##

## **IPPLEPEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Meeting held at Ipplepen Millennium Centre**

## **On Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.15pm**

## **In attendance**:

## Coun.Carnell (Chairman) Coun.Rattlidge

Coun.Mrs.Olding (Vice Chair) Coun.Smith

## Coun.Palethorpe Coun.Mrs.Calland

Coun.Farrow

## Miss Cat Freston – Parish Clerk

## eCoun.Dewhirst - District/County Councillor

Five Members of the public present

**The following minutes will be considered for approval at the next Parish Council Meeting and may be subject to change until that time**.

## 170) **APOLOGIES** – Coun.Burnham, Coun.Ranjit

Coun.Armitage has resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect. The Parish Council would like to thank Coun.Armitage for the work that he was involved in during his time on the Parish Council.

171) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** - No declaration of interest

172) **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2022, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

173) **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** –

A member of the public reported overgrown hedges along East Street. They will be reporting on the DCC Highways website. It was also reported about a wall along East Street which looks unstable. Coun.Dewhirst has previously reported the wall and a structural engineer confirmed that the wall was sound.

174) **CORRESPONDENCE AND OUTSIDE BODIES** – Parish Clerk

a) The OPCC Grant that the Parish Council were applying for, for CCTV has been withdrawn due to the grant being aimed at holding workshops for illegal drug and encouraging young people in activities to prevent drug use.

b) The Parish Council’s bid of £1,320.80 has been successful for the Tidy Teignbridge Local Area Cleansing Fund 2022-2023. Litter picking equipment will be purchased once the grant has been received.

c) An email has been received from Ipplepen SOUP Community Fundraising Event, which is being held on Friday 8th April 2022, 6pm at Ipplepen Community Hub. SOUP brings communities together to enjoy a simple supper of soup, bread and a beverage that generates a profit to be invested back into the community. You can reserve your place at tcvs.eventbrite.co.uk or if you have any questions you can contact anja@teigncvs.org.uk

d) An email has been received regarding the new Pay Agreement for 2021/2022. The Annual National pay rise of 1.75% will be back dated to 1st April 2021.

e) An email has been received asking if the Parish Council would consider a grant to aid an individual in the purchase of the Post Office. The Parish Council are not involved in providing grants to individuals. **Action –** The Clerk to reply.

**Outside Bodies:** - Nothing to report.

175) **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – Coun.Dewhirst

**County Report**

In the light of the Prime Minister’s announcement last Monday, Devon’s Director of Public Health has made the following announcement:

“What is clear is that it is vital that people continue to look out for each other, and do all they can to reduce risk, especially to those who are more vulnerable. That means being respectful of other people’s concerns and personal situations. **The public health advice is that anyone who tests positive for coronavirus, or who shows symptoms of having it, including a high temperature or cough, should stay at home and avoid contact with others.** **The same can be said for any other infectious illness, such a flu, or vomiting and diarrhoea.** We need to get to a place whereby it’s commonly accepted that when someone’s not well and there’s risk of spreading that virus, that they stay home to reduce the risk of transmission to others.”

Trading Standards is urging householders, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, to be on their guard for rogue traders who might try to cash in on the damage caused by recent storms.

Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service is urging householders to always reject offers of goods and services from cold callers, which could include people claiming to be tree surgeons or roofers, and other tradespeople who call or knock on the door uninvited. There is concern that desperate householders may drop their guard and be duped by unscrupulous traders.

Residents can report rogue traders or get advice from the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08082231133.

Council leaders have welcomed Government backing for a Devon, Plymouth and Torbay County Deal aimed at delivering on key economic and social priorities for the area. The announcement by Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove commits the Government to working with a strong partnership of councils on the detail of a deal as part of the Government’s levelling up policy.

When finalised, it’s hoped the County Deal with Government will provide councils across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay with extra powers and influence to improve economic and social conditions in all the communities they serve.

The devolution bid was based on the strong foundation of the councils in Devon working well and closely together, as they have for many years, but especially so throughout the pandemic. A new purpose and unity has, without doubt, been forged.

I am cautious about the Combined Mayoral Authority model, believing it can lead to a situation where the districts are marginalised and decisions are taken very much more remotely from the communities they affect.

Devon is hugely short-changed by Government - you need only look at the loss of money from the rate support grant, the massive budget hole for special educational needs in Devon and so much more. For some, the devolution deal will be headlined as more money for Devon.... the reality is that we'll get back some of what has been taken.

In short, Devon is likely to find it has lost a fiver and found sixpence!

However, we must be pragmatic and seize the opportunities that are available - and if we can get the additional resources we need to deliver more and better jobs, the affordable housing that is so essential and boost Devon's reputation as a place to do business, then we shouldn't stand on the sidelines - but grasp what is available, work with Government and continue together to lobby for Devon.

Devon County Council approved its lowest council tax rise for seven years – this is because councils are only allowed to increase their budget by 2.99%. In previous years they have been able to increase by up to 3% on top of this for social care- however that was spread over three years but could be used in one go – and so they did.

