Present: Cllr D. Mitchem (DM), Cllr B. Thrussell (B.T), Cllr C.Edwards (CE) Cllr S.Walton (SW),

1. Apologies – Cllr.C. Jones
2. Risk Assessment.-No Risks
3. Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation-None
4. Minutes from July 2023 Parish Council Meeting: Accepted and approved. Amendment made to highways speed limit extension. The incident took place outside Offlands property. Actions all completed
5. Open Session: Councilors agreed that future Parish Council meetings would be on a date where County and District councillors were available to attend. **DM** stated that Clyst Hydon parish would prefer to be aligned with more rural parishes such as Talaton and Payhembury, rather than the current alignment with Broadclyst and Cranbrook.
6. County/District Councilors Reports. Attached at end of minutes.
7. Local Issues.

i)**DM** highlighted a letter sent from EDDC to MPs stating how they feel East Devon is being penalised under current calculation algorithms for house building numbers.

ii)Discussion on extending the villages speed restriction and reducing maximum speed to 20mph. **BT** is to try and obtain a price for a solar powered flashing sign.

iii)Defibrilator, **CJ** is still sending reports and maintaining the device in the phone box. **CJ** is concerned about how to obtain batteries as the time has passed for replacement. But all OK on testing. CE said he would try and check with the British Heart Foundation

iv)Swimming pool Defib has been delivered awaiting connection to the mains.

**CJ** asked if we should update the village plan. It was felt that with the planning system by EDDC is didn’t warrant a spending of time preparing one, as last time a village consensus was reached and EDDC stated that Clyst Hydon was not sustainable so didn’t support the plan.

v)Tale Lane flooding. BT to check with highways when the road is to be re-surfaced. Discussion on how to prevent flooding and if the PC can help the land owners whose responsibility it is to maintain the cross land drains.

vi) What is happening with the 5 Bells. Discussion about what people have heard. It was agreed the PC would write to the owners to ask for any update. SW to draft letter.

1. Highways. Discussed above

SJ from the floor asked if there could be notification of road closures with maps of diversions to aid essential services and delivery drivers.

1. Planning

23/0829/LBC Replace Windows. No objections

1. Finance: All approved . Planter boxes, paid. SW has received invoice for hire of VH for PC meetings. Precept to be discussed at next meeting.
2. Correspondence- None

The meeting ended at 8:00pm

Next Meeting January 2024 (Date to be confirmed after discussion with County and District councilors)

Minutes accepted as true and accurate

Signature 1 Chairman………………………………….

Signature 2 Cllr…………………………………………

Date……../…….../……

**Actions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Action | Person | Outcome/Closure |
| Check with County and District Councillors best day to attend meetings | CJ |  |
| BT to investigate cost of flashing speed sign | BT |  |
| Contact British Heart Foundation re batteries for defib | CE |  |
| Check with Highways when Tale Lane to be re-surfaced | BT |  |
| Write to 5 Bells Owners for update on its future | SW |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**November 2023 DCC Monthly Report**

**Cllr Sara Randall Johnson**

Budgeting and living with the means available

Devon County Council is going through a major restructure currently of how the ‘business’ operates, so that it can best serve the needs of the residents of Devon with the physical and financial resources available to it. There is a lot of publicity currently about the financial health of Local Government and a number of them issuing what is called a section 114 notice. In effect, this is a declaration that they cannot meet their obligations in producing a legally required budget and ‘handing back the keys’ to central government to send in commissioners to run services at the minimum legal level. There is often no one single reason for this but certainly growing demand for services, children’s in particular, combined with inflation are major factors in many instances.

Devon County Council took early steps to address this and reorganise and as part of this are currently in advanced negotiations with the Department for Education for a very significant financial settlement (called the ’safety valve’) and not currently at risk of having to issue a section 114 notice.

Setting a balanced budget early next year is going to very difficult, resulting in some very difficult choices having to be made where core spending power has reduced in real terms by 27 per cent since 2010/11 as Councils remain firmly in the eye of the inflationary storm and finances are under pressure like never before.

‘Levelling Up’

The Levelling up & Regeneration Bill recently received Royal Assent, a raft of new measures came into force which the government says will “put local people at the heart of development”. County and District Councils will be expected to work with a faster and less bureaucratic planning system with developers held to account.

More beautiful homes (whatever that means in Devonshire English!), built alongside GP surgeries, schools and transport links, and environmental enhancement. Communities taking back control of their future with new powers to shape their local area.

This all sounds very good, but of course the proof of the pudding is in the eating and it will be interesting to see how Councils interpret the Bill where clearly it’s critical in protecting our rural green spaces, but much of it seemingly has a more urban than rural focus and must not just be a tick box exercise.

