

St GILES IN THE WOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held.
on the March 15th 2023

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Present: Mrs L Herniman took the chair, Mr G Hookway Mrs G Hookway Mr R Petherbridge Mr N Hopkins Mr B King Mr J Ayre Mr P Middleton, and Mrs A Snell (Clerk)
Apologies Cllr A Chamings Cllr R Lock (District Councillor) Cllr R Clarke and PCSO Brown
In Attendance Cllr A Saywell (County Councillor)
and one member of the public

Time for Public Participation

Mr Weirmouth attended the meeting to highlight the terrible road conditions along the stretch from Wooleigh Bridge to the junction onto the A3124, this has been noted on numerous previous occasions and is a top priority on the St Giles list of road repairs. Cllr Saywell was in attendance and is trying hard to get the road repaired but due to financial restraints at DCC it is difficult, it is hoped to have a site meeting with Mark James, Cllr Saywell and Parish Councillors. The road to Higher House has been assessed for patching others have been assessed for dragon patching, Cllr Saywell is doing his best to get that particular stretch repaired. Mr Weirmouth was advised to go through DCC with a claim for damage to his car. Mr Weirmouth thanked the Parish Council for letting him speak.

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 15th March were agreed and signed.
2. Clerk's report i. Parish and District Council elections on Thursday the 4th May, 7 nomination papers were submitted, so two co-options will have to take place following the 4th May, the list of those who put their names forward will be posted on the Notice Board.
11. King's Coronation Celebrations, the flyer has been printed to inform people of the forthcoming celebrations, 250 have been printed, this will include a BBQ followed by bonfire and fireworks, (donations will be asked towards the cost of the fireworks) on the Saturday, the Sports Club committee and Parish Councillors will organise this, a Church Service followed by a Parish tea will be organised on the Sunday by Church representatives. It was noted no bunting can be put up at all in the hall which is to be used as a polling station prior to the election on the 4th May. Volunteers were asked for to put up the bunting. There was no luck with the grant application from Awards For All, there is a meeting of the Church the following day to discuss the forthcoming tea, it was noted food costs have increased.
3. Chairman's report i.
4. Highways, the white lines at the entrance of Deep Moor will be reported again.
- 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 reported on **Potholes** from January 1st to the end of March, a total of **16,572** safety defects have been repaired. Over 40 gangs have been deployed and the Dragon Patcher also used in Torrington Rural to help with the repair backlog. From the anecdotal evidence I'm seeing locally

they have now caught up, including on patching repairs – which involves planing off the top road surface and resurfacing it, not a basic pothole repair – and where there had been some delays. Of the 16,500 repairs – 7,603 were **additional** defects identified by safety inspectors when responding to public reports.

To give you an idea of the weather impact this winter has had... in December 2,431 potholes were repaired versus 7,376 for January. In January 2022 3,494 defects needed repair in comparison with the 7,000 this year. Non-safety defect repairs (i.e. small or shallow potholes) were suspended pending catching up on the backlog, however the Service is confident they can resume non-safety defect repairs starting this month in April.

In addition, in the Budget the Government awarded DCC over £9.4m of additional capital funding, the highest amount for any local authority in England. This will be used to fund further patching and resurfacing schemes. I have already recommended resurfacing on the B3227 outside High Bullen and repairs on the road to Wooleigh Bridge.

Devolution The Government have given outline approval for a Devon-wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.

More details to be confirmed but this will not involve the creation of an elected Mayor for Devon or a change to the existing democratic structures. Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a Final Business Case to present to Government for final approval later in the year.

Councils to receive additional funds to help support households with rising food and energy costs

Devon has secured additional funding to help households weather the rising costs of living, to help pay for food, energy and other essential items. The latest bid amounts to a little over £10 million, to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024. It will take Devon's total level of Household Support Funding received so far to just over £25 million.

The funding is to support households in most need that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials. And specifically, those households that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the government. More details online here

- <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/councils-to-receive-additional-funds-to-help-support-households-with-rising-food-and-energy-costs-2/>

Growing Communities Fund DCC has announced another round the [Growing Communities Fund](#), and are encouraging not-for-profit groups, charities, church or faith groups, schools and councils to bid for grants. Typically, these are grants of between £500 and £1,000, although funds of up to £3,000 will be considered for exemplary projects that will receive their funding when their project is completed.

The Growing Communities Funding is to support projects that: could offer warm safe spaces, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity, or that address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity, build greater degrees of self-reliance and community resilience, for example offering advice, peer support or guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals, tackle loneliness and isolation and build self-esteem, and that have a clear and direct community and environmental benefits

More information can be found online here

- www.devon.gov.uk/communities/growing-communities-fund

That's it for this month. Can I wish all retiring Councillors well in their future endeavours? I look forward to working with re-standing and new Parish Councillors after May. In the meantime, please let me know if there is anything locally that you would like me to look into.

It is pot hole season so please keep reporting **The DCC website is devon.cc/report-it**

6. Finance

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i. Approve and sign the following cheques: -General Account,

603	DALC affiliation fee	£163.89
604	Community Heartbeat Trust	£72.00
605	St Giles PCC	£187.50

7. Planning

P C recommendations TDC

1/0723/2022/FUL	Proposed agricultural building Beara Farm, St Giles In The Wood	Being considered, Cllr Lock was asked to look into this application as it has taken so long, the response there has been difficulties with Natural England on several applications of this type.
1/0143/2023/FUL	Erection of 1 no. dwelling South View Cottage, St Giles In The Wood.	
1/0296/2023/FUL	Conversion of barn to 1no. dwelling. Agricultural Building At Fernhill	No objections

8. Police Report i. An email has been received from the Police “Due to an increase in demand, staffing levels and shift changes we are introducing a monthly online Teams meeting for all Councils to attend, so that we ensure we have regular contact with you all.

We will continue to attend meetings when commitments allow and if there are any specific issues or concerns that need our attention.

Reports will no longer be provided but general police reports for your area can be found on the [Home | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk) website – bespoke reports will only be produced where a specific issue or series of crimes affects your community.

We will aim to have these sessions every 5 weeks in the evening, and this will ensure myself and PCSO Melissa Baker will be able to attend as we work a 5-week rota with late shifts already set. We will be in touch again shortly inviting you to our first meeting.”

9. Recreation Field,

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletter ii. Torridge and District Police and Crime Report
Cllr Ayre was celebrating his birthday by attending the meeting.

Date of next meeting—: **Wednesday 17th 2023 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall

For the Annual Parish meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

..... Chairman.....Date

Forthcoming meetings: Wednesday 14th June for the Parish Council meeting 8.00pm