It means council taxpayers in Devon will be asked for £1,556.46 for a Band D property to help fund vital services for the most vulnerable children and adults and our highway network.

The Conservative budget was approved at last Thursday’s full council meeting by 35 votes to 12 with seven abstentions. An alternative Liberal Democrat budget was defeated by 42 votes to 12.

But there will still be spending increases of over 10 per cent on both children’s services and adult services and health to keep up with a rocketing rise in demand. These increases mask some worrying figures – staffing levels in the Adult and children’s services will rise by 498 to 3, 101. We will be spending not quite £1 million extra on these staff to tell people that we are cutting £3.5 million in care and support for older people, £3 million in support for people with leaning difficulties and £1.4 million to support people to live independently at home.

When it comes to Highways we are cutting £250k from retaining walls and bridges, £700k from safety work, £120k from network management, £300k from drainage maintenance and £100 from cyclic cleaning (gullies) – this is on top of inflation pressures of £1.56 million. Something I feel terrible about - we are planning to increase waste to landfill by 4,750 tonnes and reducing our recycled waste by 10,000 tonnes at a time when we should be decreasing the former and upping the latter.

Finally, we are cutting £120k from our Locality budgets, £462k for grant funding to communities and £329k for community grants. I guess the one bright spot is that our Libraries are planning to purchase 200,000 children’s books

The Council will take £22.9 million from emergency reserves and there will be cuts of £30 million. This is all without the Children’s High Needs Block budget which is expected to reach a staggering deficit of £110 million by the end of next year. All in all, a disaster for our County – it did not have to be this way.

Alistair Dewhirst - alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk

**District Report**

Last Tuesday Teignbridge held a 5 ¾ hour Council meeting to agree our Budget, the £9.2 million from the Future High Streets Fund and a number of other important items.

The Budget was generally well received having support from pretty much across the Chamber. We agreed to continue our almost unique 100% Council Tax reduction scheme for the poorest in our society. The Council Tax for a Band D property increases by 2.78% or £5.00 to £185.17 - meaning that our portion of your bill reduces to 8.5%. General reserves are increased to 12.8% of the net revenue budget or just over £2.0 million; Voluntary grants are kept to the same level as last year, with one small exception; the councillors community fund grant is increased to £1,200 each; a payment of £1,000,000 to reduce the pension deficit; fees and charges are kept in line with inflation. The capital programme includes jobs and homes through continuing support for housing whilst backing business and encouraging community-led planning.

Work has begun on the Teignbridge 100 affordable housing project with a second site in Newton Abbot nearing completion. An increasing rented programme across urban and rural sites has commenced and delivery will continue over the next 3 years. Increased investment for climate change projects following successful funding bids for low carbon heating and energy system improvements. Schemes are underway at leisure sites and Council offices with further provisions under the Carbon Action Plan.

During a fractious debate The Future High Street Fund which provides Newton Abbot with £9.2million of funding from the Government to invest in the town’s future prosperity was agreed. It will help support and create jobs and provide a new ‘offer’ not just to the town’s residents but the thousands more who live in neighbouring communities.

A new 4-screen cinema in the town centre is a major part of the plan. A new cinema will be a significant draw for people of all ages who will have reason to go into the town centre. There are improvements planned for Queen Street, to support the town centre and be a more inviting place for people to visit.

It was agreed that the Market Hall and Alex Cinema would be restored to its original design with a state of the art live entertainment facility, market hall and market dining area as well as a new Food Hall. This is the first part of nearly £100 million of investment planned in our local market town designed to restore footfall and business to the area.

Alistair Dewhirst - alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk

**Members agreed to consider agenda item 11 before agenda item 7 as the Parish Council’s Accountant was present at the meeting.**

176) **TO CONSIDER THE IDEA OF PURCHASING THE POST OFFICE** – Coun.Palethorpe

The Parish Council’s accountant was present to explain the query that was outstanding on the Public Works Loan application form.

It was agreed that Councillors would consider and discuss further before making any decisions.

177) **PLANNING** – Coun.Farrow

The Minutes of the Plans Meeting held on 16th February 2022 were approved and taken as read.

**To consider the following planning applications:**

**21/01746/FUL –** Proposed dwelling at Kiln Orchard, Beech Trees Lane.

**Comment:** Coun.Farrow proposed that as a neighbouring parish, Ipplepen Parish Council object to this application as they consider it an inappropriate development with the open countryside. Seconded by Coun.Mrs.Olding (All unanimous).

**22/00088/HOU –** Single storey rear extension at 3, Crokers Way, Ipplepen.

Coun.Farrow read out an email from a parishioner commenting on the above application as they were unable to log their comments on the TDC Planning Portal.

**Comment:** Coun.Farrow proposed that Ipplepen Parish Council object to this application as they have concerns that it will interfere with the amenity of the neighbouring property. Seconded by Coun.Mrs.Olding. (All unanimous).

