

KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2022 in Kentisbeare Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. N Allan (Chair), Mrs Q Broom, Mrs E Ellicott, E Southerden, M Disney, DCC Cllr. J Berry, the Clerk and two members of the public. MDDC Cllr. R Evans was present as an interested member of the public.
Apologies had been received from: Cllrs. J Penfold, Mrs F Ryan, N Woofenden, N Sanders & R Shore-Quinain.

61/05/22. Welcome and introductions. Cllr. Allan Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were noted and an annual report followed:

The Chairman reported that due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Annual Parish Meeting has not been held for the last two years. Parish Council meetings were held online for the first year of the pandemic and meetings reverted to being face to face in the summer of 2021.

The Parish Council was pleased to co-opt Cllr. Penfold in December following a resignation last year.

Grants – we have been pleased to give grants to the village halls, the youth club and the churchyards as well as a small donation to CAB and CHAT.

Play area – improvements to the site include a new fence and replacement surfacing underneath the small roundabout. Planning permission has recently been granted for a cycle track. We are also looking to carry out some further minor improvements to the site at some point.

Other works – the Bier House has been renovated externally and a new fence has been erected at the Eel Pool. Two new dog bins have been purchased to help keep the Parish clean. It was very disappointing to see the vandalism to the Clifford Pike Memorial bench and the Parish Council is grateful for the Pike family who have kindly organised a replacement bench. The Parish Council will soon be using the services of a handyman for odd jobs in the Parish.

Christmas Lights – we were pleased to purchase four crosses for the church tower and funds will be put aside for further Christmas lights including lights for Blackborough.

Footpaths – Elise, our P3 co-ordinator has had some help with the annual survey. Elise is hoping to run the series of summer walks this year.

Jubilee - celebrations are planned to mark the upcoming Jubilee. The Chairman and Cllr. Southerden recently planted two trees to mark the occasion. The Parish Council is pleased to fund a memento for the children in the Parish.

Planning – a response has recently been submitted to the very important Plan Mid Devon Consultation.

Culm Garden Village – the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Kentisbeare Parish Council are representatives on the Garden Village Delivery Board, and we have representatives on the Stakeholder Forum.

The Chairman extended thanks to all of the volunteers in the Parish and special thanks to Cllr. Mrs Ryan for co-ordinating volunteers throughout the pandemic. Thanks were then extended to the County and District Councillors including MDDC Cllr. R Evans for the information that he provides at various meetings.

62/05/22. Report from DCC Cllr. Mr John Berry – Cllr. Berry circulated a report to all present, details include:

DCC has an overall budget of £1.2 billion. The Corporate Budget of £629.362 million for services in 2022-23 is under pressure with increased costs as follows: Health & Adult Care by 10% - £312.9 million, Children's Services by 10% - £17 million, Community Public Health by 2.4% - £963,000, Corporate Services by 1.9% - £782,000 and Highways by 4% - £200,000.

Levelling up Fund and Cullompton Relief Road - to help boost Devon's economic recovery and improve local transport, in partnership with Devon's district councils, we would like to bid for nearly £75 million from the government. MDDC & DCC are supporting funding for the town centre relief road, to remove traffic from the high street, cut congestion and improve air quality. MDDC have the funds to build the road but extra funds are required for contingencies.

New Fund to help with Cost of Living - a £5 million fund has been allocated. DCC is prioritising £200,000 specifically to support Devon residents who have prepayment, or 'pay-as-you-go' meters. It will be targeted toward families with children and pensioners who are financially struggling. Free school meal vouchers will be provided during half term and the summer school holiday for those on free school meals. Working with MDDC, DCC is seeking to identify pensioners who are struggling financially for some additional one-off assistance.

Short Breaks Programme for carers of disabled children and young people - A '[short breaks](#)' programme provide opportunities for children and young people to meet new people, take part in activities, enjoy positive learning opportunities and have different experiences and can include short breaks.

More children are being taken into care.

[Parent Carer Forum Devon](#) are organising sessions around the county to meet parents and carers of disabled children/ young people to discuss short breaks, share updates and experience. Further sessions are planned for the autumn.

Adult Social Care Reform - DCC estimate that the funding provided for Social Care Reforms will be inadequate to meet the needs of people in Devon and many other authorities who are combining to request a delay in implementation.

20 MPH speed limits – appear to be supported around schools, pre-schools and nurseries, by most people. Members are asked to support 20 MPH speed limits within their communities where they would be beneficial.

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) - are deployed at sites where communities are concerned, for a month at a time. Community funded VAS are being considered. Information is required from Parish and Town Councils or Community Groups that would like to fund their own VAS.

Health and Care Worker Permit Scheme - allows 3 hours parking on "No Waiting" areas when visiting a client – residents parking, pay & display and yellow lines.

Verbal abuse and aggression to DCC Civil Enforcement Officers, NHS, and other health workers - this is increasing and is unacceptable. At present there is a 41.9% shortfall of Enforcement Officers. Other NHS and Care services are experiencing large staff deficits

Covid-19 - is still circulating in Devon and fourth booster vaccines are being offered. The NHS is still under pressure and ask that A&E and ambulance services are only used for urgent or life-threatening complaints. Health care settings and others are still requesting the use of masks and other safeguards.

Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (RD&E) - merged with Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust on 1st April to become the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Trust, responsible for a population of almost a million people.

Mid Devon District Council – update from Cllr. John Berry.

North West Development Link Road and Cullompton Relief Road update – the junction on Tiverton Road is still being designed. There are traffic lights in the outline plans but this could change. I am pressing for a roundabout. Eastern Relief Road - MDDC have the funds to build the road but it has been delayed due to DCC requiring that they have a contingency fund for unforeseen costs. The College Surgery Health Garden land is being transferred from the Persimmon area, and work should soon be able to start. There are plans for the area to be used for social prescription, produce for the café and demonstration. There will also be a community orchard.

Planning – Richard Marsh is Director of Place and a new Enforcement Officer has been appointed. Angharad Williams has been appointed as the Development Management Manager.

Changes to Housing Portfolio and Conservative Group Leadership – Cllr. Clive Egginton is leader of the Conservative Group, Cllr. Stuart Penny is Housing Portfolio holder and Cllr. Bob Evans is now an Independent Councillor.

63/05/22. Any Other Reports.

Parish Paths and report from P3/Footpath Co-ordinator Cllr. Mrs Ellicott.

The Annual Clifford Pike Memorial Walk will start the series of summer walks which are due to start later in the summer. It is hoped that some improvements will take place to one of the permissive paths and we are in touch with DCC regarding this. The P3 Co-ordinator and the Clerk are due to meet with the contractor for The Woodland Trust at Silver Wood shortly. As a result of working group discussions with reference to The Connecting the Culm Project, The Culm Himalayan Balsam Action Group (HBAG) has been formed to help coordinate action along the Culm to tackle the spread of the invasive Himalayan Balsam plant.

64/05/22. Democratic Period. One member of the public was interested in any information regarding works in Silver Wood and was informed that any organised days to tackle the Himalayan Balsam plant will be publicised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.30pm.