

**Minutes of the Berrynarbor Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 12th July 2022
at 7pm in the Manor Hall, Berrynarbor**

Present: Cllrs A Stanbury (Chairman), G Bacon, M Johns, and J Latham

Mrs V Woodhouse, Parish Clerk.

Devon County Cllr A Davis and North Devon Cllr F Tucker

6 Members of the public

Agents and developer for the proposed development on land at Moules Farm

2207/01 **Apologies**
Cllrs B Joyce, J Beer, S Barten and A Coppin,.

2207/02 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to open the meeting to public participation then bring forward the presentation on the proposed development at Moules Farm followed by another public participation session. No one indicated for public participation at this point in the meeting.

2207/03 **Public Participation**
A member of the public raised concerns about Berrynarbor Park and their discontent and the inaction of North Devon Council.

2207/04 **Presentation on proposed development of Moules Farm in line with the Parish Council's adopted policy for pre-planning application meetings with developers**
The agent explained that the proposals were in their infancy and were for 13 units, 4 of which will be affordable (2 social rental, 1 intermediate and 1 low cost open market), there will be a mix of 2, 3, 4 and 5 bed units and there will be an off site open space contribution and others as required. As part of the proposals they have looked at options for foul drainage with a new treatment plant that discharges into existing network being an option, there is also the possibility of enlarging the car park for the shop. In terms of timescale, they hope to submit a planning application autumn this year.

A member asked if there would be any bungalows, this option had not been explored. It was noted that drainage has previously been a concerns. A Cllr asked if the road network can accommodate the development and it was noted that a transport assessment would be carried out as part of the development.

2207/05 **Public Participation**
None.

2207/06

Minutes

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th June 2022 as a correct record.

2207/07

To receive reports from:

- Police
It was noted that the report had been circulated.
- County Cllr Miss A Davis
Report is attached as Appendix A. Cllr Davis reported that Mr Norey is retiring.

Cllr Davis left the meeting.
- District Cllr J Tucker
Cllr Tucker reported on the increasing of living costs and fuel and the effect this is having on District Council budgets which could add £1 million onto the budget. The new leisure centre is now open and Cllr Tucker updated on the level of planning officers and vacancies and planning delays as a consequence.
- Play Area
Cllr Bacon reported that the climbing frame in the Recreation Field would be receiving a further coat of treatment.
- Manor Hall
Cllr Johns reported that the AGM had been held and a report from the outgoing Chairman has been circulated.
- Footpaths
It was agreed to ask the contractor to undertake an extra cut to footpath 19 as it is very overgrown.
- Dog Exercise Area
None.
- Grit Bins/Road
None.
- Meetings/Events attended by Councillors/Clerk
None.

2207/08

Planning & Planning Correspondence

75492 Erection of a replacement dwelling and associated works at Broadlands Farm Combe Martin
Applicant Mr and Mrs Brunt

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to submit the following



comment:

The Parish Council would question the accuracy of point 3 in the design and access statement, this Council does not believe that they have unlimited occupation rights but occasional occupancy rights. The Parish Council would also like clarification on whether the two existing buildings, the tin barns, are being demolished. The Parish Council would like clarification of the whole site and proposal that has been put forward and has asked District Cllr Tucker to investigate. If the proposal is for more than one dwelling the Parish Council would raise concerns about the safety of the access onto the highway.

2207/08 **Payments and Receipts**

PAYMENTS

35. July Salaries	£431.18
36. HMRC PAYE July	£107.80
37. Zoom Monthly Fee, July	£14.39
38. Tesco Mobile, Phone Charge June, 2022	£10.50
39. Public Toilet Cleaning, June	£100
40. Memorial Plaque	£8.80
41. Herts Fullstop. Memorial Bench	£536.26
42. Manor Hall, Hall Hire	£16
43. Back to your Roots, Tree works in Claude's Garden	£250
44. British Gas, Electricity Toilets	£53.18

Payments total: £1,528.11

RECEIPTS

None.

