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DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

UPDATE- November 2022

Community Speed Watch has started up again after lockdown restrictions have been eased and the voluntary groups have been working in the areas of Cockwood, Starcross, Bishopsteignton and Shaldon.

The results are as follows:

River Teign (Bishopsteignton and Shaldon)

Summary for this Period							
Number of Sessions this period			=			2	
Total Vehicles exceeding limit			=			14	
DVLA Valid vehicles			=			12	
Accuracy			=			85%	
Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit			=			45mph(+50%)	
Police Actions this Period							
Letter sent 1			=			11	
No letter sent			=			3	
Date	Time	Type	Location Traffic Heading	Recorded	Letters	Vehicles	Percent
2022-11-12	10:30- 11:30	>	JG56B A381 Newton Road Bishopsteignton-Michaels Field - Pavement area .. Traffic Heading North West	14	14	589	2%
Totals				14	14		

West Exe (Cockwood and Starcross)

Summary

Summary for this Period			
Number of Sessions this period		=	4
Total Vehicles exceeding limit		=	57
DVLA Valid vehicles		=	55
Accuracy		=	96%
Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit		=	47mph(+56%)

Police Actions this Period							
Letter sent 1			=	41			
Letter sent 2			=	3			
No letter sent			=	3			
Reported to SWAN			=	10			
Date	Time	Type	Location Traffic Heading	Recorded	Letters	Vehicles	Percent
	2022-11-29	10:00-11:00 >	traffic heading South East	JG48 A379 Exeter Road-Junction of A379 South Town and Church Road 10		217	4%
	2022-11-25	13:00-14:00 >	traffic heading South	JG45 A379 Exeter Road-Close to Orchard Way junction 16	16	301	5%
	2022-11-14	10:00-11:00 >	traffic heading South East	JG48 A379 Exeter Road-Junction of A379 South Town and Church Road 10	10	204	4%
	2022-11-12	09:30-11:00 >	traffic heading South East	JG48 A379 Exeter Road-Junction of A379 South Town and Church Road 21	21	260	8%
Totals				57	47		



County Councillors Report to Bishopsteignton Parish Council

Devon's gritting teams have been out for the first time this winter and they're prepared to face whatever the elements throw at the county's road over the next few months. Gritting depots across the county are fully stocked with around 24,000 tonnes of salt and Devon County Council's upgrade of its winter fleet has continued, with eight of its 37 frontline gritters replaced with newer models this year, reducing revenue spend on maintaining outdated vehicles.

This winter, Devon's fleet of gritters will be running on sustainably sourced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil [HVO], which is a waste product from the food industry. The fuel produces 90% less CO₂ than a regular diesel which will help meet Devon County Council's net zero targets by 2030.

A trial to salt some of Exeter's busiest cycle routes will also be extended to continues to provide additional support for communities as part of the Council's winter self – help scheme. The 325 volunteer snow wardens across the county treat their priority routes during prolonged spells of severe weather.

Cllr. Ron Peart

05/12/22

PAYMENTS AUTHORISATION

Appendix B for the full council meeting to be held 05.12.22

Voucher No	Payment Date	Description	Supplier/Payee	Net	VAT	Total	Notes
246	01.12.2022	Website hosting & management	Dot Combo Ltd	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	Contracted
247	01.12.2022	Email hosting monthly fee	Very Good Email Co	£13.00	£2.60	£15.60	Contracted
248	01.12.2022	Cleaning Services Contract	P. Walton	£171.67	£0.00	£171.67	Contracted
249	01.12.2022	Cleaning Services Contract	P. Walton	£257.50	£0.00	£257.50	Contracted
250	06.12.2022	Email hosting monthly fee	Very Good Email Co	£12.00	£2.40	£14.40	Outstanding Invoice March 2021
251	06.12.2022	Email hosting monthly fee	Very Good Email Co	£12.00	£2.40	£14.40	Outstanding Invoice Feb 2021
252	06.12.2022	Tax & NI	HMRC	£496.25	£0.00	£496.25	
253	06.12.2022	Clerk's salary	Mrs. K Ford	£1,613.08	£0.00	£1,613.08	
254	06.12.2022	Annual Subscription/Membership	SLCC	£222.00	£0.00	£222.00	
255	06.12.2022	Clerks CPD training webinar	DALC	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00	Internal Controls Webinar
256	06.12.2022	SCRIBE	Starboard Systems	£936.00	£187.20	£1,123.20	For Scribe Accounts & Cemetery
257	06.12.2022	General Maintenance	P. Walton	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00	Various maintenance tasks
258	06.12.2022	Pension Contributions	DCC Pension Fund	£770.26	£0.00	£770.26	Oct contributions, was not paid in Nov
259	06.12.2022	Pension Contributions	DCC Pension Fund	£543.76	£0.00	£543.76	Nov contributions.
				5217.52	200.60	5418.12	

