

# St GILES IN THE WOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held.  
\_\_\_\_\_ on the March 13th 2024

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Present: Mrs L Herniman took the chair, Mr G Hookway, Mr B King Mr R Petherbridge Cllr A Chamings Mr P Middleton, Mr J Ayre, Mr S Dyer and Mrs A Snell (Clerk)  
Apologies Mrs G Hookway Cllr A Saywell (County Councillor) Cllr R Lock, Cllr T Elliott (District Councillors) and PCSO Brown  
In Attendance Two members of the public.

## Time for Public Participation

Two members of the public were in attendance regarding the noise at Stevenstone, it was reported that TDC noise recordings have proved there is a statutory nuisance, hence the issue of the noise abatement order. Sound reducing measures have been put in place but to no avail as the noise issue has not been resolved. A new kennelmen is due to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

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 14<sup>th</sup> February were agreed and signed.

2. Clerk's report i. Wicksteed playground inspection, Cllr Ayre and Cllr Hookway have visited today and are to organise corrective action in due course when the weather is better, they also raised that on the small pedestrian gate the top bar is rotted and on the aerial runway a piece of wood needs replacing, Cllr King is to undertake these two jobs.

ii. Parking on the Village Green, the sign has been erected.

3. Chairman's report i. Cllr Herniman congratulated the cast and helpers of the pantomime on such an excellent job, the performance of Alladin was extremely entertaining and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

ii. Coronation tree, a meeting of councillors will take place to agree a site for the commemorative tree.

iii. D Day celebrations 6<sup>th</sup> June, a bonfire is to be lit on the Recreation Field to coincide with Beacon lighting around the country, after discussion it was agreed to charge £2 for burgers and hotdogs. And a charge of £1 for tea and cake these will be served in the Village Hall, a flyer will be circulated in the parish a response would be helpful to know numbers, but 300 burgers and sausages combined are to be purchased, it was proposed by Cllr Middleton seconded by Cllr King that if there is a shortfall in revenue the parish council will grant the event up to £300, all in favour, but it is hoped the event will be self-funding.

iv. Dog fouling at Sunnyside, there has been complaints from residents, there was a request for a camera so the offending owners can be identified and subsequently reported to TDC Dog warden who can issue a fine.

**“The easiest way to avoid prosecution or a Fixed Penalty Notice is to be a responsible dog owner and not commit the offence**

- Always carry bags when you take your dog out so you can clean up when it 'goes to the toilet'
- Be considerate, do not exercise your dog in a children's play area, a school field or sports ground, or ornamental gardens
- If there is no poop scoop bin available, please take the waste home with you to dispose of
- Worm your dog at regular intervals throughout the year - ask your vet for advice
- Never allow your dog to wander unsupervised in a public place

This information is to be put in the church magazine.

4. Highways, i. The white lines at Deep Moor have been reported again.

ii. Mr Penfold has visited again and a quote has been given for the full length from the council road to the cobbles, of £3300, Cllr Saywell and the district councillors are to be asked for any funding they are able to grant towards the project. This will be discussed again at the April meeting.

iii. The yellow lines by the Sports Club need to be repainted this will be undertaken.

iv. The road to East Dodscott was highlighted to be in extremely poor repair, this has been highlighted in Cllr Saywell's report.

5). County and District Councillors items.

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

Cllr Saywell reported **Local Highways matters** – The road from Woolleigh Bridge to Woolleigh Mill Bridge is due to be resurfaced as part of the new 'Retread Recycling Process' from 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March. This is a new treatment where essentially the top surface will be plained off and then remixed with new bitumen and re-laid. So it won't look like classic conventional resurfacing (I am told it will look similar to a surface dressed road), but it should be a big improvement on its current condition. I will review it when I come back, but if this is successful it will hopefully allow the Council to resurface more of our minor rural roads, many of which as we know are in need of repair!

The road past East Dodscott Farm is also being put forward for assessment for this kind of treatment. Fingers crossed this scheme will also be approved...