Receipts total: £0

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the payments and receipts.

2207/09 **To consider responses to North Devon Council's Settlement Study**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for Cllr Bacon to amend and complete as necessary.

2207/10 **Berrynarbor Park – to discuss the outstanding enforcement issues and lack of progress** (item requested by Cllr Stanbury)
It was noted that North Devon Council had not replied to residents with reference to the site and had not progressed the matter and it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to write a strong letter to NDC stating that the



Parish Council would like to see action take to start addressing the concerns of residents.

2207/11 **To consider request from Go North Devon for funding**
It was noted that members had requested information on the number of residents using the service which was currently one and **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to support with a grant of £100.

2207/12 **Berrynarbor Car Park**
It was noted that a response had not been received from NDC and Cllr Tucker would chase.

Meeting ended at 8.24pm.

Signed  Dated: 9/8/22

Berrynarbor Parish Council

County Councillors report

July 2022

Retirement of Chief Executive

Devon County Council's long-serving chief executive, Phil Norrey, has announced his retirement.

Dr Norrey has held the post since 2006 and is the longest-serving chief executive in the council's history.

He joined the authority in 1998 as deputy director of education before being promoted to director of education.

Dr Norrey, who will be 60 next year, said it was the right time for him to leave and hand over to his successor as a new senior management team takes shape at County Hall.

DCC Finance

Devon County Council is facing an unprecedented black hole in our finances caused by the cost of living crisis and spiralling demand for help for vulnerable children and adults.

The Director of Finance, Angie Sinclair predicts that we could overspend by more than £40 million in the current financial year. And she says urgent action must be taken by every council department to rein in spending.

A panel of senior officers is already looking at options for councillors to consider including spending cuts, remodelling services to save money and cancelling or delaying building projects. Unlike central government, local councils are required by law to balance their books every year.

There is a report to Cabinet.

The council has never before faced a combination of demand growth and price shock pressures of this scale. The pandemic and geopolitical situation has created huge financial pressures nationally and the county council is not immune from that.

The current forecast is unprecedented and immediate action must be taken to safeguard the financial stability of the authority.

A financial stability programme has been created comprising senior officers from each service who are examining every option to save money.



The report details the financial pressures facing us with children's services forecasting an overspend of £17.9 million with a big increase in demand and the rising cost of placing children in care.

It includes a £7.7 million overspend in education with the bulk of that taken up by transporting children to school because of spiralling fuel and wages.

Adult care services are forecasting an overspend of £6 million.

There is also a risk that inflationary pressures could result in costs, in addition to this overspend, of more than £10 million this year.

National pay negotiations are at a very early stage but indications are that increases to the National Living Wage coupled with the cost of living crisis will result in a higher than expected pay claim this year. The estimated cost of this has been included within the forecast overspend.

Although It is very early in the financial year and much will, of course, change as the year progresses. However immediate action must be taken to safeguard the financial stability of the authority."

Devon is not alone in dealing with these pressures. Most councils are facing the same problems, according to the Local Government Association. In addition the County Council Network is highlighting the particular cost pressures on county authorities because of the nature of delivering services in large, sparsely-populated rural areas.

Martinhoe Bridge

The bridge, located near the Hunters Inn on Exmoor, was built in 1953. Our routine inspections this week have found serious defects with the structure and it has had to be completely closed this afternoon for safety reasons.