On behalf of Bishopsteignton Parish Council, I agree that the debts detailed above shall be paid from Bishopsteignton Parish Council funds and that these transactions shall be carried out by the Clerk & RFO of Bishopsteignton Parish Council within the 24 hours following this meeting of Bishopsteignton Parish Council.

Signed: _____

Position: Chairman

Dated: 05.12.22





FINANCIAL STATEMENT At 30.11.22

1. BALANCES

Bank Balance	186094.37	as bank reconciliation above
of which Restricted/Earmarked Funds (detailed below)	182190.24	97.9% of Bank balance
BALANCE AVAILABLE/UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (Advised to hold 3 months' worth of regular expenditure, approximately £13,000)	3904.13	2.1% of Bank balance

2. RESERVES - Restricted/Earmarked Funds

Burial Account	91386.97	Bishopsteignton Cemetery use only
Staff costs	9501.01	Staff salary, NI & Pension contributions
Administration costs	12121.11	Includes office cost, elections, audit, training, insurance.
Asset Management	17183.60	Includes toilets, Carpark, St. Johns churchyard, Open spaces, play areas, MUGA, assets.
Agency Grants	-29.72	Includes P3 grant
BERT/Emergency Resilience	1435.29	
Queens Platinum Jubilee	-25.50	
Lawns Scout/Community Hub	-250.00	
Grant Awarding Funds	1250.00	Under GPC of Localism Act 2011
Monies held in Trust	876.34	Cricket Club, Bench donation, Playdays
CIL	39011.26	Spend must meet criteria, deadlines for spend
S106 Balance	-1099.67	Balance of monies claimed & spend to be claimed
Balance of other funding sources	2020.70	Includes various earmarked grants.
Pre School Grant	7500.00	Earmarked as backstop support (was small business covid grant)
Climate Action Fund	3963.28	Grant awarded Nov '21
VAT	-2654.43	Balance of VAT payments & receipts
TOTAL	182190.24	

3. BANK RECONCILIATION (next page)

Bishopsteignton Parish Council

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

A	Bank Reconciliation at 30/11/2022		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2022		155,436.46
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2022 - 30/11/2022		102,076.22
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2022 - 30/11/2022		257,512.68
	Cash in Hand 30/11/2022 (per Cash Book)		71,418.31
B			186,094.37
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 30/11/2022	0.00	
	Lloyds Premier 30/11/2022	50,011.43	
	Current Lloyds TSB Treasury 30/11/2022	136,082.94	
			186,094.37
	Less unrepresented payments		
			186,094.37
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		186,094.37
	A = B Checks out OK		

BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL

GRANT APPLICATION FORM FY 2022/23

1	ORGANISATION DETAILS			
Name:		B.A.G.S		
Registered Charity:		YES	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES please provide charity number:				
What does your organisation do? <small>Please give aims and objectives. If you have a constitution, please attach this, together with any other publicity information you consider appropriate. Membership numbers, area served, etc.</small>		Provide allotments for the local community including a community allotment		
2	CONTACT DETAILS			
Primary contact name:		JOHN PARKES		
Position in organisation:		CHAIR		
Contact telephone:		07894035094		
Contact email:		bagsjkc@gmail.com		
3	DETAILS OF GRANT REQUEST			
What is the intended use of the grant?		To buy a new lawnmower		
How would this benefit the Parish?		Help to maintain the paths on the allotment site which is used by parishioners		
What is the total cost of the project?		£ 230 (Please supply/attach quotes/estimate details)		
How much are you applying for from BPC?		£ 230		
What other fundraising will your organisation be carry out?		we carry out regular fund raising activities through the community plot		
Have you applied for funds from other sources? <small>If Yes please give details</small>		No		
4	PAYMENT DETAILS			

GRANT APPLICATION FORM FY 2022/23

Bank Details:	Bank: Account name: <u>BISHOPSTEIGNTON ALLOTMENT</u> <u>CLUBBERS SOC</u> Eight digit Account Number: <u>65827066</u> Six digit Sort Code: <u>08/92/99</u>
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5 CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above information and the contents of the attached documents are correct at the time of applying. I understand that if any of the information is subsequently found to be incorrect this may lead to the organisation being disqualified from consideration and/or the withdrawal of any grant awarded. I agree to my organisation being bound by the eligibility criteria and any conditions set by Bishopsteignton Parish Council.

