

St GILES IN THE WOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on January 8th 2025

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Present: Mrs L Herniman took the chair, Cllr A Chamings Mr G Hookway, Cllr S Montague, Mr P Middleton Mr R Petherbridge Mr B King, Mr J Ayre, Mr S Dyer and Mrs A Snell (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr R Lock PCSO Brown

In Attendance: Cllr T Elliott (District Councillors) Cllr A Saywell (County Councillor)

Time for Public Participation

Declaration of Interests – Councillors are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. They are also reminded to consider whether in the light of recent activities any items within their Register of Interests should be updated.

1. The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December were agreed and signed.

2. Clerk's report i. The Dog fouling issue is no better, the dog warden is to be contacted again to see if a visit was undertaken.

ii. The owner of the van obstructing the main road has been approached and asked to move it which he has done, so the problem is better.

3. Chairman's report i. The Rural Housing Enabler has sent a map of the village in an effort to identify sites for affordable housing and a notice was put in the Church magazine. Mandy Goddard the Rural Housing Enabler is to be contacted again to see if there has been any feedback.

4. Highways,

i. The white lines at the entrance to the Recycling at Deep Moor have still not been painted.

5). County and District Councillors items.

Cllr Saywell reported on the **Potholes** Please remember to report potholes online on **devon.cc/report-it** or telephone 0345 155 1004.

Cllr Saywell **Local Government Reorganisation** The English Devolution White Paper was published on just before Christmas. Extract from the ministers letter probably gives some explanation as to where we are heading as residents in a two-tier area;

Local government reorganisation My intention is to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two-tier areas, and small neighbouring unitary councils. In this invitation, I will set out further detail on the criteria I will consider when taking decisions on the proposals that are submitted to Government. I intend to ask for interim plans by March 2025. As set out in the White Paper, new unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas, this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more. However, there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including on devolution. Final decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. We will ask you to work with other councils in your area to develop unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area, rather than developing competing proposals.

Statement from Cllr Andrew Saywell

Following publication of the Governments Devolution White paper it is clear that considerable change is going to happen in Local Government in Devon.

We have two options;

1. Do nothing and the government will impose changes
2. Engage with government to get the best result for the residents of Devon.

I believe that engagement with the government is the best option.

While I may not agree with all the government's proposals, I need to do everything I can to ensure that the changes will make local government sustainable for the long term and is able to withstand shocks like the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the world financial crisis. At the heart of all this must be a stronger voice to inform the government of the issues my residents in Torrington Rural and the residents in the wider area of Devon face.

Cllr Elliott attended to highlight about the development for a Unitary Authority. Cllr Elliott was asked about the Sunnymead planning being in the Conservation Area.

6. Finance

Approve and sign the following cheques: -General Account.

649	St Giles Parish Hall	£250.00
650	St Giles Social Club for the public toilets	£200.00

- i. The precept was discussed the Parish Council balance has been depleted due to work carried out for the parish, it was considered the precept will have to be raised for 2025/2026.
- ii. The public toilets were discussed; in relation to giving a grant it was proposed by Cllr Middleton seconded by Cllr Hookway to grant £200, all in favour.
- iii. It was proposed by Cllr Petherbridge seconded by Cllr Hookway to raise the precept to £8500, all in favour.

7. Planning

P C recommendations TDC

1/1015/2024/FUL	Demolition of existing garages and erection of dwelling. Land Adjacent To Sunnymead, Kingscott,	It was noted that the application is in the Conservation Area, after discussion it was agreed no objections.
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- i. Enforcement case

8. Police Report i no report.

9. Recreation Field,

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletter ii

There has been a request for a grit box at Winscott Cottages, this will be looked into.

Date of next meeting–: **Wednesday 12th February 2025 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

..... Chairman.....Date Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm