

COFFINSWELL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2019 – ST BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH, COFFINSWELL

Present: Cllrs Wills (Chairman), Berry, Brent, Harrington and Parkes
 Cllr Dewhirst (DCC)
 Cllr Haines (TDC)

Also present: Rachel Avery (Clerk), 13 members of the Public

No	Subject	Comments
1	The Chairman will open the Meeting and receive apologies.	Cllr Wills opened the meeting at 19.37. Apologies from the floor were received from Tony Hermsen.
2	Approval to consider, amend as agreed by the Council and approve the minutes of the following minutes: 09 May 2018	It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes.
3	To receive annual reports:	<p>Cllr Wills reported that the council had said goodbye to John Winchester and Tony Hermsen in 2018 and thanked them for their hard work during their time as councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Harrington would be standing down at the May elections; he had served the council for a long period of time and had been the footpath warden. He was thanked for his service.</p> <p>New councillors, Ashley Brent and Alex Parkes had been co-opted, and were welcomed to their first annual meeting.</p> <p>It was NOTED that this year’s APM was being held earlier than usual, due to the period of Purdah in the lead up to council elections. He stated that it had been a short year! There had been a few planning applications of note, including The Bungalow at Dacombe. Whilst the Parish Council had no objected to the application in principal, the issue raised to TDC were taken into consideration and approved with these conditions as requested.</p> <p>An additional application had been received regarding use of land at The Bothy, which the Parish Council had recommended refusal of. The TDC planning committee also refused the application at its recent committee meeting.</p> <p>Other minor applications had been considered, along with chasing outstanding enforcement issues.</p> <p>He had been contacted by several residents concerned about the use of land opposite The Bothy, which includes soil movement. A licence for this has been obtained from the Environment Agency, and it has been confirmed by TDC that no planning permission is required. However, given the size of the structure, this may not be the case and the Parish Council will endeavour to chase this issue on behalf of residents.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been set up, and thanks were extended to Sheenagh Orchard and Cllr Parkes for their work on this. He thanked all those who had undertaken litter picking duties.</p> <p>He also thanked Cllrs Harrington and Brent and Nick Orchard for strimming hedges, verges and footpaths.</p> <p>The Parish Council had successfully obtained a grant for a flagpole in the church grounds, but this project will not proceed as the Diocese intend to ensure the tower is accessible for the flag pole to be used.</p> <p>He also thanked Gwynn Hermsen for her support in creating the new footpath leaflet, which is available in the pub and the church for £1; it is an excellent document.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhirst provided the following report:</p>

In May last year I reported on the arrangements for the opening of IKEA in Exeter, appointment of the new CX of the HOTSW LEP, David Ralph, and the plans to double productivity in Devon and Somerset over the next 20 years. Closer to home was the opening of the Teign Estuary Cycle Trail between the Racecourse and the Passage House Inn – a year later we are working on plans for the much more difficult section down to Teignmouth.

In June Ash Dieback reared its ugly head and I reported that there are nearly half a million Ash trees on Council land that will die – 20% of our total in the County. I reported that it had not reached Teignbridge, but sadly we know now that its pace of infection has increased rapidly and the Council included £300k in next year's budget for this distressing disease.

In July Civil Enforcement Officers received additional powers to seize cars belonging to offenders who have three or more unpaid parking tickets. County Lines first reared its ugly head and sadly we now know that although Devon is right in the forefront of countering this terrible menace in our society the Drug Barons are still making millions from others suffering.

August saw me reporting on Devon's response to unaccompanied child asylum seekers – 111 have arrived in Devon, some have moved on to families in other parts of the UK, but only last Friday I saw one young man originally from Iraq receive a prize for his amazing progress towards taking A levels in Computer Science, Pure Maths, Physics and Astro Physics – if ever there was a credit to our County it has to be him! I also reported on the launch of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – already it is a hot topic with its new definition of Housing Delivery Test – basically it means loads more houses in the District.

September saw me reporting on suicide and loneliness in Devon as well as the now defunct Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, developed by Teignbridge but for the whole of the Exeter Metro area, and its demise at the first hurdle.

The rest of the Autumn saw reports on the Council's campaign to encourage businesses to recruit more disabled people, the announcement of Average Speed Cameras on the South Devon Highway, the letting of more County Farms, Farmwise at the Westpoint and an EU Grant of £1 million funding to help deliver low energy projects across the County. Finally, I reported on my involvement with bringing a report on Problem Gambling in Devon to the Cabinet and our Council's support for Responsible Gambling Week in November.

This year I have reported on rough sleepers in Teignbridge, the value of Shopmobility, repairs to Shaldon's singing bridge, the damming report by Ofsted on how Devon looks after children with Special Needs and of course Devon's £500 million Budget.