Signed: John Barnes

Date: 30/11/22

If your application is successful the Parish Council may wish to be included in any publicity and its contribution noted. There will also be conditions attached to any grant awarded covering how to repay the grant should it not be used as per the application form, or if the event is cancelled. Acceptance of any funds will be deemed to be agreement of the conditions set out in BPC Grant Awarding Policy.



Appendix E for 05.12.22

CLERKS REPORT

REFURBISHMENT OF BPC CHAIRS REGALIA

The chairs chain is in desperate need of minor repairs and refurbishment. It has been sent to a specialist in the jewellery quarter in Birmingham for assessment <https://www.vaughtons.com/>. Originally, contact was made with this company at a SLCC Clerks SW training seminar with exhibitors.



This photo shows the current condition of the name bars on the ribbon, not matching, enamel infill is fading on some, and most attached in a very poor manner. It is hard to tell from this picture, but the ribbon is fraying, particularly where the clasp is attached and needs to be replaced; the box is damaged and is being held together with parcel tape; and the medallion (not show) has chipped and cracked enamel and the gold plating is wearing away.

The following work is being recommended by the specialist:

Repair hand painting on jewel	£450.00	
Silver plate jewel	£100.00	
Replacement ribbon	£33.75	
Remove all bars (27)	£21.60	(27 x 80p)
Silver plate bars (21)	£52.50	(21 x £2.50) - 6 bars being replaced
6 x handmade bars (HM Silver)	£450.00	(6 x £75.00)
Deep engrave & enamel	£130.54	(122 characters @ £1.07 per character)
Attach bars to new ribbon	£40.50	(27 @ £1.50)
Fitted case	£50.00	
Carriage charge	£11.00	
Total excluding VAT	£1,339.89	

- This cost can be met using a combination of budget set for administration and unearmarked reserves.
- Failure to repair will lead to further damage and potential a much larger cost in the future.
- Specialists able to carry out this work are difficult to come by. A search for a local jeweller willing to take on the work was unsuccessful.
- This alternative <https://fattorini.co.uk/civic-insignia-and-regalia/> is extremely expensive.



BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS REPORT – Appendix G GENERAL UPDATES @ 30.11.22

PARISH MAINTENANCE/AMC COMMITTEE:

Benches – Maintenance ongoing, as and when required. J. Parkes will be attending to the bench at the corner of Grandison Avenue. No other benches currently require urgent attention. Agreed for members of AMC to assess the current condition and recent works, walks to be arranged.

Vehicular Access from The Lawns car park on to The Drive: A solid line and STOP to be painted at the exiting junction (joining The Drive from the car park) as agreed by BPC AMC (21.06.22, minute ref: 2206.04). BGS Ltd provided the most reasonable quote and have been appointed. Awaiting action.

Dropped kerb adjacent to coffee vendor: dropped kerb installed, awaiting completion of the job with some surfacing of the new slope to reduce the risk of it becoming too muddy. BGS aware, awaiting action.

Playground Revamp: Revised quotes now received. To be considered by AMC for a final decision on preferred contractor. However, in the meantime I need to add the opportunity to tender to a contractor-finders website. All to be completed before the application for Viridor funding can be submitted. Work likely to commence March 2023.

Cemetery Garden of Rest Handrail: Quote received, approved by AMC as within approval limit. Contractor has provided detail drawings with measurements, awaiting production and installation to be completed. Costs which shall be met using burial account. To be installed w/c 06.12.22.

BPC Car Parks: The three car parks owned and managed by BPC, being both sides at the top of Bishops Avenue and the one at the Lawns, require some suitable signage and a policy for use to be adopted. This is a task delegated to the Asset Management Committee & Clerk for further consideration/preparation. No further action taken yet.

MUGA – Line Markings: Secondary netball court marking complete. Looking to mark the primary court in FY 2023/24, will add to this budget, work to take place in April.

