

**Minutes of the Berrynarbor Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 7pm in the Manor Hall, Berrynarbor**

Present: Cllrs A Stanbury (Chairman), G Bacon, G Cornell, B Joyce and Cllr Latham  
North Devon District Cllr F Tucker  
Mrs V Woodhouse, Parish Clerk  
1 member of public

- 2302/01 **Apologies**  
Cllr M Johns and County Cllr Davis.
- 2302/02 **Declarations of Interest**  
None.
- 2302/03 **Public Participation**  
A member of the public spoke on the intentions of the Coronation of the King celebrations which are being organised, the idea is to give the community a weekend of fun and they would like to give the children of the parish a medallion which they would like the Parish Council to pay for along with a bouncy castle.
- 2302/04 **Minutes**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and two abstentions, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a correct record.
- 2302/05 **To receive reports from:**
- Police  
The report had been circulated.
  - District Cllr J Tucker  
Cllr Tucker confirmed that there are still issues with Berrynarbor Park and there has been a meeting with the Environment Agency. There is a grant available to bring empty properties back into use and voters will need voter ID for the forthcoming elections. Cllr Tucker confirmed that there will be an increase in Council Tax of around £100 a year based on a Band E property.
  - County Cllr Miss A Davis  
Report is attached as Appendix A.
  - Play Area  
Nothing to report.
  - Manor Hall

It was noted that the Committee had been advised to put a request in writing for funds towards LED lighting nothing had been received to date.

- **Footpaths**  
It was noted that the P3 surveys and reports had been completed and submitted to DCC.
- **Dog Exercise Area**  
None.
- **Grit Bins/Road**  
Cllr Cornell reported that he had cleared the vegetation from the grit bin at Cross Park, however, it had been hit and was damaged beyond repair.
- **Meetings/Events attended by Councillors/Clerk**  
Cllr Cornell had attended a meeting with reference to the Berrynarbor open day.

2302/06

**Co-Option**

An application 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.

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

2302/07

**To note resignation from Cllr Beer**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the resignation with thanks.

2302/08

**Vice-Chairman**

It was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Cornell as Vice-Chairman.

2302/09

**Planning & Planning Correspondence**

**76430** Erection of a double garage at Wheel Cottage Combe Martin  
Applicant: Mr Austin and Mrs King

**76493** First floor extension to dwelling at Moorings Watermouth  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Moore

It was noted that the above two applications had already been considered.



**76678** New agricultural track to provide access to the field network utilising existing access points to reduce soil compaction and erosion caused by livestock and machinery at Field forming part of Highlands Farm Combe Martin  
Applicant: BW Heal

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

2302/10

**Payments and Receipts**

**PAYMENTS**

92. February Salaries	£431.18
93. HMRC PAYE February	£107.80
94. Zoom Monthly Fee, February	£14.39
94. Tesco Mobile, Phone Charge January, 2023	£10.50
96. Public Toilet Cleaning, January	£100
97. Toilet rolls	£29.99
98. British Gas, Electricity toilets	£46.26
99. British Gas, Electricity toilets	£60.46
100. British Gas, Electricity toilets	£16.61
101. Source for Business, Water toilets	£94.36
102. Back to your Roots, Parish Paths	£885
103. Back to your Roots, Grass Cutting	£2,429
104. Exmoor Electrics, Hand dryer	£250.43
105. Tesco Mobile, Phone Charge February, 2023	£10.50
<b>Payments total:</b>	<b>£4,486.48</b>

**RECEIPTS**

9 <sup>th</sup> January, Interest	£5.31
9 <sup>th</sup> February, Interest	£6.33
DCC, Parish Paths	£1,300
<b>Receipts total:</b>	<b>£1,311.64</b>

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

2302/11

**Berrynarbor Park**

Cllr Tucker thanked the Parish Council for writing to NDC as the Chief Executive is now involved and the issues are being dealt with it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the response.

2302/12

**Newsletter**

Correspondence was received from the Editor requesting the Parish Council's permission to use left over funds towards maintenance of the online presence of the newsletter. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the request.

Cllr Tucker left the meeting.



2302/13      **Community Awareness Event**  
It was noted that no financial support was being requested from the Parish Council, however they would like the Parish Council to host an event on the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the Manor Hall and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for Cllr Cornell to lead on this event and send invitations on behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman will also attend.

2302/14      **Coronation Event**  
Members considered a request for financial assistance towards the event for the purchase of medallions to be given to the children of the parish and a bouncy castle for the children's event. The Parish Council was supportive of the proposals It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree to pay for the purchase of the medallions in principal and subject to a proper quotation, recognition for the Parish Council on the medallions, it was further agreed to pay for the bouncy castle subject to confirmation of appropriate insurance, the Parish Council's contribution will be up to £500.

2302/15      **Manor Hall Play Area**  
a) To consider quotation for works to slide  
Cllr Stanbury confirmed that he had looked at the slide and it looked ok.  
  
b) To consider replacement of swing  
Members were informed that the Parish Council had been offered the basket swing back as there is not room for it at the school and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to investigate options.

2302/16      **Litter picking**  
Members considered a request to financially support the purchase of litter picking equipment for community use and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to support the purchase up to £150.

