

Minutes of the Berrynarbor Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 12th March 2024 at 7pm in the Manor Hall, Birdswell Lane, Berrynarbor

Present: Cllrs A Stanbury (Chairman), G Bacon, L Clarke, B Joyce and K Young

Mrs V Woodhouse, Parish Clerk
C Boxall, Co-option Candidate
3 members of the public

2403/01 **Apologies**
Cllr J Latham and County Cllr Miss A Davis

2403/02 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

2403/03 **Public Participation**
A member of the public felt it would be irresponsible to go ahead with any plans for the Recreation Field prior to a community survey and felt there was a danger that projects could be delivered that the community might not want.

A member of the public explained that there are currently 123 members of the Boules page and it is the second year the members have been playing with around 56 people regularly playing each week and they would like to see a community pavilion erected within the vicinity of the pitch.

A member of the public stated that the Parish Council had considered the siting of a pavilion favourable back in 2021, however, nothing has been delivered yet and there was an offer of project management.

2403/04 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and two abstentions, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 as a correct record.

2403/05 **To receive reports from:**

- Police
The report had been circulated.
- County Cllr Miss A Davis
Attached as Appendix one
- District Cllr J Hunt
None received.
- Play Area
Cllr Bacon reported that she was waiting for quotations for replacement equipment in the Manor Hall Play Area and will chase the contractor. It was noted that there was a trailer parked in the



Recreation Field which had now been there for some time, it was felt it was likely a generator left from the recent power cut and Cllr Bacon will see if there is a number on the trailer to contact.

- **Manor Hall**
Cllr Joyce confirmed she had asked about access to the Wifi. The Manor Hall Committee had asked if the Manor Hall is a safe place in the Emergency Plan, it was agreed to review the Emergency Plan and about Section 106 money, it was noted that the allocation had already been spent and the PC would check to see if there were any funds remaining.
- **Footpaths**
Cllr Bacon confirmed that she had completed the P3 Surveys and the forms had been submitted, the fence on the Old Coast Road had come down and it is dangerous. It was noted that the footpath at Stowford was still shut due to development.
- **Dog Exercise Area**
Cllr Young asked if another Cllr could be responsible for the dog bags, Cllr Young agreed to ask Cllr Norman.
- **Grit Bins/Road**
Cllr Young confirmed she has reported pot holes the update says that they have been fixed but they have not and she will pursue with Cllr Davis.
- **Meetings/Events attended by Councillors/Clerk**
Cllr Stanbury confirmed he had been to the Planning for Town and Parish Councils at Brynsworthy which was well attended.

2403/06

Co-Option

An application for co-option from Claire Boxall had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to Co-Opt Mrs Claire Boxall to the Parish Council.

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to move Item 9 on the Agenda forward to this point.

2403/07

Recreation Field

- a) A quotation from Devon Communities Together to undertake a householder survey on the future of the Recreation Field was circulated prior to the meeting. Members considered the quotation in detail, although it appeared quite expensive members did feel that it was important to have an independent, professional and balanced survey carried out within the community, it was agreed that the Parish Council could hold its own drop-in sessions to aid with completion to reduce the cost. It was **resolved**, with one vote against, to accept the quotation and



- agree to Devon Communities Together to undertake the householder survey as quickly as possible.
- b) Members further considered the purchase and siting of the pavilion, it was noted that given the proposed location the householder survey would not have an impact on the pavilion, half of the funds had been raised and the Parish Council had agreed to match fund £1,500. It was agreed for Cllrs Stanbury and Young to meet on site with the fundraiser to discuss further and place an item on the next Agenda.
 - c) Cllr Bacon reported that she was still waiting for the specification of the basket swing so she could seek quotations to install.

Cllr Young reported that the sensory garden should be placed on hold until the householder survey is completed.

Cllr Young left the meeting at 7.47pm.