Cockhaven Junction Enhancement: Despite the budget set by the council and highways approval there have been several factors causing a delay to this work getting started. One of the appointed contractors has now declared he is not able to complete the work until early 2023. Having considered several options, the AMC agreed to continue with the project however with changes to the design. This will now omit the creation of a red stone boundary wall which is to be replaced with an attractive bow-topped metal railing, approved by Devon Highways at 1200 high. Planting is not recommended until autumn 2023 therefore wildflowers seeds shall be sown to fill the space until planting can be completed. The scheme will still include relocation of the bench, gravel area with grid, steps to correct crossing point and a general tidy. It is hoped the costs will be than the original budget. Furthermore, it was suggested that the clerk to write to Otter Nurseries Jacks Patch to introduce the plan and invite the opportunity to sponsor or donate towards the enhancement. Awaiting response.

Trees: Cemetery - Ash Dieback: Inspection carried out by Devon Tree Services in Sept 22. Report advises no serious deterioration because of Ash Dieback, no immediate action required, recommends further inspection in August/Sept 2023 when in leaf.

CLERKS REPORT Cont'd - GENERAL UPDATE 30.11.22

There is a second Ash which needs checking, this is along the path edge, and it appears to have damage, inspection to be organised.

Village Green Enhancements: Wooden posts installed along the eastern edge of the VG are failing, several have collapsed. To be replaced with recycled plastic bollards as used on the northern edge. New posts order (04/11/22), delivery approximate 6 to 7-week lead time, before installation by BGS.

War Memorial: Requires professional steam clean and lettering repainted. One quote received, two are being prepared expected soon. Financial support from Bishopsteignton Heritage has been requested, they wish to see the 3 quotes before responding. Once all quotes are available a funding application shall be submitted to the War Memorials Trust. If not successful a budget heading will need to be established for the 2023-24 budget & precept.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: Surface of FP13 (adjacent to School): Devon highway neighbourhood officer confirmed a full resurface is not in any future programme as it is not considered a safety defect. She would be happy for the Parish Council to arrange resurfacing. Community Enhancement Fund could be used, she would sign off, depending on if funds are still available. This will give 50% match funding up to £1000. CIL could be used to meet the balance. Quotes requested, once I have 3 in hand, I will arrange for an AMC meeting for these to be reviewed.

TEIGNBRIDGE TOGETHER:

A recently established online presence from Devon Connect where Town & Parish Councils and community groups are encouraged to share events, services, conversations and volunteering opportunities. Possibly work using to expand our network and coverage.

Website <https://devonconnect.org/teignbridge> and @TeignTogether on Facebook or Instagram - your local online community hub. What do you think?

CIVILITY & RESPECT PROJECT & PLEDGE: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project>

Throughout the sector, there are growing concerns about the impact bullying, harassment, and intimidation are having on local (parish and town) councils, councillors, clerks and council staff and the resulting effectiveness of local councils. NALC, One Voice Wales, the SLCC and county associations have responded to this by setting up a Civility and Respect Working Group to oversee the Civility and Respect Project.

PLEDGE - NALC, SLCC, and OVW believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector. The Civility and Respect Pledge is being introduced because there is no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within our sector. The pledge will enable councils to demonstrate that they are committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector and to driving through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct. All councils are being invited to make the Civility and Respect Pledge. More detail can be provided for BPC to make the pledge at a future meeting.

POLICY WORK:

I am currently working through a review of all BPC policies, existing and additional which may be required, to ensure we are compliant with statutory regulations before we consider an application for a quality council award (foundation level).

Currently working on the following policies, new & revisions: Training policy, Complaints Policy, and the BPC Financial Regulations. All new drafts can be reviewed by the BPC Strategy & Governance Committee or Full Council whichever meets soonest.

CLERKS REPORT Cont'd - GENERAL UPDATE 30.11.22

INTERPRETATION BOARDS:

Bishopsteignton Heritage are leading on the production of several boards around the parish. So far, they have completed these at the four-parish boundary stone, St Johns Church front, and the Admirals graves in the Churchyard.

Two boards moving into production, for The Parish Cemetery and The Village Green. These will be funded by BPC, from the Burial Account for the former, and S106 for the latter.

Further boards are anticipated at Bishops Palace Walls (replacement board depending on continued agreement of the landowners) and The Lawns recreation ground, Old School (Community Centre), and a full village map. In future, other than the board at the Lawns and insurance cover for each new installation the cost of these will be met by BH.

BPC GRANTS:

Better promotion of this is needed and probably an improvement on the application process. Pushed on FB once more, one application received (agenda item 2212.03.04).

