



MINUTES

Committee: Parish Council
Date: Tuesday, 5 March 2024
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Community Club

Present

Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright (Chairman)
Cllr Mike Warner (Vice Chairman)
Cllr John Farrand-Rogers
Cllr Rob Austin
Cllr David Bridger
Cllr Gordy Keep
Cllr Vivienne Hodges
Cllr Jan Evans
Cllr Chris Walden
Cllr Gemma Hampton
Cllr Mike Jeffery
Cllr Richard Short

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)
Dartmoor National Park Ranger, Pete Rich

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

39/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

40/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Austin declared an interest in min no. 53/2024 because the contractor is his son. Cllr Austin will not take part in the discussion or vote. No requests for dispensation were received. *Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4)*

41/2024 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved** to **accept and sign** the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2024 as a correct record. There were three abstentions. *LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1)*

42/2024 STANDING ITEM – CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY:

The Council noted the Declaration to embed the climate and ecology emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

43/2024 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Dartmoor National Park Ranger Report

Pete Rich explained that his patch includes Bridford, Christow, Dunsford, Drewsteignton, Moretonhampstead, Chagford, Cheriton Bishop, Throwleigh and Gidleigh, he has also been covering the North of Dartmoor due to staffing issues. His main responsibility is public rights of way.

Cllr Warner queried if there is a schedule of repairs for kissing gates in particular the kissing gate on the footpath between Pound Street and Station Road. Pete explained that DNP's policy is to install self-closing gates where possible. Pete will inspect the footpath but explained that there isn't a stock issue so the gate on Station Road will not be replaced.

Cllr Jeffery also mentioned the footpath from Mardon House to Halscombe Farm. Pete explained that it is a constant battle to keep the path from slipping into the stream and DNP is waiting for the weather to improve.

The Chairman thanked Pete for his excellent work and for attending the meeting. He left the meeting.

Dartmoor National Park Representative Report

Cllr Jeffery reported that the National Park faces an uncertain financial future and without further core funding for service delivery, it will need to undertake a business review. A business review will have significant implications in terms of ability to deliver National Park purposes.

The National Park is still awaiting the Government to confirm the National Parks grant for 2024/25. In November 2023 the Government announced £10,000,000 additional funding for protected landscapes in England for 2024/25. If confirmed, it is likely to be capital funding to be spent in the financial year and not revenue funding which is what they most need. This makes it difficult to plan ahead, the auditors have suggested a 5-year plan should be done.

There are a number of volunteers working with the National Park such as Conservationists, Educational Guides and Walking Guides; no payment is received for this other than mileage charges. Educational walks bring in a small sum every year but they are beginning to dwindle now as schools are strapped for cash.

District Councillor Report

The District Councillor report is attached at appendix 1 on page 26. The Chairman thanked Cllr Farrand-Rogers for providing a written report.

44/2023 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted the Highways working group had accepted the grant from Teignbridge District Council.

It was noted that Station Road has been through a Devon County Council (DCC) Speed Compliance Action Review Forum and the process concluded that no action was required.

45/2024 CHAIRMANS DISCRETION

The Chairman reminded councillors about next week's full council training delivered by Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC).

The Chairman informed the council that Teignbridge is holding a resident's consultation on their council strategy in the Sports Centre on 25th April. She asked councillors to attend.

The Chairman informed the Council that Mel Stride, MP had invited her as Chair of the council to a meeting about the future of the Hospital. At this point she isn't able to write a report but is it safe to say that with the funding pressures on the NHS they are looking seriously about whether they continue to keep the Hospital in NHS ownership. At present it is used as office space for a number of Royal Devon United Hospital Staff, NEDCare and on an ad hoc basis by the GP surgery. The

Chairman hopes to bring a paper to the April meeting so the council can decide on the council's interest in the matter.

46/2024 OPEN SPACES REPORT

The Open Spaces monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted and is attached at appendix 2 on page 27. The Clerk noted that the volunteer who cared for the war memorial flower beds is retiring, a replacement has been found. The council noted its thanks to the volunteer for her excellent work at the memorial.

