

Minutes of the Berrynarbor Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 8th November 2022 at 7pm in the Manor Hall, Berrynarbor

Present: Cllrs A Stanbury (Chairman from Minute No 2211/03), A Coppin, M Johns, B Joyce and Cllr Latham (from Minute No 2211/12).
Devon County Cllr A Davis
North Devon District Cllr F Tucker
Mrs V Woodhouse, Parish Clerk
G Cornell and K Young Co-option Candidates
1 member of public

In the absence of Cllr Stanbury the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Coppin, took the Chair and opened the meeting.

2211/01 **Apologies**

Cllrs G Bacon, J Beer and S Jenkins (formerly Barten).

2211/02 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

2211/03 **Public Participation**

None.

Cllr Stanbury entered the meeting.

2211/04 **Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 as a correct record.

2211/05 **To receive reports from:**

- Police
The report had been circulated, it was noted that crime in Ilfracombe had increased.
- County Cllr Miss A Davis
The report is attached as Appendix One.
- District Cllr J Tucker
Cllr Tucker reported that there are over 2000 people on the housing waiting list in North Devon. NDC is reviewing its budgets and it was noted that council tax will have to increase and NDC will have to be careful to balance the books. NDC is circulating an invite in December for an open evening in January about becoming a Cllr. The new Planning Manager is settling in well but they are still advertising for officers and there is pressure on the rest of the team. Cllr Tucker confirmed that he would provide up to £200 from his community cllr grant towards additional festive lights for the village.



- Play Area
No report.
- Manor Hall
No report.
- Footpaths
Nothing to report.
- Dog Exercise Area
No report.
- Grit Bins/Road
The pot holes in Mill Lane had been reported.
- Meetings/Events attended by Councillors/Clerk
None.

Cllr Coppin proposed and it was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to alter the order of the Agenda and take the Planning Applications as the next item of business.

Cllr Davis left the meeting.

2210/06

Planning & Planning Correspondence

76052 Change of use and conversion of redundant agricultural barn to single dwelling together with associated works at Slew Barn Oxenpark Lane Berrynarbor
Applicant: Mr Passmore

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend APPROVAL.

76057 Retrospective application for earthworks to create paths and the construction of a bridge at land to the rear of 3 Wood Park Sterridge Valley Berrynarbor
Applicant: Mr Beer

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to make no comment.

76077 Harbour junction alterations to provide improved harbour access and junction safety at existing access at Watermouth Harbour Road From Watermouth Road To The Old Saw Mill Berrynarbor
Applicant: Watermouth Harbour Ltd

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to make no comment.



76122 Retrospective application to regularise the erection & refurbishment of buildings & structures at Watermouth Cove Holiday Park Watermouth
Applicant: Mrs Fry

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL due to the visual impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

76139 Conversion of WC block to function room together with provision of new toilet and shower facilities at Watermouth Cove Holiday Park Watermouth
Applicant: Mrs Fry

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to recommend REFUSAL due to the adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties from noise and light pollution particularly at night.

2211/07

Co-Option

Two applications for co-option had been received and the applicants were invited to give a short presentation about their application, Cllrs had the opportunity to ask questions.

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to take the vote via a secret ballot.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to co-opt Gareth Cornell to the Parish Council.

2211/08

Payments and Receipts

PAYMENTS

65. November Salaries	£431.18
66. HMRC PAYE November	£107.80
67. Zoom Monthly Fee, November	£14.39
68. Tesco Mobile, Phone Charge October, 2022	£10.50
69. Public Toilet Cleaning, October	£100
70. ICO, Data Protection Registration	£35
71. PKF Littlejohn LLP, External Audit Fees	£240
72. Fremington Parish Council, Photocopying	£2.24
73. South West Water, Public Toilets	£186.62
74. British Gas, Electricity Toilets	£60.08
Payments total:	£1,187.81

RECEIPTS

Interest	0.53
Receipts total:	£0.53



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

2211/09 **Audit 2021 – 2022**

The notice of conclusion of Audit and External Auditor's Report was circulated prior to the meeting and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information.

2211/10 **Public Path**

The notice of public path diversion and definitive map and statement modification order 2022 for Footpath 21 was circulated prior to the meeting and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the information.

2211/11 **Public Toilets**

Members were informed the hand-dryer in the men's public toilet is broken and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, replace the hand dryer with a energy efficient hand-dryer.

Cllr Latham entered the meeting.

2211/12 **Proposed Prohibition of Motor Vehicles/Pedestrians**

Members considered the draft order for Iron Letters Cross, Ilfracombe and did not feel that the proposal would address/prevent the accidents it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to respond to say that the Parish Council does not feel this will address the issue and the Council would recommend traffic calming and/or realignment of the road alongside the proposed order.

