**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 18th APRIL 2019**

**AT 7.15pm**

**AT THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE**

**In attendance**: Coun.Mrs.Northwood (Chair)

Coun.Carnell

Coun.Mrs.Calland

Coun.Mrs.Olding

Coun.Mrs.Hutchings

Coun.Rattlidge

**The Clerk:** Miss.Cat.Freston

**District & County Councillor:** Coun.Dewhirst on behalf of the District Council

**2 Members of the Public were in attendance**

**Apologies:** Coun.Farrow, Coun.Smith, Coun.Courtier, Coun.Tomkinson

**Chair:** Coun.Mrs.Northwood

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the last Assembly were taken as read and approved.

The Chairman welcomed everyone present at the meeting.

**SPEAKER: Becca Hewitt,** who is the Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager at Teignbridge District Council, and has worked there for 21 years. Becca’s main priorities are:

* Domestic and sexual violence and abuse
* Vulnerability
* Child sexual exploitation/abuse
* Drug and alcohol
* Anti-social behaviour
* Modern slavery
* Preventing extremism
* Reducing reoffending.

Becca spoke about anti-social behaviour and works with lots of different agencies across the whole of Devon, but the main area she covers are Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon. Becca’s aim is to make our communities even safer places to live, work and enjoy by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, whilst building capabilities and confidence in people across our region.

Becca **meets** on a regular basis with various agencies to set agreed priorities, which is done by reviewing gathered intelligence about our area from sources such as the Devon strategic assessment. If you have any concerns of things happening around the community please contact Becca Hewitt at Teignbridge District Council.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Coun.Mrs.Northwood**

As we meet here this evening not only has another year gone by since our last Parish Assembly, but next month will see the County and Parish Council elections, which means that for many of your Councillors here we will have completed another four years of service to the community. My own grandfather had once been Chairman of the Parish Council , and so for over one hundred years everyone who has been a Councillor, has in their own way, continued to work in all the changing times, to do the best they can for our village.

This meeting tonight gives us a chance to look back on the year just gone, but I am not going to report on works that have taken place over the last year, but will leave that to the Chairmen of the various sub-Committees. I would however mention a couple of items which may not come up elsewhere.

Back in August 2018 following David Palethorpe’s resignation we co-opted Nick Courtier onto the Parish Council. We would like to thank David for all he did whilst a Parish Councillor, and are very pleased indeed to have welcomed Nick.

Also since the summer the Devon Air Ambulance helicopter night landing site at the recreation field has become up and running. We would like to give thanks to those who helped the Parish Council with some additional funds, to include monies received from the Ipplepen Community Fund, District Councillor Alistair Dewhirst’s fund, and also funding from the Devon Air Ambulance themselves.

The Neighbourhood Plan team has continued to work so hard to move this project forward, and Coun. Steve Rattlidge must be thanked for all his input into this. We are so grateful to our villagers who have come forward to help develop this plan, and thank all parishioners who have recently completed the housing need survey, which was the next step in assisting the plan. The Neighbourhood Plan team hope to be able to have a display at the annual Cottage Garden Society Show in July so you can all see up-to-date progress on the plan – a very important plan to protect the future of our Parish.

I would like to give thanks to Cat for all her work over the last year. We welcomed her as our new Clerk in January 2018 and I am sure all Councillors join me in saying a big “well done”, as she has learnt and carried out her duties brilliantly.

My term of being Chairman of the Council is now coming to an end. It is a position which I have been very proud to hold again, but could not have done it without the support of my Vice-Chairman Roger Carnell, and all my fellow Councillors. I always say there is no “I” in team, and would like to thank each and every one of you for all what you have done throughout my term. T.E.A.M. spells out Together – Everyone - Achieves - More, and I feel that together we have been a great team. It just remains for me to wish the next Chairman, who takes over the position next month, every success in the role.

**COUNTY & D ISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – Coun.Dewhirst**

This has been a year of change at Teignbridge after the appointment of Phil Shears as Managing Director. Long serving Director Sue Aggett left in the summer, followed soon after by her partner, Monitoring Officer, Neil. Mr Justin Price-Jones joined as new Monitoring Offer, but was soon replaced by Ms Karen Trickey. Today she changed our Code of Conduct, something I disagreed with. I believe that the new Code gives too much weight to the ruling Party and feel that voters should have the final say on Councillor’s behaviour not a Star Chamber.

Finally, we said goodbye to Nick Davies our Chief Planning Officer who left to join the Planning Inspectorate, Senior Planner Ros Eastman has taken his place. However, until the Council can get their number of planner up to full complement this will be a service with much to complain about.

I reported on the new “We are Watching You” anti-fly tipping campaign. It started well with reductions in the annual 500 tonne amount costing us virtually £60,000. I warned Parishioners about employing non-certified waste transporters – big fines can now be levied and it is your responsibility to ensure the person you are paying is certificated.

The Local Plan and the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan continue to rumble on. Last Autumn the Council approved the GESP however virtually the next day our partner Council in East Devon rejected the proposed Plan. Councillors described it as not fit for purpose and described it as just a PR document.

