Present : Cllr D. Mitchem (Chair), Cllr.B.Thrussell Vice Chair(BT), Cllr S.Walton (SW), Cllr C.Jones (CJ), Cllr C. Edwards

Devon County Council –Sara Randall Johnson

1. Apologies – East Devon: Cllr E. Ryland
2. Risk Assessment.-No Risks
3. Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation- None
4. Minutes from July 2022 Parish Council Meeting: Accepted and approved. Actions all completed
5. Open Session

Discussion on Closure of the 5 Bells. Suggestions, Use merry Harriers. Possibility to use the Village hall for “pub evenings”.

1. County/District Councilors Reports-

Written report attached at the end of minutes.

Sara Randall Johnson gave a short discussion on major points. The biggest issue for Devon Council being overspending and requirement for cut backs in services. She mentioned certain services were under threat, and mentioned bus services as a potential threat. The discussion did get a bit ramble'y after that and went into the state of the NHS etc. It may be worth in the minutes saying that Sara's report highlighted issues with overspending and we should expect to see some deep cutbacks on certain local services - those to be clarified later on but refer to her report. She didn’t dwell on the rest of her report.

Her main section referred to the draft local plan and the intention to build another community area with three options in East Devon. It si recommended that people see the local plan and make comment again refer to her report attached) she mentioned about an increase in charging points for electric vehicles in main car parks

One contentious issue was about the fact that they were considering bringing in voter ID for elections and this may start in May

(again refer to her report for more details)

1. Local Issues- All discussed above in 5
2. Highways

Yarde lane to be re-surfaced, date to be confirmed.

Drains/ditches at Village hall to be cleared.

1. Planning

Discussed meeting with Lightrock, all agreed it was a well-attended constructive meeting, B.T. from the floor asked about the community fund being run locally. D.M. said that was the proposal , but needed formal agreement, from Bluefield. B.T. Suggested funding should benefit current community as the project had greatest impact on those living here while construction being undertaken. It was again suggested that the fund should be split between the 3 parishes and future meeting. D.M. discuss with other PC’s. It is hoped that a meeting with Bluefield to discuss these matters will be held next Spring.

It was noted that the court hearing over Ratclyffe Barns may go to arbitration, as the court hearing had been postponed to next year.

1. Finance:

DM stated needed to pay Village hall £105 for usage during PC meetings.

Mole valley Plants 3rd quarter payment made

Sue Trude is to be reimbursed £28.65 being the cost of the paint used in her repainting of the benches on The Green.

1. Correspondence- None

The meeting ended at 8:35pm

Next Meeting Monday 8th January 2023

Minutes accepted as true and accurate

Signature 1 Chairman………………………………….

Signature 2 Cllr…………………………………………

Date……../…….../……

**Actions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Action | Person | Outcome/Closure |
| DM to contact other PCs re solar farm community fund | DM |  |
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DCC Monthly Report November 2022

Cllr Sara Randall Johnson

**Free Flu Vaccination**

From mid-October, people aged 50 years old or over (including those who will be 50 years old by 31 March 2023) can have a free NHS flu vaccine.

All primary school and some secondary school children are eligible for the flu nasal spray this year, which is usually given at school.

GP surgeries are also inviting children aged two and three years old (age on 31 August) for their nasal spray vaccination at their practices.

**Police update**

Devon & Cornwall Police has a new Chief Constable.  The Police & Crime Panel endorsed the appointment of DCC Will Kerr OBE.  He is currently Deputy Chief Constable for Police Scotland.  A highly experienced officer, where before his current appointment he held senior appointments in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the National Crime Agency.

**Hate Crime** – 2,564 hate crimes were recorded in the 12 months to June 2022.  This is worryingly a 46% increase (+800) when compared to the statistical ‘baseline’ year, the 12 months to June 2019.  Despite the observed increase, it is difficult to make objective inferences about performance based on increases or decreases in hate crime; victims may be more confident to report to the police.  Conversely, the trend could also be interpreted as negative because it could be reflective of a ‘real’ increase in victimisation.  44% of all hate crimes were public order related and these were predominantly racially or religiously aggravated.

**101 call waiting times** – 101 or P1 (Priority 1) non-emergency calls are those calls that are identified by the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system as high priority.  These include calls relating to domestic abuse, sexual offences, hate crime, missing persons, and road safety.  In the year to July 2022, the average wait time on the P1 line was 17 minutes – this is an increase of 11 minutes 57 seconds when compared to the ‘baseline’ year the 12

months to July 2020.  Unsurprisingly, fewer calls have been received in the latest period, fewer answered and a higher abandonment rate is evident.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is addressing this as a matter of urgency and I will continue to lobby her for the re-opening of the front desk at Honiton Police Station for face to face reporting.

**Media Release: 01.11.22**

**Grave budget warning from Devon County Council leader**

**Deep cuts to Devon's vital local services are inevitable unless the Government provides more support, county council leader John Hart warned today.**

**Mr Hart said he fully agreed with new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak that the country faced a "profound economic crisis".**

But he urged Mr Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt to use the extra time they now have to produce their economic recovery plan to ensure the balance between tax rises and spending cuts was fair and equitable. And that local government is not singled out for cuts.

"I have been a county councillor for more than 30 years and leader of Devon County Council for nearly 14 years during which time we have been through the austerity years and the pandemic," said Mr Hart.

"But our financial situation has never been so bleak as it is now.

"Before the summer we revealed a black hole in our finances for this year due to surging demand for help and support for vulnerable children and adults, the continuing costs of the pandemic and the dramatic rise in costs and inflation.