2403/08 **Planning & Planning Correspondence**
 Planning Applications: to consider

78187 Installation of a small 13 panel solar pv array to the barn at Springfield Farm Ilfracombe
Applicant: Mr Graham Adams

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

76452 Erection of 15 vacation lodges, associated infrastructure and environmental mitigation to include landscaping (Amended Description) at Combe Martin Wildlife And Dinosaur Park Combe Martin
Applicant: C/O Wardell Armstrong LLP

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

2403/09 **Payments and Receipts**
PAYMENTS

95. February Salaries	£448.52
96. HMRC PAYE February	£112.20
97. Pensions Contributions	£162.45
98. March Salaries	£448.27
99. HMRC PAYE March	£112
100. Pensions Contributions	£162.45
101. Tesco Mobile, Phone Charge, February 2024	£12.01
102. Tesco Mobile, Phone Charge, March 2024	£12.01
103. Public Toilet Cleaning, January	£125
104. Public Toilet Cleaning, February	£125
105. Back to Your Roots, Grass Cutting	£3,874
106. Tapestry for Berrynarbor Pre-School	£120.00
107. Berrynarbor Manor Hall Trust, Hall Hire	£216.00
108. Source for Business, Water for Public Toilets	£108.99
109. British Gas, Electricity for Public Toilets	£65.86

110. British Gas, Electricity for Public Toilets	£66.30
111. Devon Communities Together, Membership	£50
Total Payments	£6,221.06

RECEIPTS

Interest	£12.94
Interest	£13.84
Interest	£13.86
Total Receipts	£40.64

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

2403/10

Annual donation towards the Sewage Plant

Members considered the annual donation towards the Sewage Plant, the costings were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman reported that he had met with a member of the Community Shop Committee who had explained the issues they are facing with the sewage plant and the costs in maintaining especially as the shop only has one toilet and sink and the public toilets have several including urinals. It was suggested that the Parish Council meet with the shop committee to investigate more cost effective solutions. Members felt that the community shop is an asset and the 50% donation does not appear to be proportionate, it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary to pay 75% of the cost (£745.12) and investigate the legalities around the set up of the system.

2403/11

Staining of the railings in Claude's Garden and the Notice Board

Members were circulated information and a quotation prior to the meeting for the staining of the railings in Claude's Garden and the Parish Council's Notice Board, it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the quotation from Mr R Pickering to undertake the works.

2403/12

Asset of Community Value Ye Olde Globe

Members were informed that notification had been received that Ye Olde Globe would be removed from the Asset of Community Value Register. Members felt it was still an asset of community value and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to re-register Ye Olde Globe as an Asset of Community Value.

2403/13

Grass Cutting Contract 2024-2025

The quotation received was circulated to members prior to the meeting and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to accept the quotation from Back to your Roots.

2403/14

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



2403/15

Lease of Car Park and Transfer of Public Toilets

Members were informed that four quotations had been sought from Solicitors to act on behalf of the Parish Council during the transfer process, however, only one quotation was received, members considered the quotation and noted that the PC had used the firm previously, therefore, it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Samuels Solicitors LLP to act on behalf of the Parish Council for the lease of the car park and transfer of the public toilets.

Meeting ended at 8.26pm.

Signed.......... Dated:.....9/4/24.....

Berrynarbor Parish Council

County Councillors report

March 2024

Devon County Council Budget 24-25

Devon County Council 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 £1.56 a week for the average Band D householder.

There will be increases of 10.4 per cent in spending on children's services, six per cent on adult services and 4.7 per cent on climate change, environment and transport.

Councillors also agreed an extra £1.5 million to boost regular road drainage since the target budget was set last month to tackle the increase in potholes caused by this winter's heavy rainfall.

There will also be £716,000 extra to bring the homelessness budget back up to £1.45 million to support the work of district councils and homeless organisations for another year.

Devon's revenue spending on services will increase from just under £700 million to £743 million in 2024/25. That's an overall rise of 6.3 per cent in spending.

In addition, councillors approved a capital budget of over £155 million for investment in infrastructure such as schools and roads.

The council tax for an average Band D home will rise by £81.54 to £1,715.67 – an extra £1.56 a week.

This budget also recognises the concerns that people have about the increase in potholes caused by the very wet winter.

Public Consultation on Devon and Torbay devolution deal

A six-week public consultation has been launched on Monday 12 February on the **draft** proposal to create a Combined County Authority (CCA) for Devon and Torbay to oversee new powers and funding transferred from Government.