2302/17      **Gritt Bins**  
It was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda.

2302/18      It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

**PART B**

2302/19      **Berrynarbor Car Park & Toilets**  
The amended draft Heads of Terms had been received and circulated prior to the meeting it was noted that the previous heads of terms had confirmed dowries with the lease and transfer it was also noted that the Parish Council had requested that the liability for the bank be removed.

It was felt that the clause in the draft terms was not clear and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Chairman to clarify these points with NDC and ask for up-to-date figures for business rates.

Meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Signed  Dated: 14/3/23

## **Berrynarbor Parish Council**

### **County Councillors Report**

**February 2023**

#### **New Chief Executive at Devon County Council**

Donna Manson joins the County Council from her role as Chief Executive of The Highland Council, Scotland's largest rural authority.

There since 2018, Donna led the Highland Council in developing an ambitious, sustainable, and connected vision for the Highlands during a time of immense change and challenge. Prior to this, Donna was a Director of Children's Services and a Head Teacher.

Her top priority for Devon is to deliver significant improvement to Devon's Children's Services. But more broadly, Donna wants to re-energise Devon as a caring and inclusive place for young people and families, the elderly and vulnerable, and as a forward looking place to work and do business with opportunities for all to thrive and do well.

#### **£2 Bus fare until June 2023**

Bus passengers in Devon can take advantage of a cap on single bus fares as part of the Department for Transport's new fares initiative, through the Government's Help for Households campaign.

Bus users will pay no more than £2 for a single journey when boarding the bus anytime in February, March, April, May and June.

With people up and down the country facing the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis, many can save money whilst choosing a more sustainable method of transport. A recent report by Stagecoach found that motorists replacing some journeys by bus and active travel could save consumers up to £6,000 a year. In addition, the report found that having the right measures in place to encourage people to make the switch, including cheaper fares, could help remove one billion miles of car journeys each week and cut CO2 by nearly 400,000 tonnes per week.

Why not try out the bus, for £2 return a day out in Barnstaple would be bargain, or catch the bus to the railway station in Barnstaple and have a day out, it is a lovey trip to Okehampton

For more information on the £2 single fares scheme, terms and conditions and exclusions, visit the [Travel Devon website](#).



## **DCC Council tax 2023-2024**

DCC council members have agreed a 4.99 per cent increase in council tax for the coming financial year.

It comprises 2.99 per cent for general services with an extra two per cent for adult care.

It means an extra £1.49 a week for the average Band D householder.

There will be increases of 18.4 per cent in spending on children's services and 8.8 per cent on adult services to keep up with a rocketing rise in demand.

Councillors also agreed an extra £2 million for roads and drainage since the target budget was set last month to tackle the increase in potholes caused by this winter's icy spells and torrential rainfall.

The revenue spending on services will increase from £629 million to £696 million in 2023/24. That's an overall rise of 10.5 per cent in spending. In addition, councillors approved a capital budget of £172.5 million for investment in infrastructure such as schools and roads.

The council tax for an average Band D home will rise by £77.67 to £1,634.13 – an extra £1.49 a week.

The budget includes savings, alternative funding and additional income of £47.5 million

## **Highways update**

This winter has posed challenges for the Highways and Traffic Management Service. The mix of prolonged sub-zero temperatures and heavy rain led to a rapid deterioration in the condition of the network highlighting the fragility of the asset following decades of under investment. Since April 2022 highways inspection team have assessed over 27,000 reports of potholes from members of the public. Over 10,000 reports were assessed in January alone, we were receiving as many as 500 reports per day. The team have been working hard to get on top of the backlog with a focus on the safety of the travelling public. Milestone, our term maintenance contractor, has increased their resources which has seen weekend working and over forty gangs working across the county. At the beginning of the month there was 3,000 potholes waiting to be repaired, this has reduced to approximately 2,000.

Following a quiet November, in which we saw very little in the way of gritting treatment, the extended cold snaps in December and January has seen us use over 15,000 tonnes of salt across 2,094 runs (the equivalent to 55 full, Countywide treatments on our Primary Salting Network). The average across the last four winters for the same period has been 8,919 tonnes and 1,597 runs.

This additional work has a knock on effect with the planned improvement works. Gritter drivers are limited in how many hours they can work which often means planned improvement works have to be deferred. In addition, with the safety of the network taking priority, a number of the patching gangs have been redeployed on to pothole repairs. Again, this means planned improvements will have been deferred.



The resolution of drainage assets referred for additional maintenance has slowed in the last few months to support the corporate financial challenge. However, over 10,000 defects have been addressed so far this financial year which clearly demonstrates the benefits of funding a focused programme of drainage asset defect identification.

We still have over 14,000 outstanding drainage asset defects across the county and works are continuing to resolve them.

The Traffic Team are reviewing the requests for new 20mph speed limits. To help determine which schemes are prioritised and to ensure consistency they will consider the new requests by applying the same scoring matrix agreed at Cabinet. In addition to the speed limit requests the team are building an evidence base to support community consultation on the roll out of pay and display restrictions.

The new Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan is nearing completion. This document is important as it sets the future approach to the maintenance standards and strategies the County adopts. Officers are planning to bring it to Cabinet in April for Member comments.

**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*

*Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.