

MINUTES
OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM MONDAY 29 JULY 2024
AT BISHOPSTEIGNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, SHUTE HILL



2407.01 MEETING GOVERNANCE

- .01 **Attendance:** Cllr. H. Merritt (Chair) Cllr. R. Gill Cllr. J. Hooper
Cllr. R. Gateshill Cllr. J. Grimble Cllr. J. Head
Cllr. D. Robbins Cllr. A. Keohane (8/11)
District Cllr. A. MacGregor, Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford.
1 member of the public.
- Apologies:** Cllrs. Cllr. K. Benham, E. Harris, Cllr. W. Vooght (3/11).
County Cllr. R. Peart. PCSO. S. Bunce.

.02 **Declaration of Interests:** None declared.

.03 **Order of Business:** No changes required.

.04 **Ratification of Minutes:** Draft minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bishopsteignton Parish Council and the Full Council meeting, both held at Bishopsteignton Community Centre on 28.05.24, were considered. It was proposed and seconded that these be approved as a true and correct record. Agreed unanimously therefore **resolved to approve** and to be signed by the Chair.

2407.02 OFFICIAL REPORTS

.01 **Police Report:** A report had been provided, for crimes during June 2024. A further report for July will be shared once received. No further questions were raised for officers.

.02 **District Councillors Report:** Cllr. MacGregor provided the following report.

1. SW Water and the Environment Agency attended meetings at the council – scrutiny, and planning. In both instances, they received robust enquiries from both me as well as Cllr Clarence of Shaldon over continued and increasing leaks and discharges into the Teign Estuary amongst a whole list of other failures. Questions in writing have been lodged and we are told we should receive answers in due course.
2. No doubt everyone is aware that the leader of TDC Cllr Wrigley has been elected as MP for Newton Abbot. He is stepping down as leader on the 30th July 2024.
3. Queen Street work continues and is causing some difficulty and lots of inconvenience for shoppers and businesses. Some are closing, some have revised hours. Anyone going to shop in NA in Queen Street would be advised to check the shop they are heading for is open as plenty of trip hazards have arisen as a result of the work and parking is almost impossible there.
4. We have a new Labour Govt, but for the time being little has changed in respect of the funding for TDC and a business plan was submitted on the 19th July to the Dept for Local Govt Housing and Communities (albeit a previous Govt initiative).
5. The Health Centre planned for the centre of Teignmouth is not proceeding. This may impact on the recruitment of GPs and other staff for the practices in Teignmouth which also impacts potentially on the remote location in Bishopsteignton. Questions have been lodged regarding this unfortunate decision.
6. It reduces a projected budget balance though by up to almost £1m and makes finding a list of ways to fill a projected budget black hole more difficult.
7. As the Local Plan has been submitted, some policies from it are being weighed up in planning decisions currently, so we may see decisions progressing that wouldn't have otherwise gotten through. The LP is still in examination stage with the Planning Inspectorate before evidence and witness statements are taken.
8. Teign Estuary Trail efforts continue, but Henry best placed to detail the progress.

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.03 **County Councillors Report:** Cllr. Peart provided the following report. No further comments or questions were raised.

Annual Public Health Report - Health in an aging Devon.

Devon has an older population and a faster older population growth than the UK average.

Over the next 20 years the predicted proportion of those aged 75 and over living in Devon will increase from 13.7% this year to 18.4% by 2043. This population change, says the report, and that people are spending more years in ill – health, poses challenges in relation to the health and, wellbeing and quality of life for all of us.

Coupled with a reduction in the birth rate in the future, means that the ratio of younger people to older people will also reduce. This will also inevitably affect our frontline workforce and carers, both paid and unpaid.

Currently, across Devon there are just over two working – aged people to one older person. By 2043, we expect this to reduce to 1.7 working-age people to one older person- this will have a detrimental effect on the prosperity {who pays for the pensions for older people. The average life expectancy across Devon is 85 and 87 years [male and female] respectively with healthy life expectancy being about 77 and 79 – this shows that people in Devon are on average living around a decade in poorer health and no significant improvement has been seen over the last decade.

The report indicates that ultimately, the scale of the challenge associated with an increase in older adults living in poor health will depend upon the actions we all take now. Staying active physically, mentally and socially are important things we can do.

Devon Highways Report on Methyl methacrylate [MMA].

MMA is a Cold Applied Materials for a bulk of road marking schemes across the county. To support the advance in material technology, a state-of-the-art road marking machine is now operational on Devon’s highway network. It’s the first of its kind in the UK, with less than 5 operational worldwide, the advancement in road marking delivery is truly world class. This groundbreaking technology presents many benefits, notably an impressive 86% reduction in CO2e emissions compared to conventional delivery methods. By bolstering durability, it will effectively reduce disruption on the network and making a significant 17% whole life cost saving over a 10-year investment period.

2407.03 FINANCE

.01 **Payments:** Following a couple of queries which were answered by the clerk it was proposed and seconded, agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED that payments transacted by the clerk across the period 23.05.24 to 23.07.24, be approved retrospectively.

.02 **Financial Statement:**

- a. A financial statement for the period ending 31.05.24 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair. Clerk to publish these on the BPC website.
- b. A financial statement for the period ending 30.06.24 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair. Clerk to publish these on the BPC website.

