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

1. Apologies –Cllr E. Ryland, Cllr S, Randall Johnson
2. Risk Assessment.-No Risks
3. Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation- None
4. Minutes from November 2022 Parish Council Meeting: Accepted and approved. Actions all completed
5. Open Session: Combined with item 7
6. County/District Councilors Reports- None

Cllr Randal Johnson has said if there are any issues to contact her and she will chase them up. Cllr **D.M**. Suggested watching the development of the New Garden Town outside Exeter, as new development should only proceed when the infrastructure for existing housing is in place.

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**CJ** mentioned response to local plan

It was agreed to put discussions on this as an agenda item for the next PC meeting

1. Local Issues- **CJ**. Stated that previously the PC was notified about road closures and that this no longer seemed to be happening. **BT** stated that he had raised this issue via email with highways but not had a response**. CJ** asked if the clerk received the information as with a previous Clerk.

**DM** agreed to ask the clerk.

**CJ** asked what the process was for clearing roadside ditches. **BT** stated that highways no longer did it and that we could ask for volunteers. Currently bad around Hunts Cross and Radclyffe House. **Barry Thomas** from the floor asked if there were funds to pay a contractor. It was noted that the PC did have sufficient funds to cover the estimated £500 cost

**DM** proposed and **CE** seconded a proposal for the council to arrange for contract cleaning. Proposal unanimously agreed.

**BT** agreed to contact contractors for quotes and to try and arrange an annual (January) sweeping of the roads and jetting of gullies.

Discussion on activities for Kings coronation. **CJ** stated that the committee from last years Jubilee celebrations was planning on arranging activities. It was stated that the committee now had a more formal terms and conditions l of its activities.

**CJ** agreed to chase the Jubilee committee about holding a planning meeting.

**Barry Thomas** from the floor asked if there had been any date set for the spring meeting about the solar farm, or agreements reached with local parishes.

**DM** stated not so far.

**DM** agreed he would contact other PC leaders to arrange a discussion meeting

1. Highways

Discussed above.

1. Planning

22/2497/ful Little Silver. Planning has been approved. No objections from PC

22/2579/ful Manor Lodge. No objections

22/2778/ful Coterie. No objections

1. Finance:

10.1 to resolve to agree the reipts and payments and

10.2 to resolve to approve the cost and funding the village gates

All done and agreed.

Discussion on precept followed, Parish Clerk had suggested reducing the precept from £3,800 to £3,500 based on figures submitted to the councilors.

**CE** asked if the Clerk could be asked to explain details behind items such as maintenance.

**CJ** stated that pads for the defibrillator would need replacing in March 2023 at approx. £100.

**CE**. Stated that the defib phone box was again overloaded with books all over the floor and questioned if we should stop the library function.

**CJ** did not want the library function to be stopped.

Discussion on the books being dumped in the defib phone box being unacceptable.

 It was agreed that the library function should be retained and that a request to keep it tidy be put on the village Facebook.

**CJ** and **DM** would clear out the mess.

**SW.** suggested keeping the precept at £3,800 to cover extra expenditure for difib pads and road cleaning.

The committee agreed to maintain the present precept of £3800

BT has received a bank card which was sent to the previous Clerk who left 3-4 years ago. BT now has access to the PC accounts on line, but not spending on line. Barry Thomas from the floor stated it might be useful to arrange with the bank to have on line dual authentication for full on line banking.

1. Correspondence- None

The meeting ended at 8:45pm

Next Meeting Monday 6th March 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 (BF from last meeting) | DM |  |
| CJ to check timeframe to respond to new local plan | CJ |  |
| Parish Clerk to add discussion on local plan to next PC meeting Agenda | Parish Clerk |  |
| DM to ask clerk if she receives information about road closures. | DM |  |
| Contact contractors for clearing leaves off road edges. | BT |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
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**Devon County Council Monthly Report January 2023**

**Cllr Sara Randall Johnson**

**Budget 2023/2024**

Cabinet approved the draft target budget for the next financial year this morning.

In previous years, Cabinet has agreed target budgets for services in December, based on financial planning forecasts constructed in advance of the provisional settlement. However, this year, there has been much more uncertainty in terms of central government funding to local government, combined with the most challenging budget round that the Authority has faced in recent decades. It has therefore been prudent to defer setting service budget targets until January, after the announcement of the provisional settlement.

On 19th December 2022, the Rt Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, released a written Ministerial statement to Parliament setting out the provisional local government finance settlement for 2023/24 financial year.

The settlement is in line with the Spending Review 2021 and updated for the announcements made in the Autumn Statement of 17th November 2022.

Budget targets for the 2023/24 financial year are set out in the table at paragraph 3.8, reflecting a net increase in service budgets of £66.2 million, which is a 10.5% increase.

National Living Wage was announced in the Autumn Statement as increasing by 9.7 percent from April 2023. This is expected to add £22.5 million of budget pressures across the Authority’s budgets.

