

MINUTES
OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 8.00PM MONDAY 22 MAY 2023
AT BISHOPSTEIGNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, SHUTE HILL



2947 MEETING GOVERNANCE

.01 Attendance:

- .i **Present:** Members: Cllrs. Merritt (Chair), Benham, Edwards, Grimble, Gill, Hanafin, Head, Shaw, Vooght & Watson (10/11).
County Cllr. Peart. District Cllr. MacGregor. Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford. 1 members of the public.
- .ii **Apologies:** Cllr. Gateshill (1/11). PCSO S. Bunce & PC. C. Orchard.

.02 Declaration Of Interests: none.

.03 Order Of Business: No change required.

.04 Ratification Of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Bishopsteignton Community Centre on 03.04.23 were considered. It was proposed and seconded that these be approved as a true and correct record. Agreed unanimously therefore **resolved to approve** and to be signed by the chair.

2948 OFFICIAL REPORTS:

.01 POLICE: No report or updates provided for this meeting, although unexpected due to being mid-month.

.02 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: The following report was provided and Cllr. MacGregor.

Following the election on May 4th the results were as follows:

Liberal Democrat Party – 26, South Devon Alliance – 9, Conservative Party – 9, Independents - 3.

It is expected that the Liberal Democrats will form the administration. The independents have not formed a group as seen in previous years. This means all committee seats will be split between the LD's, SDA and Conservatives. As a result, I have decided to sit as part of the SDA Group in order to have an opportunity to sit on committees such as Planning, Overview & Scrutiny and Standards. My leaflet commitments are better served through being able to influence more directly. Although I am sitting with the SDA group, I will not be a member of their party.

Tennis Courts

Ace investment for tennis – A quarter of a million pounds will be invested into renovating nine local park tennis courts in a joint initiative between Teignbridge and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). Tennis courts at Forde Park and Bakers park are included but there is no mention of the courts adjacent to Hilltop Meadow.

A new online booking platform will be set up which will also link into the LTA making it easier for people to find and book a court. An annual household family membership pass will cost £36 for up to 10 family members. Casual bookings will cost £6 per hour. Believe it or not, on the link provided that carries more details on this week's Update, Teignbridge mis-spell "Newton Abbot"!!!!

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/news/latest-council-news/may-2023/>

Introducing planning to new councillors

PAS (Planning Advisory Service) are working with the LGA to deliver an online short session to introduce planning for councillors. This is part of a wider programme delivered by the LGA to introduce new councillors to key areas of local government work.

This online session on 31 May at 10 am is free to attend for local authority councillors. It will explain the planning process, give clarity to some of its complexities and highlight the importance and different roles that councillors have interacting with the process. [Book your place](#) (Not sure if open to Parish Councillors.)

Avian Flu

Consultation on registration requirements for all bird keepers – where the Government are seeking views on plans to make it compulsory for all poultry and other captive birdkeepers to register their birds with the Animal Plant and Health Agency. The consultation closes on the 31st May.

See: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/poultry-register/all-birds-registration2023/>

See Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service latest situation on Avian Influenza in Devon at: <https://www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/agriculture/animal-disease/avian-influenza-bird-flu/>

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Devon & Cornwall Police

Closure of 101-Email facility for non-emergency reports - As reported last month, the facility for making non-emergency reports via the 101@dc.police.uk email was removed on 17th April and replaced by an online form. If anyone has used the new online form, it would be good to learn how you found the service. *The 101-telephone line will remain in service.*

Members of the public are asked to use an online form is at: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/partners/partner-services. They remind people “*if a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger, always call 999*”.

Devon & Cornwall Police Alert – A road safety campaign has been launched with the onset of the main tourist season and the consequent increase in road traffic. The campaign (Vision Zero South West) is aimed at reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads of Devon and Cornwall. The prevention of motorcycle collisions is a priority with collaboration the National Fire Chiefs Council Motorcycle Safety Week.

CPRE Campaigns Update

There have been three national campaigns running over the last four weeks. The ‘Big Help Out’ is a nationwide volunteering event to mark the King’s coronation last Saturday with the CPRE an official partner. As a part of this initiative, CPRE launched their ‘Hedgelife Help Out’ asking members help in building a picture of the health of the country’s hedgerows throughout this month. They are asking people to select a short piece of hedge (3 to 5 metres) and answer a few short questions through the link below. To help identify different hedgerow plants they have produced '[A little rough guide around the hedges](#)' You can complete a brief questionnaire on line at: [Hedgelife Help Out](#)

The second initiative was their ‘Dark Skies Week’ seeking support by members emailing their MP to press for dark skies to be protected. The results of this survey show that 75% of respondents counted stars in areas with the worst three categories of light pollution; 51% counted ten stars or fewer, indicating severe light pollution and just 5% counted more than 30 stars, indicating truly dark skies.

The CPRE is also campaigning against aspects of the ‘Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill’ which is nearing the end of its passage through Parliament. Their concern is that the National Development Management Policies included in the Bill are in effect a power grab by central government through their implementation and the scale of the existing rules they can replace. The fear is that these rules will erode local democracy as the Secretary of State would be able to override local plans to suit their political agenda.

It is early on in the life of this council, and not much yet has been decided or outlined.

.03 COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Cllr. Peart provided the following report.

Southwest Regional & Coastal Committee.