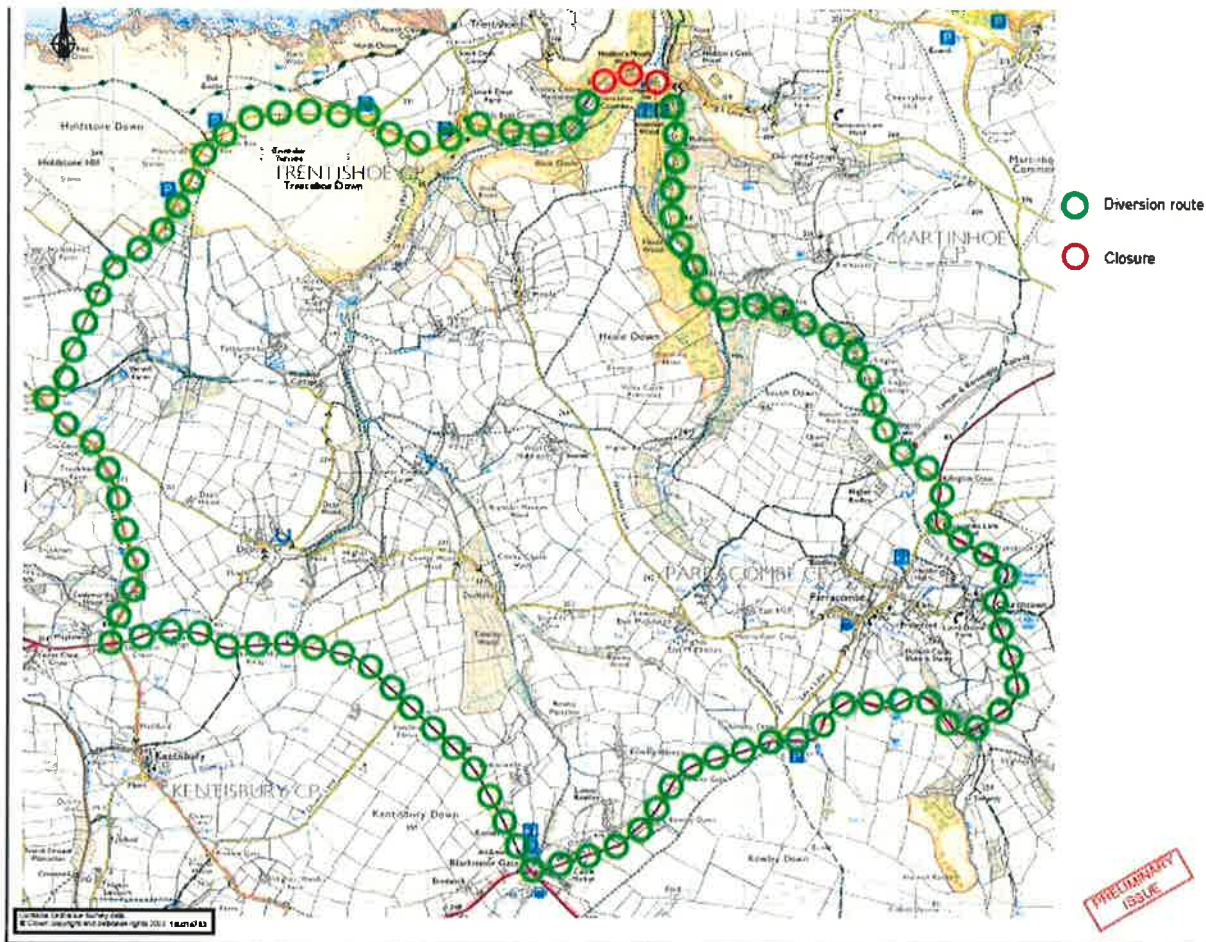
Concerns have been raised over the internal steel tensioning system of the bridge, which is integral to the structure.

We are urgently exploring the possibility of locating a temporary bridge which would allow the road to be re-opened. At this stage it is unknown how long the road will need to be closed.

It is essential that this bridge is closed in order to keep people safe. The findings of the recent survey were very unexpected but our teams have acted swiftly in the light of those safety concerns with the structure. Hopefully a temporary bridge can be found and installed as soon as possible.



Concrete barriers are placed at either end of the bridge and a signed diversion is in place.



Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;

[Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](http://devon.gov.uk)

0345 155 1004

Live chat is available on the Highways website Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm (4 pm on Fridays). To report a problem with road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs and public rights of way

Andrea Davis

County Councillor

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