47/2024 CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting with District Cllr Jackie Hook, a summary of the report is attached at appendix 3 on page 27.

The Chairman noted that March's Green Tip focuses on The Big Plastic Count which asks people to Count their plastic for one week – 11-17 March 2024.

The Chairman informed the council about an arts festival run by Action Climate Teignbridge for a week in June.

48/2024 INTERNAL FINANCIAL REGULATOR REPORT

Cllr Bridger had checked the accounts for January.

49/2024 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Council considered its monthly schedule of payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Farrand-Rogers, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved to approve** the schedule of payments at appendix 4 on page 30. There was one abstention. *LGA 1972 s150(5)*

50/2024 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from an informal group in Ashburton for discussion of car parks asking the council to join their discussions.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved to reply** to the group thanking them for drawing the council's attention to the campaign and asking them to keep the council updated. There was one abstention.

2. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Moretonhampstead Swimming Pool asking the council to write a letter of support for the pool.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Hampton, and **resolved to write** a letter of support noting that the Swimming Pool is very important in our community, it is well supported and brings visitors to the town. *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19*

3. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from a member of the public expressing disappointment with the recent EV charge point installation.

The clerk noted that the council had considered the proposed Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge points in July 2021 and whilst it welcomed the provision of EV charge points in Moretonhampstead it rejected the proposed location in Court Street and suggested that Court Street car park would be more suitable.

Cllr Short noted the EV Charge point appears to exceed the permitted advertisement dimensions so in theory they should have applied for advertisement consent.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Walden, and **resolved to thank** them for the correspondence noting the council's disappointment in the location as it had previously expressed

concern and the appearance of the EV charge point albeit that we need to encourage electric vehicle use. The council will forward the correspondence to DNPA, DCC and TDC. There was one abstention.

4. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from the Treasurer of Launceston Velo notifying the council of an upcoming cycle event.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved to reply** thanking them for the information on the Launceston Velo. Moretonhampstead has unfortunately had incidents of poor road etiquette with other non-race bike events. Please can the organisers get in touch with the clerk to take advice on where the marshals should be positioned to protect pedestrians.

5. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Moretonhampstead Development Trust notifying the council of an increase in the office rent and service charges.

Cllr Fileman-Wright notified the council that she had sought extra information from the Chair of MDT around how the service charges are apportioned throughout the building.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Farrand-Rogers and **resolved that in principle** the council has no objections to the rent increase, but the council would like confirmation from MDT about how the service charges are apportioned throughout the building. Subject to confirmation Cllr Evans will agree the increase. There were two abstentions. *Local Government Act 1972 s.111*

6. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from BT notifying the council of a price increase. The correspondence was noted.

51/2024 DEVON AND TORBAY DEVOLUTION DEAL

The summary of the meeting hosted by Devon Association of Local Councils and a link to the Devon and Torbay deal website had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors expressed disappointment in the deal.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans and **resolved** that the Clerk and Chair finalise a draft and circulate to the council before sending to include the following points:

1. Total amount of funding coming to Devon of £16 million over three years is very small when compared to the existing capital expenditure across Devon and Torbay.
2. Don't feel the proposals tackle the underlying structural issues with Devon's complex arrangements of local authorities.
3. Concerned that District, Town, and Parish Councils have an insufficient role in decision making.
4. Concerned with the weighting given to Torbay and Devon on the Cabinet which risks disenfranchising Town and Parish Councils and rural areas.

52/2024 FINANCE AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The draft minutes of the Finance and Policy meeting held on 20th February had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Warner and **resolved to approve** the draft Data Protection Policy. There was one abstention.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Austin and **resolved to approve** the draft Action Plan with the agreed amendments. There was one abstention.

53/2024 OPEN SPACES RECOMENDATIONS

The draft minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 20th February had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans and **resolved to:**

1. **accept** the offer of help (in Cllr Hodge's report) to manage and maintain the tree with many thanks from the parish council.
2. **continue** discussions with the Allotment Association with a view to siting a shed on Cllr Austin's Allotment at minimum expense to store the signs.
3. **leave** the moles in the Sentry.
4. **leave** the open spaces contract as it is.
5. **remove** the damaged cross from the Churchyard and not replace it.