.03 **BPC Grant:** Members reviewed an application for funds for Bishopsteignton Village Festival Committee. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. Head, that a grant of £150 be awarded. FOR: 6, AGAINST: 2, therefore RESOLVED.

Furthermore, members discussed the use of the BPC grant, and it was generally felt the opportunity was not widely known about in the community. To be considered further including better promotion, via the website, etc.

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2407.04 AIRBAND MAST AT CLANAGE CROSS

The chairman summarised the issue and correspondence received from parishioners. The clerks draft letter was considered. It was suggested that the offer to open a conversation to consider a more suitable alternative location for the mast be added. Also to ask about the mast's appearance including height and its function

It was proposed by Cllr. Head, seconded by Cllr. Hooper, that the letter be sent with these additions. Agreed unanimously, therefore RESOLVED.

2407.05 COUNCIL STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE:

Meeting Dates: Members considered changes to the schedule of dates for future Full Council meeting, for the remainder of municipal year 2024-25, and into 2025-26, with a view to hold fewer meetings but to ensure these are always held in the first week of the month. The draft schedule as circulated to members prior to the meeting was considered. It was proposed by Cllr. Merritt, seconded by Cllr. Gill, that this be adopted with immediate effect. Included in this proposal is that the September meeting each year, starting September 2025, be held in Luton. Agree unanimously therefore RESOLVED. Clerk to share the new schedule with members and on the BPC website.

2407.06 MEMBERS REPORTS

- .01 Cllr. Grimble raised concerns over fly tipping which is regularly appearing at the Teign View Road end of footpath 12. This was briefly discussed, and it was felt wrong for the council to keep collecting and correctly disposing of this at its own expense. The latest deposit shall be reported to the District Council, in the hope it will be collected by the Blitz team, however it is unknown if this is private or public land. Clerk to submit this report.
- .02 Cllr. Merritt gave a brief verbal report, supporting his written report, of the most recent Teign Estuary Trail stakeholders meeting held 19.07.24. This report is available on the BPC website.
- .03 Cllr. Keohane raised concerns over small piles of sawdust randomly placed around the village. It was concluded this is left by trail runners/Hash Harriers. It was agreed for the clerk to make contact to see if they will be back to clear up.

2407.07 CLERKS REPORT: The report of all ongoing BPC business and activity was provided to members and the public prior to this meeting. The following further matters were raised by the clerk:

- .01 **Highways Liaison:** The clerk reported that Tegan Faulkner, our Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) has recently received a promotion, therefore a new officer will be allocated to the area. Awaiting appointment announcement. The clerk has attended a consultancy group arranged by DALC to encourage good working relations between Devon Highways, via the NHO and Town & Parish Council officers, on behalf of the electorate. This seemed worthwhile to help pave the way for improved working relations. Event to be followed up in due course.
- .02 **Village Organisations Communication working group:** The clerk reported a BPC working group is due to be formed, to be led by Cllr. Hooper and will include Cllrs. Robbins & Harris. This group will invite a representative from village organisations such as BVF, pubs and venues, Players, Flower Club, WI, etc. to co-ordinate future events, reducing clashes, assist with promotion,

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support each other, and evenly distribute funding opportunities to groups in need. Further information will be shared in due course.

- .03 EV Charging online event: The clerk thanks Cllr. Robbins for offering to attend this event on 6th August. He will report back anything significant to Bishopsteignton to the full council in September.

The following points were raised by members and briefly discussed:

- .04 **Overgrown vegetation:** Still rife throughout the village. The clerk reported John Hingston shall be taking over from John Parkes. He will start tackling the weeds on Fore Street, Shute Hill, & Church Road in week commencing 05.08.24. It was reported that the footpath section of Flow Lane was very overgrown again, clerk to instruct contractor.
Many complaints have been received by councillors about the appearance of the wild planting at Cockhaven junction. It was agreed a meeting of the Asset Management Committee should be arranged to consider and resolve this issue. Cllr. Hooper asked if the council could approach the owner of the property neighbouring the Community Centre regarding the lavender which is now heavily encroaching the footpath. Cllr. Head offered to speak with the resident.
- .05 **Mr. John Parkes:** Following his stepping down from Parish Council work it was proposed by Cllr. Merritt that a letter/card of thanks be sent to John. Seconded by Cllr. Hooper, agreed unanimously therefore RESOLVED. Clerk to action.
- .06 Local Plan Examination Hearing: Cllr. Merritt updated all members that Mr. Chris Grimshaw has agreed to represent BPC at the upcoming hearing. He has drafted a written statement to be submitted to TDC. Members were asked to read and comment to the clerk before the end of the week, so this document can be finalised. Cllr. Merritt expressed gratitude to Mr. Grimshaw for his continued contribution to the village.

2407.08 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- .01 **BERT:** Mrs. Cawthraw concurred with the clerks' report, that a meeting of BERT committee is required and suggested sometime in August. Clerk to arrange/liaise.
- .02 **Permissive Path to The Lawns:** Cllr. MacGregor asked for a progress update on this matter. The clerk informed the meeting that the PROW warden for Bishopsteignton has retired and did not address the issue or answer the clerk's emails on the subject before he left. Awaiting a replacement, or to speak to another PROW officer from DCC to establish a way forward.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 20.39