"We have been working hard to find savings in this current financial year but it's like filling the bath with the plug out as demand for our services and our costs keep escalating.

"On top of that we now calculate that - as things stand - we face a £75 million shortfall in our budget for next year."

Mr Hart said a report from the National Audit Office had revealed a 53.7 per cent cut in Government funding for local councils between 2010 and 2020. Devon's core funding from the Government had reduced by 72 per cent in real terms in the 11 years up to 2021/22.

"Despite that, this council has maintained help and support for the young, the old and the vulnerable by becoming more effective and efficient," he said.

"When other councils were closing libraries to save money, we kept all ours open. We maintained a youth service in every district. We've seen a steadily reducing number of potholes on our roads. We've ensured communities weren't cut off by subsidising bus services. We maintained our farms estate to give aspiring young farmers a chance to begin a career in farming.

"And we've helped to drive economic growth by overseeing infrastructure improvements on the A380 in South Devon and the North Devon link road, re-opening the Okehampton railway line and other stations and investing in improving high-tech skills through developments like the new training centre at Exeter Airport and support for work hubs for start-up businesses and small companies across the county.

"We've done all that without large-scale staff redundancies and we've kept council tax as low as possible. And we’ve done it all while committing to be net zero carbon by 2030.

"I am proud of that legacy. But all of the work we do will be under threat if we have to make drastic cuts across all our services to balance the books as we are required to do by law. However that will be the reality if the Government doesn't act to protect local government."

Mr Hart said Devon was not just calling for financial support and doing nothing to help itself.

The council had already put a freeze on staff recruitment in non-frontline areas, delayed planned investment in IT and infrastructure projects, cut its heating and lighting bills, squeezed all external contracts, stopped some routine road maintenance and reduced winter gritting routes as well as reviewing its school transport contracts and public transport subsidies.

Devon MPs were being briefed so they could champion the county's case at Westminster and the authority was working with the County Councils' Network and the Local Government Association on national lobbying.

“We are here to do the very best for local people and to protect and support the most vulnerable and those in real need” he said.

“We will do everything in our power to continue to do this and find new ways to do things better and more sustainably.

“But, quite obviously, a bankrupt council can do none of these things and we have no choice now but to make savings that will inevitably hurt some people.”

EDDC Report November 2022

I’m sorry I cannot attend today as I have a clash with Broadclyst PC – both meetings are unfortunately every other month on the same day.

A few things to note:

1. The winter parking rate has as of the start of November gone back to £2 a day. For anybody using RingGo to pay, check that you are using the winter code for your location- it will be on the board in the car park, and a prompt should pop up in the App. If by accident you use the summer code you will be charged the summer rate- I make these mistakes so you don’t have to!
2. The draft new local plan is going out to consultation, hopefully tomorrow. The consultation window will be open until 15/01/2023 at 23:59.

It includes three options for a new community, which you might have seen mentioned in the local press. Only one of the three options will go forwards. I urge everyone to comment constructively on the draft, and also for the parish council to comment. Whilst the location of the new community might seem remote from Clyst Hydon, there will almost certainly be effects on some residents from any of the proposed locations, and on infrastructure. I am pushing for this new town not to be delivered under the same delivery model as Cranbrook, where we are still fighting for some promised crucial infrastructure over 10 years after the first houses were built.

It is worth mentioning that East Devon District Council has no control over how many houses are delivered every year in the district. At present the algorithm mandates 948 a year. This figure is supposed to be a factor of average house price and average salary, with the stated aim of driving down the affordability ratio (a few years ago, an average house in East Devon was nudging 13 times average salary; building more houses is supposed to make houses more affordable- this ratio is now just below 11). If these 948 are not delivered, the developers are able to go straight to the government and obtain permission to build what they want, pretty much where they want. East Devon council has no choice but to deliver these 948 every year for the foreseeable future. At least the fact we are no longer in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan means we don’t also have to work out how to accommodate some of the quotas of neighbouring local authorities.

1. EDDC owned car parks are getting rapid charging points! They’ve been a long time coming but the infrastructure is finally going into the car parks. Over the winter, many car parks across the district will have the cabling laid and will go live. In the attached table is a list of them and a rough guide of when they will go live. They are designed to accommodate visitors and residents alike, and are often located in places within easy walking distance to shops, restaurants and cafés, which will bring passing trade in.
2. In scrutiny we have heard from South West Water several times over the last week. We are hoping to develop a closer working relationship with them over developments and improvements to infrastructure. I’m not sure they are really taking on board yet the level of involvement required of them in order to avoid overloading the existing sewers, nor the improvements needed ahead of development to avoid sewage incidents in rivers and the sea. We will continue to pursue this.
3. Also in scrutiny, we discovered last week that in theory, the May local elections are the first set of elections at which voter ID will be required. The Returning Officer, EDDC CEO Mark Williams says that as yet nothing is in place and no preparations have been made by government. As some voters will have neither passport nor driving license, it is important for there to be enough notice of whether or not these elections will require voter ID, so that an information campaign can start early enough to make sure that everyone who needs the free voter ID delivered by the Returning Officer has time to make that happen- it could take months to make everyone who wants it has a voter ID card. Otherwise, there is a serious risk of people being disenfranchised. It might be worth mentioning through your networks that there is a possibility that voter ID will be required, so that people know to take their passport or driving license with them to vote, or to organise their free voter ID well in advance. This uncertainty is of course unsatisfactory but depends on the relevant government department getting organised.

Have a great Christmas! I’ll hopefully see some of you next Sunday at Remembrance Service.

Eleanor Rylance

6th November 2022