There was one abstention.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Evans and **resolved to accept** the lengthsman tender. Cllr Austin abstained from the vote.

54/2024 DEVON AND CORNWALL PERFORMANCE

The Devon and Cornwall Police performance report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted.

55/2024 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Highways working group update had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Warner updated the council on the meeting held on 1st March with Joseph Van der Steen. The Highways working group were satisfied that the feasibility study will fulfil the brief. The clerk will circulate the feasibility study as soon as it is received.

56/2024 BENCHES

The Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Keep and **resolved to agree** to the requests below:

1. To purchase a memorial bench to replace an existing bench.
2. Developer to remove the bench at Green Hill.
3. Purchase a memorial plaque for an existing bench.

There was one abstention.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm

TO DO ACTIONS

- Clerk to make payments
- Clerk to respond to correspondence in accordance with min no. 50/2024
- Clerk to publish Approved policies on website
- Clerk to action open spaces recommendations
- Chair and Clerk to draft a response to the Devolution Deal
- Clerk to action bench requests

MPC Minutes 05.03.2024 Attachment no.1 – District Councillor Report

The Teignbridge District Council meeting last week dealt with several pressing issues.

It approved the Budget proposals without dissent - not even an attempt at an amendment, which suggests that nothing better is on offer.

This comes against a background where central government has been steadily cutting the size of the grant to local government, where central government has capped the amount by which council tax can rise, thus leaving councils with the choice between increasing charges and cutting services. In the end, the District tax rise is 2.99%, or £5.70 per annum for a Band D property.

The really big spenders are, of course, the County Council and the Police Authority.

Good news is that the Council agreed to impose the empty house premium after one year, instead of two.

As I reported to the last meeting, the management of the "Devolution Deal " is to be in the hands of an Executive Committee of six councillors, three from Devon County Council and three from Torbay. This represents a considerable loss of power for Teignbridge (and the other Devon district councils) over our own area.

These proposals are currently open for comment, until 24th March, TDC had a discussion, and agreed to leave sending in comments to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council. All comments in the debate were negative, except for those from the Leader of the Conservative Group.

In particular, at present there is a UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to which TDC has direct access, and uses this to help fund the building of more social housing. Here we are in competition with all local councils across the UK and are very successful in getting funding. If instead, this funding comes to the County Combined Authority, we would be in direct competition with other Devon District councils, including Torbay, which would have both voice and vote in taking decisions.

Teignbridge has 1300 families on the housing waiting list.

"Devolution" in Conservative-speak, means the complete opposite of what it says.

An enormous amount of time was spent on the question of the project for the pedestrian enhancement scheme for Queen Street in Newton Abbot. This is being done along with the County Council, and the funding comes from the government's Future High Street Fund.

Opposition to it comes from the councillors of the South Devon Alliance (previously Newton Says No), who mobilised shopkeepers to turn up and make speeches in the public question time session. This went on for ages and ages. The main objection seemed to be that any roadworks would disrupt their businesses in the short term, and that therefore the project should be cancelled. There would be a cost to Teignbridge taxpayers in doing this.

Can I invite councillors to say if they themselves use Newton Abbot to do their shopping, in particular in the part of the main shopping road that leads to the railway station. For my part, I do most of my shopping in Moretonhampstead, and when I go further afield, I tend to go to Okehampton.....

One other item on the agenda was to approve the Strata Business Plan. This is an organisation that runs TDC's internet system. I find this most unsatisfactory, so I spoke against this item.

The Council also agreed to accept the renewal of the grounds maintenance contract. This contract covers maintenance for the Court Street car park, Bidder House and Embleford Crescent, and nothing at all in North Bovey, Manaton and Lustleigh. In contrast, there are 79 sites included just in the

Newton Abbot Town Council area. In effect, we are paying for maintenance of quite a lot in Moretonhampstead, and also contributing to maintenance in the rest of Teignbridge. A full council meeting is not the place to go into details, but I spoke against the motion and abstained from voting on it, so I think the point has been made.