The ground-breaking devolution deal announced by Levelling Up Minister Jacob Young last month, proposes to create the CCA, which would be a formal partnership of elected members drawn from the councils of Devon and Torbay, including district councils, together with representatives from business and education.



People are being invited to have their say on how the CCA would work, the powers that it would have and the functions it would be responsible for. These include investment in local economic growth, delivering affordable housing, improving public transport, and meeting net zero ambitions.

Further information about the joint consultation with Torbay Council and details of how to respond are available at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk

Establishing the CCA would not mean removing or merging local councils and does not require a Mayor for Devon and Torbay. All councils would continue to exist and would still be responsible for public services in their area.

Among the Devon and Torbay devolution deal proposals are:

- The new body would have direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030. Through Local Skills Improvement Plans, the proposed CCA will work with business and education leaders to create a stronger, joined-up relationship between employers and schools, colleges and universities to provide the skilled workforce the local economy needs for the future.
- Over £16 million of new funding would be invested in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth to accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy, capitalising on the area's world-leading expertise in green science and technology.
- There would also be a stronger partnership with Homes England, working closely with district councils in Devon to create a joint action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people as well as reducing homelessness. The proposal includes additional land assembly and compulsory purchase powers and would facilitate greater Community Land Trust-led delivery.
- The joined up local transport planning by Devon County Council and Torbay Council will be strengthened to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is also an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for public transport passengers.
- From 2025 the Government is also offering to transfer responsibility for planning and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to Devon and Torbay, engaging with Devon's district councils, to support high growth business sectors as well as funding town centre
- The results of the consultation will be considered by both Councils in April. Devon County Council and Torbay Council will consider whether they want to submit the proposal to Government, either with or without amendments, or not at all.
- The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities would examine any submission and make regulations setting up the CCA.
- A summary leaflet about the consultation will be available in all Devon and Torbay libraries as well as district council offices.
- You can take part in the consultation, which closes at 11:59pm on 24 March 2024, by providing your [feedback via the Devon Torbay Deal website](#), by emailing devontorbaydeal@torbay.gov.uk or by post to: FREEPOST D & T Devolution.



Highways update

This winter season has been relatively kind to the highway network with only 24 days where the temperature has dipped below zero and a low of minus 7.3°. At the same point in 2023 there had been 38 days and a minimum temperature of minus 9.4°. This has led to a reduction in gritting treatments which has been below the 5-year average for November, December and January.

Following the very difficult winter last year the Asset Management and the Network Response teams have worked very closely together through late summer and autumn to prepare for the winter season. As a result of this hard work and the milder winter, the service has recorded 5,500 safety defect potholes in January, while this is slightly below the 7 year average (5,926) it compares well to the 7,500 in 2023.

The significant reduction in the gritting operations mentioned above in turn frees up resources to continue the planned patching operations, again helping to reduce safety defect potholes across the county.

The gully cleaning operations have slipped behind programme due to the high number of extreme weather events the Service has responded to this year and a series of unexpected equipment breakdowns. Milestone (the contractor) have worked hard to get this workstream back on programme and are confident that all programmed gullies will have been attended by the end of March.

A lot of work has been put into addressing drainage referrals raised by the cleaning gangs. Over 14,000 gully issues have been resolved this financial year, however, the backlog remains high with new issues identified as quickly as the old ones are being tackled.

The joint trial with Devon's Flood team to place gully sensors in selected streets in Devon is in now live. The data recorded will provide insight into whether technology can be used to inform policy or reaction for cyclical gully cleaning. The trial intends to run for an 18-month period.

Highway defects

Changes have been made to the front end of the 'report a problem' website. The additional information will help provide data to inform future enhancements and hopes to highlight that members of the public can add themselves to existing reports rather than enter duplicate reports.

Following the recent cold weather we can expect an increase in potholes, please would you report any you come across at [Report a pothole - Devon County Council](#)

Drainage issues; [Report standing water, flooding or blocked drains - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)



You will see on the website there are other highway categories such as fallen trees etc.

Highway emergency number is :0345 155 1004 (If you are reporting an emergency that is very likely to present an imminent threat to life or serious injury or serious damage to property)

Andrea Davis
County Councillor Combe Martin Rural division
Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.