Cllr Haines reported that the Local Plan had been adopted in 2014 and was coming up to its five-year review. An initial consultation took place last year and a series of planning cafes have taken place recently for town and parish councillors. The main change is that the current

		<p>delivery of new housing stands at 620 per year, which has been increased to 777 by central government. This has been disputed by TDC and may decrease, but the council is now looking for additional developable land. However, it is unlikely that Coffinswell will be affected by this.</p> <p>Further consultation is anticipated to commence in September and the clerk will be informed.</p> <p>Council tax has been increased by the maximum £5 on a Band D property. This yields £240,000 for the district council. They have lost £4.5 million in support grants from central government. The district council receives some income from business taxes.</p> <p>Whilst the books balance this year, additional savings are required. The purchase of Market Walk from capital funds from Teignmouth Morrisons are likely to provide a return of 6%. Additionally, Forde House is now home to the Job Centre and some rooms are rented to outside bodies and businesses.</p> <p>He reported on ongoing enforcement issues within the parish, which he will continue to pursue for the parish council.</p> <p>The clerk reported that the Parish Council bank accounts opened at £3184.05. As of the end of January, the closing balance was £3331.20. The 2019/20 precept has been set at £4100, an increase of 95p per year on a Band D property. The council tax support grant has ceased for 2019/20.</p>
4	Public Session.	<p>A resident expressed concerns at the constant increase in DCC's portion of council tax. Households who fall into a difference category to Band D are being asked to pay a lot more and are unlikely to be able to stay in their properties as a result. It was asked if council tax will ever be means-tested as this is such a huge burden on the tax payer.</p> <p>County Cllr Dewhirst provided an overview on the services provided by DCC, including children's and adult services (which are vastly over spent on annually), street lighting and a loss of grants from local government. It was NOTED that district and county council precepts are capped but increases are likely as they have a duty to provide services across the whole of the county.</p> <p>A resident explained that in Exmouth, he had requested to rent on-road parking from the local authority, but they had refused. The street earns no money, yet they are not willing to accept money from business owners for these services. This individual issue could not be commented on, but the council can only spend money on specific projects, depending on whether it is capital or revenue. County Cllr Dewhirst would willingly discuss this after the meeting with the resident.</p> <p>It was asked how TDC process the allocation of CIL payments, as The Bungalow appeared to be liable for such a payment.</p> <p>District Cllr Haines reported that Community Infrastructure Levy payments are made to the Parish Council at a rate of 15% (25% if a Neighbourhood Plan is in place). He was unsure about this, as it may be exempt on the grounds of self-build. He would find out and contact the clerk.</p> <p>Concerns about the use of land at The Bothy were raised. The highway's surface has worsened due to the weight of lorries using the roads in the village, and it was asked if a weight limit could be introduced to stop this from happening. It was NOTED that this was not possible without an act of parliament which was notoriously difficult to obtain.</p> <p>The lorries are damaging the road, verges, hedges and buildings.</p>

It was NOTED that The Bothy is situated within an area of great landscape value, and it was a great concern that the EA are allowing such work to take place.

Cllr Wills reported that he understood work was taking place to deal with flooding in the area.

The Parish Council would endeavour to follow this issue up and obtain further information from TDC and the EA.

Additional highways issues were raised, including:

- Blocked drains outside Rose Cottage and Pitt Cottage
- Stop cocks hidden after recent road resurfacing
- Blocked pipe outside Pitt Cottage which is unable to be rodded
- Reinstatement of footpath at Romany Joes.

The clerk and County Cllr Dewhirst noted these issues and would contact DCC. It was NOTED that general highway issues can easily be reported on the DCC website.

It was NOTED that a resident had reported issue at Willowpark Lane via the DCC website, and work there was done very quickly and diligently. Thanks were extended to DCC for this.

It was NOTED that speed camera on the South Devon Highway was now fully operational. From December 2015 – 19 February 2019, a total of 440 offences had been recorded. In the week from 20 – 27 February, there had been a total of 570. This number has continued to drop weekly, and it is hoped that the cameras will drop further. The revenue from penalties goes to the police, but most of this goes to chasing non-payments. Any unused money goes back to central government, but the Police and Crime Commissioner is petitioning for the money to remain in the area.

On the issue of the new highway, Cllr Harrington reported that the direction signs are very difficult at the roundabouts.

It was NOTED that parish council elections are taking place in May, and anyone interested in standing could speak to the clerk or existing councillors. Nomination packs are available from the clerk or TDC.

The meeting was closed at 20.13, with light refreshments being served afterwards.