178) **AMENITIES** - Coun.Palethorpe

The Minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 8th February 2022, were approved and taken as read.

a) **CCTV Recreation Ground**

The agreed enhanced CCTV will be installed at the Recreation Ground this month. The system will consist of four cameras that will provide full coverage of the Recreation Ground and the entrances to the Recreation Ground Toilet Block. Notices informing users that CCTV is in operation are to be fitted. A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out and the Council will have a CCTV Policy in place for when the CCTV system is installed.

The CCTV system will be registered under the Data Protection Act Regulations with HM Government.

b) **Recreation Ground Toilets - Maintenance.**

The specification for the refurbishment of the toilet block has been put on the Parish Council website and advertised on Spotted Ipplepen informing potential contractors of how to quote for the work.

c) **Recreation Ground Football Net**

A new net has been fitted.

d) **Tremlett Grove Swing.**

The new single bay swing set will be fitted in March.

e) **Grounds Maintenance**

The Parish Council grounds maintenance contractor has continued to provide an excellent service across the Parish during the recent period of heavy rain and very high winds.

f) **Trees - Devon Wildlife Trust - PLANT A TREE FOR THE FUTURE**

**Thank You Ipplepen**

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Devon Wildlife Trust event and collected trees to plant and improve the environment.

In all we gave away 200 trees and we’re sorry that some residents were disappointed that we ran out. The good news is that we will be endeavouring to hold a similar event this time next year so please watch this space.

Special thanks to Mabel and Sam for their efforts in planting the fruit trees which is the start of the Community Orchard and Cllr’s Roger Carnell and Dave Burnham.

g) The stock fence opposite the scout hut needs replacing. Coun.Palethorpe will discuss at the Amenities meeting on Tuesday 8th March 2022.

179) **FINANCE & PERSONNEL** – Coun.Mrs.Olding

**Balance No. £ 58,407.83**

Bank transfer from Reserve Account for Amenities £ 5,000.00

Bank transfer from Reserve Account of Play Equipment & £ 5,000.00

Skate Park Maintenance

MCMC - Reimbursement for electricity £ 52.82

Birbeck Landscapes – Purchase and removal of metal shed £ 75.00

Mill Centre – Rent £ 55.00

Scouts – Rent £ 125.00

ICC – Rent £ 112.50

**Balance £ 68,828.15**

**Invoices Received and Approved: £ 3,599.48**

**Balance £ 65,228.67**

**Reserve Account Balance £116,027.77**

**Overall Total £181,256.44**

**Items discussed:**

a) The clerk has 28.1 hours holiday remaining for 2021/2022 and would like permission to be paid for 14 hours in next month’s pay and carry forward 14.1 hours to 2022/2023.

This was duly approved (All unanimous).

b) As we are coming up to our Year end and the Clerk would like approval to move £30,000 into the reserve account before the next Precept is due in April 2022.

This was duly approved (All unanimous).

180) **HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY**

Coun.Smith met with Ros Davies on Footpath 2 to look at the drainage issues.

There is a road closure for Moor Road from 23rd May 2022 to 25th May 2022.

The next Highways meeting in on Wednesday 16th March 2022.

181) **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Coun.Rattlidge has managed to make in accessible formats of the Neighbourhood Plan together with consultation documents following help from Rob Kelley at Teignbridge District Council .

Together with these two documents we will need to

a) submit letter from Ipplepen Parish Council and

b) formulate basic conditions statement.

In viewing recent submission from Bovey Tracey this will be quite involved. They commissioned an outside planning consultancy in formulation and it is suggested that the Parish Council obtain quotations for similar.

Coun.Rattlidge has emailed Teignbridge District Council for their take on our position and potential alternatives.

This is particularly frustrating as felt we were very close to final submission of the plan. Councillors are happy to obtain quotations if necessary for this additional and unforeseen work.

182) **PLATINUM JUBILEE 2nd – 5th June 2022 – Coun.Mrs.Olding**

**Beating of the Bounds Thursday 2nd June 2022** **–** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd March 2022

**Platinum Picnic in the Park - 4th June 2022 -**

Coun.Mrs.Olding had a quote for the barriers, fencing around the field for £312.00. The quote was approved (All unanimous).

There will be a meeting with the caters. Coun.Palethorpe will need to carry out the Risk Assessments for both events.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th April 2022.

183) **APPROVAL OF CCTV POLICY**

Councillors (All unanimous) approved the Environmental CCTV Policy.

184) **APPROVE ASSET REGISTER**

All Councillors approved the Asset Register (All unanimous)

185) **DATE OF ANNUAL LITTER PICK**

The date will be confirmed by Coun.Dewhirst in due course.

186) **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – No comments.

187) To note the date of the next PC meeting: **Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7.15pm**

**Other meetings due:**

**B.Bounds 03rd March 2022 at 7pm**

**Amenities: 08th March 2022 at 7pm**

**Plans/Highways: 16th March 2022 at 6.45pm**

**MCMC 29th March 2022 at 5.30pm**

Meeting Closed at 21.40pm