REGENERATION OF BISHOPSTEIGNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

A working party is established to consider all possible outcomes for this under-utilised parish asset. BPC are represented by the clerk on this committee. The last meeting, held 09.11.22. The Knapman Room, is quickly becoming an organised storage area for BPC & BH, with the recent new shelving added, further may be required. Next meeting to be held 14.12.22.

BOOKINGS @ THE MUGA:

Several regular bookings mean the court will be closed to the public at the same time, this is difficult to guarantee due to the fact it is never locked. Booking as follows For November onwards:

- Wednesdays 7.00 to 8.45 Chudleigh Canon Netball
- Various usage from Newton Abbot Rugby club for training when their own pitches are water-logged.

DEFIBRILLATORS:

Awaiting new unit installation in the following locations:

- Teign View Road/top of Murley Crescent area
- Teign Close/Forder Lane junction, opposite Grange Park

Further units: Agreement in principle to install a unit at Cockhaven Arms, to liaise with management company to confirm when funds for another unit are available. Additional potential locations to be shown on a map, to ensure even coverage.

A map of current locations is provided on the BPC website. To be shared with Channel View and Pharmacy to display once new units' installation is complete.

Regular Inspections: Each defibrillator unit requires a monthly inspection to ensure it is fully operational and Eddy is wishing to step down. Kindly, a couple of volunteers have now come forward.

REMEMBRANCE 2022

Both events went well, other than a few timing errors, a learning curve! Some members of the working party have met since to review how it went and what can and needs to be changed for next year. Despite rumours and portrayal in the Parish Chronicle this year's changes are not to take away from the churches and their own services. The working party has included input from Rev. Jane Frost and Methodist Church Warden Eddy Stephenson.

TIDY TEIGNBRIDGE FUND – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

As agreed at the last BPC meeting, clerk to seek quotes for weed clearance and possible repointing of the raised pavement on Shute Hill for this funding to be used. Application to be submitted by 30.01.23. No action taken yet.

CLERKS REPORT Cont'd - GENERAL UPDATE 30.11.22

FURTHER MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION/TO BE ARRANGED:

- **BPC Planning Committee:** Monday 19 December 7.00pm @ BCC.
- **BPC Finance Committee:** Monday 9 January 2023 7.00pm @ BCC.
- **Next Full Council:** Monday 16 January 2023 - time TBC @ BCC.
- **THC Consultative Group:** Monday 24 January 6.30pm @ Bitton House.

FOR INFO:

For direct contact either phone: 07483 149812, 11am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday. or email:

clerk@bishopsteignton-pc.gov.uk

Majority of my weekly hours will be worked from home, but I do intend to work from the Bishopsteignton Heritage Hub/visit the parish at least once per week, most likely Wednesday. I will always ensure Cllr. Head knows when I am there, and when I leave, in accordance with the BPC Lone Working Policy.



BISHOPSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS REPORT – 2023 MEETING

APPENDIX H FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD 05.12.22

NUMBER OF MEETING

At the full council meeting held 07.11.22, under minute reference 2877.01 BPC Standing Orders, it was agreed to review the number of meetings held across the year, with a mind to reduce the need for excessive administration.

BPC standing order 5.d. states

In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least three other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council decides.

This is in bold text in the standing orders as it is a statutory duty for a local council to adhere to this regulation, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, paras 10 (1) and 26 (1).

Below is a table of the pros and cons of reducing the number of full council meetings held in a year, this list is not exhaustive.

BENEFITS	CONSEQUENCES
Would reduce the amount of time wasted discussing more simple matters which may be resolved under the scheme of delegated authority, or just require longer to be researched before coming back onto the agenda. Fewer meeting could accommodate a more thorough job on each issue.	Lack of continuity; interrupted and prolonged flow from meeting to meeting. If meetings are fewer and farther between matters may be forgotten or require additional time to be re-introduced.
Public attendance and interest in the business of the council may increase.	Parishioners may not trust that the council are conducting business appropriately. <i>However, it is my role to ensure all is above board!</i>
Less face-to-face meetings may encourage more/different people to stand for election as a local councillor for the parish. <i>When there are enough candidates for a contested election parishioners are choosing who they want to represent them.</i>	May be seen as a reduction in the commitment required from elected members; <i>this is not the case as all members should still regularly read emails and keep up to date with council business.</i>
Less time spent by the clerk on the administration of agendas, minutes and appendices for each meeting. <i>Freeing up time for improved record-keeping, governance and project work.</i>	Agendas may become rather full if the council have not met for a long time. <i>Although it is hoped most business can be dealt with under the scheme of delegate authority.</i>
Various matters and specific project work is handled efficiently outside by committees of the full council; report back as and when required.	