The Act says will:

* Boost local services – requiring developers to deliver vital infrastructure. This will put an end to lifeless edge-of-town developments with no community assets and ensure developers deliver the schools, doctors surgeries and public services communities need and expect. Further details on these measures will be set out shortly.
* Rebalance the housing and land markets, giving local councils the power to increase council tax on empty homes and reforming compensation for compulsory purchase orders by removing ‘hope value’ where justified.
* Encourage developers to get building; giving communities updates on the progress of development and giving councils the chance to consider slow ‘build out’ rates when approving planning.
* Bring high streets back to life, giving councils the powers to work directly with landlords to bring empty buildings back in to use by local businesses and community groups through high street rental auctions. It will also make it faster for local authorities to give hospitality businesses permission to use outdoor seating.

If you need advice on new towns we have a wealth of expertise on our doorstep. You might not be aware that Cranbrook is the first new town to be built in Devon since mediaeval times. Residents of the town are very fortunate to have an excellent and dedication Town Clerk and deputies as well as Councillors who have worked tirelessly, often battling developers as well as Government at all levels to get services delivered. And before the first turf was dug neighbouring Parish Councils (Broadclyst, Clyst Honiton, Rockbeare and Whimple) were making sure preparatory works and planning applications were fit for purpose.

Station ticket offices proposals

Although not a primary function of EDDC, many concerns have been raised with colleagues and me by residents about proposals to close all railway station ticket offices, with much reduced staff and hours of operation for larger or busier ones where staff would be on hand to help.

Following a lengthy nationwide consultation and much lobbying, the government has determined that they must be scrapped; not reaching the threshold of an acceptable replacement that was fair on all users of the railways. I think we all recognise that times are changing with most people buying tickets online from machines at railway stations but these proposed major changes were too extreme at this time

Highways

DCC Highways teams have taken an absolute battering this year with wet weather and flooding events in particular have decimated planned maintenance but despite that are pressing on with as much of the programme as possible when not dealing with ’risk to life’ events or clearing up after flooding, fallen trees and damaged buildings.

They are doing their best to keep all of the plates spinning and I would ask that you understand that they must prioritise workload those ‘risk to life’ events while not diminishing the priority of things you have reason to contact them for.

**Report to the Parish councils of Broadclyst, Clyst Hydon, Clyst St Lawrence, Farringdon and Clyst Honiton- November 2023.**

Alongside doing the usual reporting of potholes and flytipping (including, bizarrely, about a dozen vans flytipped in two lay-bys in Broadclyst Parish!), I’ve spent quite a lot of time on my Chair of Council role over the last three months, managing a number of internal Council matters.

🦦The Lower Otter Restoration Project is very nearly at an end. Most of the work has been done, and all that remains is some tidying up- including the partial resurfacing and reparation of the Lime Kiln car park in Budleigh Salterton, which is partially-closed from today until it’s all primped. I’ve been to down to visit the site several times, and it’s wonderful to see the sea regaining its original pre-19th century profile, and the range of new birds that have moved in. I spotted egrets, and a couple of cormorants; apparently there are also some newly-arrived Ospreys. If you are ever over in Normandy, this project was twinned with a similar estuary restoration on the Lower Saane river near Quiberville. It will be very interesting to see how these projects keep evolving in coming years.

☔️Last week, Storm Ciarán battered the coastline, leaving behind some serious damage in Seaton -with one seafront toilet block very badly damaged. In Exmouth, with the impending storm threatening the sea wall unfortunately built in the 19th century without foundations, our council officers moved swiftly into action to preserve buildings and land. Thanks to some very quick thinking and fast work, preventative measures were deployed ahead of the storm at a section that was showing severe cracks, and potential breaching of the wall by the storm was avoided. <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/news/2023/10/council-acts-to-protect-exmouth-s-seawall/>

👨‍💼The Chief Executive of East Devon District Council retired last month, after 23 years of service. The press release about this is linked below. <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/news/2023/10/mark-williams-has-announced-his-retirement-as-chief-executive-of-east-devon-district-council/>

🚗Winter charges are back in EDDC-owned car parks- £2 to park all day in any EDDC car park- transferable! The press release is linked below. Please remember to use the winter parking code rather than the summer one, and you can park all day for £2- this scheme is the envy of neighbouring authorities and helps to retain footfall in our town centres through the winter. <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/news/2023/10/2-all-day-winter-parking-offer-returns-to-east-devon/>

🏠🏠🏚️The Strategic planning committee drafted and sent a letter to the 3 MPs for East Devon district, pushing back against the algorithm that dictates how many houses the council should plan to build every year. At present, this algorithm uses past building numbers to inform future building, leading to the absurd position that the more an area builds, the more they have to build! The letter may come as welcome news to parishes threatened by large scale development in our part of the district. We wait to see what the reaction will be. (Letter in pictures below)

I remain despondent at the ongoing problems with building standards in the volume development areas- these cannot be inspected by the district council to check on building standards as the developers mark their own work in-house. Much of my most compelling casework over the last 7 years has been helping families living in newly-built houses with defects leading to appalling damp problems.

Any tenant (whoever the landlord is) who is having problems with getting their landlord to remedy problems with damp is urged to contact me erylance@eastdevon.gov.uk as our Environmental Health team is able to tackle damp issues directly with landlords.

Cllr Eleanor Rylance