I attended this committee one of the Improvements is Phase 1 of the Holbeam Dam measures were signed off in April 2022 following completion of the bypass, new radial gate and control building. A site acceptance test of phase 1 works is now complete, and final works to be completed by Summer2023 along with delivery of final documentation.

The Final Business Case for Phase 2 work for the delivery of a new stepped concrete spillway was approved in January 2023. A Planning application for a compensatory bat structure has been submitted to Teignbridge District Council and new access bridge application to be submitted spring 2023. A bat licence for removal of old control structure has also been gained. Phase 2 is currently programmed to be on site in summer 2023.

Total reservoir storage increased from 71% to 76% during March, ending the month lower than at the same time in 1995 and 2022. Storage increased by 2% at Wimbleball, at 5% at Roadford, and 7% at Colliford, to net storage of 100%, 63% and 56% respectively.

Devon and Cornwall received 202mm of rain during March [203% of LTA] which is classed as exceptionally high for the time of year. Ten catchments received exceptionally high rainfall.

March 2023 was the 3rd wettest in a record starting 1891, the last time it was wetter was in 1947. The Teign and Torbay and the Tamar catchment were recorded as the 10th wettest 6 –month periods [October- March] in the 132-year record and the Avon, Dart and Erme catchment was recorded as the 6th wettest period in the 132 year record. Rain started falling on the 5th March and continued daily through the rest of the month across Devon and Cornwall.

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2949 FINANCE:

.01 Payments:

- a. It was proposed and seconded that the payments listed in '2305 Payment Authorisation' be approved retrospectively and processed by the clerk. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.
- b. It was proposed and seconded, that the payments listed in '230522 Payment Authorisation' be approved and processed by the clerk within 48 hours. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

.02 Monthly Finance Statements: A statement for the period ending 30.04.23 was forwarded to members prior to the meeting. No questions were raised therefore this was **NOTED** by members and signed by the chair. Clerk to publish this on the BPC website.

.03 BPC Community Grant: An application from Bishopsteignton Village Festival was considered, for a grant of £155 for refuse collection from the festival site. Cllr. Watson supported the application and suggested that the Climate Action fund be used to cover this cost. He made this proposal, which was seconded by Cllr. Benham and agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

Both Cllr. MacGregor and Cllr. Peart asked the clerk to inform the Chair of BVF that they have fund available upon request.

.04 BPC Reserves Policy: The draft policy, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting, was considered. It was proposed and seconded to adopt with immediate effect. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

.05 2022/23 Annual Governance & Accountability Return:

- a. It was proposed and seconded to acknowledge and accept the Internal Audit Report 2022/23 (page 3). Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.
- b. It was proposed and seconded to approve for the BPC Chair to sign section 1: Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (page 4). Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.
- c. It was proposed and seconded to approve for the BPC chair to sign section 2: Accounting Statement for 2022/23 (page 5). Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.
- d. It was proposed and seconded to approve as a true and correct record the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2022/23 and for this to be submitted to the external auditor. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

2950 ASSET MANAGEMENT

.01 Bishopsteignton War Memorial Cleaning & Repairs: Members considered the clerks report which was provided prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was proposed and seconded to appoint West Access Conservation in accordance with their quote 2421 dated 28.02.23. FOR: 8, AGAINST: 2. Therefore **RESOLVED**. Clerk to liaise with appointed contractor.

.02 Greenspaces Management for Biodiversity: Members considered the clerks report provided prior to the meeting. This was discussed at length and included input from members of the audience. All councillors agreed a Biodiversity Action Plan was required, and that this should be village wide.

It was proposed and seconded for the clerk to respond positively to the Ecologist explaining the actions BPC intend to take, starting with an action plan but to include definite enhancements at The Lawns such as expanding wild grass areas, more tree planting, adjustments to MUGA floodlights where feasible, and support for shielding street lighting at Lawns End. It was acknowledged that this action was in support of the Scouts & Community Hub planning application as well as to uphold the BPC declaration of Climate & Ecological emergency. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

.03 Muga Line Marking: Members considered the quote received, as shared by the clerk prior to the meeting. It was strongly felt the council should liaise with the original contractor (for line marking

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completed in September 2022, which is not of the expected standard). This may result in a solution or a refund and following this further action might be taken to improve the lines on the first court. If further line painting is to be carried out, ensure the quality is agreed and discuss with the appointed contractor the existing surface and how this may affect the result. It was proposed and seconded to carry out the actions described above. This was agreed unanimously and therefore **RESOLVED**.

2951 CLERKS REPORT

The clerk provided a report prior to the meeting and made available to download from the website. The following matters were considered further:

- .01 **Music for Power Hoop:** The clerk explained the issue raised by a resident adjacent to The Lawns, members agreed with actions taken so far. To ensure no further action is required Cllr. Hanafin kindly offered to attend the area when the next class is held to assess the situation.
- .02 **Current planning application for Cockhaven Arms:** Cllr. Merritt felt it would be good to have an update and would speak to the proprietors. Clerk reported asking the applicant's agent also.

2952 MEMBERS REPORTS: members gave brief summaries on the following matters/events:

- .01 Cllr. Merritt, on behalf of the council wished to congratulate Mrs. Cawthraw BEM, for being selected and attending the Kings Coronation, therefore representing Bishopsteignton at this historic event.

2953 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 21.13PM