I have prepared an example calendar of meetings (see below), reducing the occurrence from 11 in 2022 (there was no meeting in August) to as little as 7 for 2023, with options for more meetings when there is business requiring council attention which cannot be handled under the scheme of delegated authority.

EXAMPLE

2023 FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday 16th January	Full Council decision to finalise precept for submission to TDC before end of January.
During February	Planning if required.
Monday 6th March	Finalise any outstanding business which can be concluded within the current financial year and approve a schedule of regular payments to be made across the coming year. Full Council review & acknowledgement of Asset Register.
During April	Planning if required.
Monday 22nd May Must be held within 14 days of the start of the next term of office which is 9 th May (delayed due to the Kings Coronation bank holiday) subject to notification days which may take longer to get contact details and tablet to all new members.	Annual Meeting of the Council To welcome newly elected council, elect Chair & Vicechair, set committees and their membership. If eligible adopt to use the general power of competence, acknowledge, members acceptance of office and code of conduct, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment, etc.
Monday 19th June	Necessary to sign off Annual Governance & Accountability Return.
End July Approx Monday 24th	If required, depending on business of the council which may need resolutions before summer recess.
Monday 11th September	Three meetings spread across 4 months, with nothing in August. Planning matters can be included or held separately, or comments formed under the Scheme of Delegated Authority. Members can begin, alongside Finance Committee, to consider cost to be included in future budget & precept, including the review of contracts due for renewal, alongside AMC.
Monday 23rd October	
Monday 11th December	

TIME OF MEETINGS

There is no legal requirement for a local council meeting, full or committee, to be held at a particular time. As the Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, paras 7 and 23 state a local council meeting may be held at any time of the day. Only governance for the annual meeting of the council has reference to a particular time (6pm) and this can be changed if the council wish.

Currently all BPC meetings commence at 7.30pm which feels late, especially during the winter. Perhaps the council would consider bringing this forward?

Letter to the Leaders of Parish and Town Councils in the Area of Teignbridge Planning Authority

The Chairman of Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council (DPC) sends his regards to the other leaders.

Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council considers answering planning applications and raising some planning related issues to the Planning Authority (PA) as an important part of their responsibilities and as representing the community during decision making processes which have long lasting effects on their environment. Unfortunately, Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council's experience is that the voice of community does not have the weight that it should have.

Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council invited a representative of the Planning Authority to come to its last meeting and help with improving the efficiency of the comments made. This invitation was refused on the basis that Teignbridge PA has 50 parishes and engaging with one of them would create a precedent and might all the other parishes would seek the same.

Therefore, Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council would like to ask other parishes in the area of the Teignbridge PA whether they had a negative experience with the PA and whether they have questions and concerns that they would like to raise. If there is an interest in the subject, Doddiscombsleigh recommends a joint representation, because individual parishes may well be ignored and not heard by the PA.

Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council is aware that there was a Teignbridge Association of Local Councils (TALC) for representing the parishes in Teignbridge, but this organization is currently not functioning. Whether it is a resurrection of TALC, or Chairpersons' Assembly, or Teignbridge Planning Forum or any other body, parishes in Teignbridge need a platform to represent their interest, otherwise parish councils and the communities they represent could be unheard and ignored.

Other parishes might have other circumstances and issues, but Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council would like to share their specific problems.

Doddiscombsleigh is a small village in the Teign Valley, just outside of Dartmoor National Park, in a very rural area. Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council have concerns both with the planning application process and the planning enforcement. Some examples.

1. Planning applications
 - For the public the decisions seem to be unpredictable and not necessarily understandable.
 - The Parish Council's comments – even when they are material planning considerations – does not seems to have an effect on the decisions.
 - The cumulative effects of individual permissions – even if there is not any big development - can slowly erode and change the character of an area in a way that it was never planned or intended.
2. Planning enforcement (PE)
 - The current practice does not seem to have enough effect to save the countryside. Both the speed and the reaction of the planning enforcement seems to be insufficient.
 - The methods followed by the PE are not seen as independent and unbiased by the public.
 - Conditions of controversial applications, which would not have been allowed without these conditions, are not checked. When the Parish Council has brought these to the attention of PE they have still not been enforced.

If your council has concerns regarding planning issues in the area of Teignbridge PA, share our frustration and would like to discuss what can be done, please contact the Clerk of Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council at doddiscombsleighpc@gmail.com.

Kind regards

William Hole

Chairman of Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council