.

016.2 It was proposed by Cllr A Carter-Woodwark, seconded by Cllr D Fox and agreed by all to invite interest from residents on receiving commemorative medallions for the Kings Coronation.

016.3 Plans for Coronation celebrations and a summer fete are still in the early stages and PC discussion was deferred.

016.4 Comments for the Teignbridge Local Plan 2020 – 2040:

Cllr A Carter-Woodwark commented that as so much of the current Local Plan has not been implemented, we are very fearful that the Teignbridge Local Plan 2020 – 2040 is going to go the same way – this illustrates the dissatisfaction that parishes have with Teignbridge planning. Especially with regards to the environment, because as we know we have had challenges about the environment, our wildlife, our hedgerows and come up against a brick wall and yet in the current local plan there is an enormous about the environment, yet it does not fill me with great confidence.

Cllr R Peart suggested the PC invite Trevor Shaw – Senior TDC Planning Officer, to a meeting; Clerk to send an invite.

016.5 The election is set for Thursday 4th May 2023 and nomination papers need to be handed in to TDC offices by 4pm on Tuesday 4th April.

016.6 Cllr H Bellamy suggested that the PC & PCSO attend the Pop-Up Café's to enable them to meet more residents - Chair to discuss this at the next PACT meeting.

	<p>016.7 To receive any updates on roadworks, highways and parking issues including snow warden and gritting: It was noted that some potholes have been filled and parking issues have improved.</p> <p>016.8 Information has been received from Hedgehog's R Us requesting support for the Hedgehog Highway Project. The PC could purchase metal frames to enable hedgehogs to move easily through fences and hedges - £150 for 50 frames. Wildlife Wardens suggest publishing the project to gauge interest. Link to be shared with Cllr R Peart who suggested a multi-PC/TC approach and public interest to be gauged via a notice in the Parish News.</p> <p>016.9 Sustainable Ideford update: Sustainable Ideford meetings will now be held in the Village Hall to become more inclusive and start to bring in more interested community members - first public open event is 12th April 7pm.</p> <p>016.10 Wildlife Warden update: A piece was put in the Parish News to advertise the capital grants available for installing and maintaining hedges. A grant has been applied for from Cllr R Peart to obtain a wildlife camera for £154, but unsure if the grant has been submitted in time.</p>						
017/23	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>017.1 To discuss and agree commenting on the following planning applications 23/00222/FUL – Rixford Bungalow Replacement dwelling It was proposed by Cllr M Batting, seconded by Cllr H Bellamy and agreed by all to support this application. The Parish Council supported the previous application and the proposal is in keeping with neighbouring properties. 23/00148/HOU – Khandala, Butts Lane Installation of ground mounted solar panels consisting of 14 panels It was proposed by Cllr T Hill, seconded by Cllr A Carter-Woodwark and agreed by all to support this application.</p> <p>017.2 Planning Enforcement: Works to entrances at Higher Colleybrook Farm will be assessed once outstanding planning applications are determined. TDC have received information that the caravans at Lower Colleybrook are occupied by the owners and their family.</p>						
018/23	<p>CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILLORS Clerk has contacted Chudleigh TC to request repointing Ideford Arch.</p>						
019/23	<p>CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE</p> <p>019.1 The balance of accounts on 28th February 2023 was £14,760.60. The bank reconciliation for February 2023 was agreed by all and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.</p> <p>019.2 It was agreed by all to approve the following payments.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1440 1050 1518"> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1440 691 1480">£22.50</td> <td data-bbox="691 1440 1050 1480">Village Hall</td> <td data-bbox="1050 1440 1495 1480">Venue Hire</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1480 691 1518">£15.00</td> <td data-bbox="691 1480 1050 1518">Village Hall</td> <td data-bbox="1050 1480 1495 1518">Venue Hire</td> </tr> </table> <p>019.3 Legal and administrative update: The Chair signed The Civility & Respect Pledge certificate. The internal audit has been booked for 26th April.</p>	£22.50	Village Hall	Venue Hire	£15.00	Village Hall	Venue Hire
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020/23	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 13th April 2023 Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Full Parish Council meeting. The Chair closed the meeting at 8:29pm.</p>						

Signed: _____

Dated: _____