Finally, Teignbridge snatched defeat from the jaws of victory with their Public Spaces Protection Order on Dogs. I had reported on this proposed PSPO a year before and yet when finally unveiled it contained basic mistakes, including beaches in the dog ban which were never intended to be included, forgot about working dogs and basically managed to upset just about everybody. I led a call in to full Council of this piece of legislation (the first time anyone was aware that it had been attempted) to ensure that we had a workable set of rules. Simply put dog fouling in any public space is now fineable, no more than six dogs can be managed by one person on a lead and dogs must be on a lead on the highway, pavement or cycleway. I hope that this will help our Parish Council in that the Byelaw on the Playing Field is now enforceable.

To County matters:

In May last year I reported on the arrangements for the opening of IKEA in Exeter, appointment of the new CX of the HOTSW LEP, David Ralph, and the plans to double productivity in Devon and Somerset over the next 20 years. Closer to home was the opening of the Teign Estuary Cycle Trail between the Racecourse and the Passage House Inn – a year later we are working on plans for the much more difficult section down to Teignmouth.

In June Ash Dieback reared its ugly head and I reported that there are nearly half a million Ash trees on Council land that will die – 20% of our total in the County. I reported that it had not reached Teignbridge, but sadly we know now that its pace of infection has increased rapidly and the Council included £350k in next year’s budget for this distressing disease.

In July Civil Enforcement Officers received additional powers to seize cars belonging to offenders who have three or more unpaid parking tickets. County Lines first reared its ugly head and sadly we now know that although Devon is right in the forefront of countering this terrible menace in our society the Drug Barons are still making millions from others suffering.

August saw me reporting on Devon’s response to unaccompanied child asylum seekers – 111 have arrived in Devon, some have moved on to families in other parts of the UK, but only last Friday I saw one young man originally from Iraq receive a prize for his amazing progress towards taking A levels in Computer Science, Pure Maths, Physics and Astro Physics – if ever there was a credit to our County it has to be him! I also reported on the launch of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – already it is a hot topic with its new definition of Housing Delivery Test – basically it means loads more houses in the District.

September saw me reporting on suicide and loneliness in Devon as well as the now defunct Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, developed by Teignbridge but for the whole of the Exeter Metro area, and its demise at the first hurdle.

The rest of the Autumn saw reports on the Council’s campaign to encourage businesses to recruit more disabled people, the announcement of Average Speed Cameras on the South Devon Highway, the letting of more County Farms, Farmwise at the Westpoint and an EU Grant of £1 million funding to help deliver low energy projects across the County. Finally, I reported on my involvement with bringing a report on Problem Gambling in Devon to the Cabinet and our Council’s support for Responsible Gambling Week in November.

This year I have reported on rough sleepers in Teignbridge, the value of Shopmobility, repairs to Shaldon’s singing bridge, the damming report by Ofsted on how Devon looks after children with Special Needs and of course Devon’s £500 million Budget.

**FINANCE REPORT Clerk on behalf of Coun.Smith**

The balance at the end of the financial year 2018/2019 stands at £32,292.04 in the working account which includes outstanding VAT of £1,082.69. The allocated reserve account currently holds £40,950.01 and therefore our total financial assets stand at £73,242.05.

Expenditure for 2018/19 has included the Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing site, the purchase and installation of a junior slide. Repairs have been made to the fencing along the Recreation Ground and access road. General repairs have been carried out to some of the play equipment, where various timber posts have been replaced as well as the Cargo net.

We now have some funds set aside in the reserve account to enable work to regularise the unofficial footpath that has developed along the A381 from Parkhill to Two Mile Oak to begin once we get the all clear to begin work. Grant funding has been received from various sources including £2,300 from the Communities Together Fund and £1,000 from the Community Fund towards the new junior slide. We have also received £2,000 from the Community Fund towards the DAA night landing site. We have received a total of £1,750.80 from the Community Infrastructure Levy payments from Teignbridge District Council and that money is being set aside for future projects. These are currently only small amounts raised through development within the village.

The Precept for 2019/20 is set at £65,120 paid to us by Teignbridge District Council in two instalments at the end of April and September 2019.

Finally, I should like to add my thanks to Cat for all her hard work in helping to keep our finances in good shape over the last year and to the Finance committee for their help with the precept.

**PLANS REPORT – Coun.Mrs.Calland on behalf of Coun.Farrow**

As another council year draws to a close we have a chance to reflect upon what we have achieved in the way of planning and planning matters. Although Ipplepen Parish Council is only a consultee we like to think that our opinions and recommendations are listened to by Teignbridge District Council and form part of their final decision.

The Planning Group have commented upon forty four planning applications, a slight increase on last year; to the majority we have recommended approval, others we have not. We have, this year, seen a further increase in applications for equestrian facilities, agricultural buildings and the provision of dwellings in association with established developments. We have had some success in being part of the process of having such applications refused by Teignbridge District Council as being inappropriate.