This Council meeting lasted for seven hours.

District Councillor John Farrand-Rogers

MPC Minutes 05.03.2024 Attachment no.2 – Open Spaces Report

Inspection carried out by: S Parkin

Date: March 2024

Area	Comments	Action
The Sentry	Looks good.	None.
Churchyard	Looks good. All pre dug graves have been used/reserved. Gravedigger has opened a further 5 plots: 3 single and 2 doubles. Reminded the public to keep dogs on a lead.	None.
The Play Area	Looks good.	None.
The Henge	Timber needs replacing on seats.	Cllr Jeffery to repair – someone to fit.
The Pound	Ok	None
Cross Tree	Looks good.	None.
Geneva Island/War Memorial	Looks good.	None.
Wheelwright's wheel	Looks good.	None.
Allotment	Looks good.	None.
Seats/benches/Lamp posts	A few benches in need of painting.	Seek volunteers to rub down and repaint benches in spring/summer.
Gates and railings	Looks good.	None
Bus Shelter	Looks good.	None
Recycling bins	Looks good.	None

MPC Minutes 05.03.2024 Attachment no.3 – Summary of Meeting

District Councillor Jackie Hook meeting 1/03/24

Attendees:

District Cllr Jackie Hook, Executive Member Climate Change, Flood and Coastal Risk Management, Trees

Cllr Fileman-Wright, Cllr Farrand-Rogers, Cllr Hodges

Jackie mentioned the following points:

TDC Resident Newsletter - sign up at this link <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/news/stay-in-touch/newsletter-sign-up/>

Please tell everyone you can about this, it is the easiest way for everyone to interact with TDC.

TDC is a Lib Dem Council - The key objectives identified in our strategy are:

- a carbon neutral district
- better quality and affordable housing
- good wages and jobs for all
- active and sustainable travel choices
- encouraging our young people to stay
- a healthier population living in resilient communities
- a clean, green, and safe environment
- an open council

Council Strategy work - under "One Teignbridge" branding.
<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/onetaignbridge>

Residents' workshops - Details of all current workshops are at this link, plus survey form. But please also publicise by other means for those without internet.

Are you able to coordinate local people that would help get those without transport to the workshop?

Community Leader workshops - share your knowledge on the current challenges your communities and services face, and your views on how we can work together more effectively to support the delivery of your service to your community.

The workshops will be taking place at the following locations:

- The Kenn Centre, Kennford: Tuesday 26 March, 10am to 12.30pm
- Forde House, Newton Abbot: Tuesday 26 March, 6pm to 8.30pm

Carbon Action Plan Part 2 - Making Changes Study - <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-wellbeing/climate-change/making-changes-study/about-the-making-changes-study/>

The Making Changes Study aims to help people make changes to their lifestyle to save money, improve their health and fitness, and help them play their part in reducing the district's carbon footprint.

Over 60 people have volunteered to be part of the study and over the next six months will attend a series of online interactive workshops which focus on three key areas – Transport, Energy, Home & Food.

Climate is high up on TDC agenda. A recent residents survey revealed 79% of residents are concerned about the environment to some degree. Jackie noted that every vote concerning climate had unanimous votes.

Devon Climate Emergency Facebook page regularly shares updates on positive work in Devon.

Trees and Tree Planting – TDC has committed to planting a tree for every person in the District. A meeting with Moor Trees and the Woodland Trust which highlighted a need for more tree nurseries. Catherine mentioned the good work Trees in Time are doing and the tree nursery at the Sports Centre.

EV Charger in TDC Car Parks – There is a scheme to install EV Chargers in Teignbridge car parks. Court Street car park is in tranche 3. Jackie will find out how many will be installed and when.

Biodiversity Net Gain – Catherine asked Jackie what TDC's approach is to BNG. The policy and approach that is proposed in the Teignbridge Submission Local Plan 2020 - 2040 (yet to be adopted) is policy EN10 in the attached Environment chapter. However, I'm not sure that this will be applicable in Moretonhampstead, it may be that you need to ask DNP what their policy is.