Finally, Surface dressing will be taking place on the road from St Giles in the Wood village, down to Higher House and then Woolleigh Mill Bridge. Currently planned for 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**DCC Budgets** – As discussed in my February report the Budget for 2024-25 has now been passed. I am pleased to report the projected overspend on general expenditure for the outgoing 2023-24 financial year has fallen by a further £4.3m and is now down to just £291,000, effectively a break even position. I would hope that will fall to zero by the month end. This again is a strong achievement by the Council and has meant that we have not had to raid reserves to set this year's budget, or get ourselves into the financial situation that Somerset are experiencing...

**Family Hub Consultation** – The Council is changing the way that young families are supported at Children's Centres, and is inviting those who use the services, as well as professionals and community groups, to help influence the changes. It follows a national move, announced by the Government last year, for Children's Centres to become Family Hubs, as part of its Start for Life Programme initiative.

**In Devon that means extending the age range, from current services that deliver targeted support to 0 to 8 year-olds, to future services that provide targeted and universal support to 0 to 19 year-olds, or up to 25 year-old young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.**

**And it would mean a wider range of services than present, including support from local community groups, working together to help young families.**

Having agreed at the end of last year to make the change in line with national thinking, Devon County Council is now inviting families, professionals and community groups to help shape what the new Family Hubs support network will look like in Devon. Exactly which services will be integrated into a Family Hub will very much depend on the needs of local families. But the kind of services that families could access include early years services and education; Public Health Nursing and Midwifery services; activities delivered by local groups; drug, alcohol and domestic abuse support; mental health support and youth services. So no, we are not talking about service cuts and/or reducing services, but expanding them and changing the way they are delivered. In particular I am keen to see engagement from young families in our rural areas because it shouldn't necessarily be the case that a family in St Giles in the Wood should be told to travel to a building in Bideford, for example, to access a service.

Family Hubs are likely to be located in areas of greatest need, with outreach services extending from them into local communities. Much of the support families currently receive will still be available.

The consultation is available by visiting our [Have Your Say](https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/family-hubs-engagement) webpage. [www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/family-hubs-engagement](https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/family-hubs-engagement)

The survey will run until March 23.

**Devolution** – The consultation remains ongoing. Some interesting feedback is being received from the District Councils... feedback from the business community so far is generally positive.

I am happy to talk about this in more detail when I am back in April but, if people are wondering what benefits we may get from Devolution, I happen to believe that had we had this set up in place already, it would not have taken 30 years to redevelop the old Creamery site in Torrington. The combined authority would have, in conjunction with our District partners, the clout and access to funding to have unlocked the regeneration of that site a lot sooner than what it took in the present with our un-devolved structures.

More information about the Deal and the public consultation can be found online at [www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk](http://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk)

Cllr Lock reported that council tax bills will be arriving in due course, TDC raised their precept by 2.99% so a band D property will have a rise of £5.50 to £189.00 pa.

Town and parish council's precept for 24/25 totalled £113,128.00 which was a rise of 6.08% average payable across the district of 83.60p

There is lots of talks and meetings going on about the levelling up fund and devolution. At TDC on Monday there was not a lot of concrete support but the chief executive and Leader would continue to attend all relevant meetings at this stage.

## 6. Finance

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

628	Clerk's salary	£700.00
628	Office expenses	£43.00

## 7. Planning

P C recommendations TDC

1/1198/2023/FUL	Conversion of existing outbuildings to ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling, Heron's Lake	Refused
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8. Police Report i In the last 30 days, there has been 1 crime reported: a RTC with slight injury. During the same period there has been no calls recorded.  
Speedwatch has not taken place in the last month

9. Recreation Field, no report.

10. Correspondence i. DALC Newsletter

Date of next meeting—: **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

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

Forthcoming meetings: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 for the Annual Parish meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting and the monthly PC meeting 7.30pm