Recommendations for these and all other applications are not given without full discussion and if the need arises a site visit; either at the monthly Planning Group meeting or a Full Parish Council Meeting. To this end, when a particular recommendation is made at a Planning Group meeting or a Full Parish Council and to have it overturned by Teignbridge District Council later, you could think ‘why do we bother’. Your Planning Group do ‘bother’ because we want what is right for Ipplepen; we love our village and will continue to fight to maintain its character and unique nature.

We are still having to review Retrospective Planning Applications although there has been a slight decline. We are concerned that the attitude of ‘you can build anything anywhere and get away with it’ is still prevalent.

The Planning Group are now well versed in the reviewing of Planning Applications via the Planning Portal. The use of modern technology has reduced the need for drawings and the like to be forwarded but we do have problems, on occasions, of trying to read a drawing clearly.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors who have served on the Planning Group for their time and effort over the past year and would like to reassure the Parish that we will continue to look after their interests, as far as we are able, in respect of planning matters.

April 2019

**RE-APPROVAL OF PLANNING GUIDELINES**

There were no changes to the present Planning Guidelines for Ipplepen.

**HIGHWAYS** –  **Coun.Mrs.Olding on behalf of Coun.Smith**

Considering the constraints on the County Council Highways budget there has been quite a lot of improvement and upgrading work done in Ipplepen during the past twelve months. Recent work on the drainage systems and surfacing on the Totnes Road, extensive patching of Biltor Road, the resurfacing of Croft Road and a section of Clampitt Road and other smaller works have been carried out. We do have a number of areas of concern that include the condition of Cooke Drive, Mayfair Road, Luscombe Close and its pedestrian footways and also Biltor Road footway. However, general safety defects are being attended to as they are being reported with a greater or lesser degree of permanence in some cases.

The Highways Advisory Group have been meeting on a bi-monthly basis to discuss progress on items that have been brought to our attention.

Councillor Dewhirst and I met with the Head of Highways, Simon Pearson to discuss a potential way forward with a footpath to Two Mile Oak. He felt that DCC could not commit to such a large major project which would cost in the region of a quarter of a million pounds and suggested that we use Community Infrastructure Levy monies towards the cost. As we are all aware very little building has taken place in Ipplepen over the past few years and therefore our CIL contributions are very small.

Following discussion within the Highways Group, it was suggested that perhaps it might be a good idea to scrap this project as it stands, as we have been going round in circles since 2014 and instead include it within our Neighbourhood Plan, as it is in no doubt that further building will have to take place in Ipplepen within the long term future and it will be then that larger amounts of CIL money will be obtainable. In the meantime, however, it might be affordable to achieve the first part of the footpath from ‘Rowdens’ down to the dog bin. In this event the Parish Council would be responsible for the maintenance and public liability insurance.

Our public footpaths and bridleways have been inspected by Cllr Rattlidge and I and reports sent to the County Council’s Public Rights of Way with a request for some funding towards their maintenance. There are still one or two outstanding issues, in particular with footpath 1 through the churchyard, where the concrete is starting to break up and footpath eight where some minor flooding is occurring. I have had Ros Davies, who manages the PROW department, over to inspect these and work to improve footpath 8 was scheduled for late autumn 2018. That didn’t take place and we are hopeful that it can be carried out in the new fiscal year.

In closing, I should like to thank the members of the advisory group for their diligence and gently remind residents, whose garden hedges and shrubs encroach onto footways, that they should keep them trimmed back to allow safe access for people with disabilities, the blind and partially sighted and those with small children who are sometimes forced onto the roadway to avoid such obstacles.

**AMENITIES REPORT** – **Coun.Carnell**

2018/2019 has been another busy period for the Amenities group,

In May 2018, work on the Air Ambulance landing site was completed, and the site became fully operational. I am sure that this will remain a great asset to the Village for many years to come.

Also in the Park regular repairs continue to be required, this past year we have replaced various timber posts, repaired climbing nets, replaced swing seats in the Toddlers play area and replaced sections of the access road fence which had blown over.

Also, with the aid of grant funding we have at long last been able to replace the children’s slide which was removed many years ago.

New hand dryers were installed at the Clampitt Road toilets and drains which had been causing so many problems at the Park toilets were re-laid. I am also pleased to say that we now have a new contract with a local lady who is doing a wonderful job keeping both the Parish toilet blocks clean.

During the last year our grass cutting contractor has taken over the cutting of the entire park area and members of the Amenities group are now emptying the various bins within the Park, with all waste now being conveyed from site by commercial contractors.

Quotes were received and the outside of the Mill Centre was redecorated and plastic facias were fitted.

The Parish Council with the aid of our grass cutting Contractor has now taken over the cutting of all various grass verges throughout the Parish, which had previously been done by DCC, this should help us to control the various cutting to more appropriate times throughout the season.

During the last year the Amenities group has again also carried out regular inspections and dealt with the various issues associated with all the Parish owed properties including the Allotments.

To conclude, I would again like to thank all members of the Amenities Sub Committee for giving their time freely to help the Community, our new Clerk who has been brilliant, and all members of the Community who have help in any way throughout the last twelve months.

**OPEN FORUM**

They were no members of the public present at the meeting

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm.**