Catherine told Jackie about the good work in Moretonhampstead including:

Wildflower Area – The council is trying to start a wildflower area in the churchyard. We need to think about planting more seeds, mixed with topsoil and sand.

Tree Planting – Queen's Green Canopy, Trees in Time.

Open Spaces Contract – Sympathetic grass cutting.

Lengthsman – MPC is contracting a lengthsman to tidy the town in an environmentally friendly way.

Planning Applications – The committee considers the environmental impact of planning applications.

MPC and MDT working party – Projects such as community wetland, green tips, and tree nursery.

Agricultural Plastic Waste Study – Grateful for the TDC grant. The study is nearly finished and ready to be shared with rural communities to address the agricultural plastic waste problem.

Signposting – Residents think the PC has more responsibility than they do, signpost to the correct department/council.

Catherine asked the following questions:

Networking Group – Can TDC bring town and parish councils together to discuss climate experience, ideas, successful projects. Jackie suggested ACT could coordinate this.

Devolution – Catherine asked what TDC's position is on devolution. Jackie mentioned Phil Adams, DCC spoke to councillors about devolution but unfortunately, she missed the meeting. She suggested inviting him to talk to the PC - phil.adams@devon.gov.uk

Jackie asked what answers she would get if she went out on to the streets of Moreton and asked people "What their views of Teignbridge District Council were".

Car Parks - various issues over charges, too much, Winter/Summer charges etc, lack of communication about the car park.

Parish Sweeper - Reduction in visits.

Affordable housing - Need for affordable rented and to purchase properties, especially small properties.

Queens Road - Issues over condition of unadopted road, where Teign Housing they believed were leading on improvements but little visible progress.

Need for rural skip - Jackie informed the meeting this was unlikely to return, and that perhaps the PC could look at other means of providing that service.

Can Recycling - Request for can recycling facility alongside other recycling containers in car park.

Funding - Pleased with the funding received as part of the Shared Prosperity Fund for the market's idea and Agricultural Plastics project.

Communication - Lack of response from TDC officers to emails sent.

MPC Minutes 05.03.2024 Attachment no.4 – List of payments March 2024

Finance Report

To receive the Finance Report

On 29 February, the Accounts stood at:

Lloyds Current Account	£3,766.11
Lloyds Deposit Account	£61,001.82

Standing Orders

		Date Cleared
Moretonhampstead Development Trust Office Rent	£379.48	01/03/2024
BT Telephone and Broadband	£40.14	15/02/2024

Direct Debit

Microsoft 365 subscription	£12.36	05/02/2024
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Mandatory Payments

Staffing payments (Salary, pension and quarterly HMRC)	£1,591.22	29/02/2024
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Card Payments

Post Office	£6.00	21/02/24
Post Office	£6.00	26/02/24

Income

Interment payments	£1,436.00	Various
Bank Interest	£71.90	09/02/2024

Invoices for payment – to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the Payment Schedule

Payment Method	Payee and reason	Budget	Power to spend	Net Payment	Payment inc VAT
Bank Transfer	Community Club <i>Hire of the Hall 06/02</i>	EX5	LGA 1972 s111	£15.00	£15.00
Bank Transfer	MDT <i>2nd Tidy Teignbridge payment</i>	EX6	LGA 1972 s111	£1,000	£1,000
Bank Transfer	AR Rural Solutions <i>Replace Fence and gate post</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£296.50	£296.50
Bank	Bradford's	EX6	Open	£1.81	£1.81

30. Signed.....

02 April 2024

Transfer	<i>Fence materials (remaining balance paid by credit)</i>		Spaces Act 1906 s10		
Bank Transfer	M P Plumbing <i>3 x interment 19/02, 22/02 & 04/03 5 x pre dug graves</i>	EXCEM2	LGA 1972 s214	£2,525.00	£2,525.00
Bank Transfer	DALC <i>Full council training course</i>	EX11	LGA 1972 s111	£314.38	£368.88
Bank Transfer	DALC <i>Chairing Local Council Meetings</i>	EX11	LGA 1972 s 111	£30.00	£36.00