2211/13 **To consider and agree locations for planting of saplings**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for Cllr Stanbury to plant the saplings in the dog walking area.

Cllr Coppin left the meeting.

2211/14 **To consider support for a Queen's Award for Community Service**

A member of the public had requested support from the Parish Council to put the former Editor of the newsletter forward for the award. It was **resolved**, with no votes against and five abstentions, to support the request.

Cllr Coppin returned to the meeting.

2211/15 **To consider recognition of a long-standing commitment to the village newsletter** (item requested by Cllr Stanbury)

It was **resolved** with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to purchase an engraved vase and for the Chairman to present the item at a community event.

- 2211/16 **North Devon Record Office**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to provide financial assistance of £100.
- 2211/17 **Jubilee Fountain**
Members considered repairs following damage to the fountain and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to investigate repairs.
- 2211/18 **Festive Lights (Item requested by Cllr Bacon)**
Members considered a donation towards the electricity usage for the member of the public and church and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to pay them both £100 for last year and this year.
- 2211/19 **Budgets**
Members were asked to consider priorities for 2023-2024, members felt the priorities remain the same.
- 2211/20 **Berrynarbor Car Park**
It was noted that a response from NDC had not yet been received. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to request if the Parish Council could take the freehold of the toilets along with the one-off payment without the car park.

Meeting ended at 8.55pm.

Signed.......... Dated: 13/12/22.....

Berrynarbor Parish Council

County Councillors report

November 2022

Financial position of Devon County Council

Devon County Council provides vital services to over 800,000 people from a net revenue budget of £630 million. Devon has the largest local road network in the country and a larger proportion of older people compared to the national average. In the eleven years up to and including 2021/22 the authority's core funding from Government reduced by over £180 million or 72% in real terms. The County Council ended the 2021/22 financial year with a £3.3 million overspend, the first time this had happened in 30 years. We are not alone. New research by the County Councils Network shows 17 English authorities face a combined deficit of more than £500 million in 2023/24.

This year, next year – the mounting overspend

The uplift in funding provided by last year's Spending Review has been wiped out by rising inflation and increasing demand in Adult Social Care and Children's Services. It reflects unprecedented pressures throughout local government. The County Council - already budgeted to make £36 million of in-year savings - must somehow find a further £37 million by the end of March.

Inflation is in excess of 10% this year, reflected in ever increasing prices for supplier services and impacting on construction costs where inflation is even higher. Some 80p in every £1 the Council spends is with external suppliers. This is particularly the case with social care services which are already under huge pressures and recruitment challenges.

In 2023/24 the savings required will be £75 million. Savings on this scale mean a choice between previously unthinkable cuts to vital local services or financial failure within 12-24 months.

The risk of reductions to a bare minimum level of service required by law is now very real.

In addition, like many councils, we face a worrying SEND overspend in the Government's Dedicated Schools Grant driven by rising demand for special needs places and increasing cost of placements in independent schools. In a number of councils, including Devon, the Government has instructed that the deficit be placed in a special adjustment account and rolled over each year in accordance with a Statutory Override which is due to expire after this financial year.

In Devon's case, 41 children requiring additional special needs placements in independent schools since September, the start of the new academic year, means our projected overspend is currently showing a rise of over £2 million to £37.2 million which would take our accumulated deficit to £123.8 million at the end of this financial year. This is well beyond our reserves balance. If the deficit were required to come onto the Council's accounts, it would place Devon in immediate financial jeopardy.



The County Council is continuing to take action to reduce the overspend as much as possible. Our own special school capacity is planned to increase by 129 places this year which will reduce the need for more expensive independent placements. We are directing mainstream schools to provide more placements where appropriate and also exerting firm management on the Education, Health and Care Plan process to ensure quicker decision-making, improved communication with families and approving plans only where it is really necessary and in line with statutory guidance.

However, just like other councils, we do not have the money to overcome a total deficit of this scale. At the time of writing, we are awaiting a decision from Government on whether half the deficit will be met from the national Safety Valve Fund and if the County Council will be allowed to spread the cost of repaying the remainder from additional borrowing. We urgently need a decision or at least the temporary respite that Government intends to roll the deficit forward a further year.

The Chancellor has warned all Government departments to look for further efficiency savings. If that translates into funding reductions for local government coming on top of soaring inflation it will create a perfect storm in council finances. We are supporting the County Councils Network and LGA in lobbying Government for additional funding for local government. The Leader, John Hart, is asking Devon Members of Parliament to support Devon with the following actions.

Devon is 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.

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;

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