



District Councillor Report for Bishopsteignton Parish Council

For 6th December 2021

1) Full Council outcomes.

Teignbridge has passed its delayed audited accounts, and although reserves remain so far robust, notes of caution were mentioned in respect of pensions liabilities, and savings required for next year. This included the final accounts for the year 20/21. So far 21/22 looks to be as expected in terms of council tax income and business rates, although some income sources remain below budget due to Covid restrictions; car parks, leisure centres, facilities hire and events.

2) investment in a new financial system will see improvements in processing finances and payments. Long overdue and the current system is unwieldy, paper reliant and only one support staff has knowledge of it. The new system will allow 'work from home' reductions in paper usage and will help reduce climate change impact.

3) Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer

Two new lay members were added to the committee. These are from town and parish councils. The new monitoring officer appointment was also confirmed following a recommendation from the Appointments and Remuneration committee. In effect, the former deputy, then interim Monitoring Officer - Paul Woodhead was appointed to the role on a permanent basis.

4) Planning

A recommendation that applications for variations to conditions in planning approvals can be called into committee by Parish and Town Councils along with the requirement that variations to conditions that are approved or declined being listed on planning committee reports and agendas.

5) Committee places

There has been a brief alteration in committee places. A new independent group now has a seat on the Procedures committee and one each on overview and scrutiny.

6) Waste team salary uplift

Due to a skills shortage, the drivers on the waste team have been given an uplift in pay and additional terms. This has implications for the budget - £80k 21/22 and over £240k for 22/23. This is to attract new drivers and retain the current team. Headcount remains below that required for delay free services, but the team are to be congratulated for keeping collections minimally disrupted.

7) Leisure, Open Spaces portfolio

The new Exec member for Sport Leisure and Green Spaces is veteran councillor John Nutley of Ashburton. His appointment to the role was notified last week.