

MINUTES - continued
FULL COUNCIL MEETING - held 23.10.23.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Bishopsteignton Parish Council strongly object to this proposal and any future proposed development of this land which would be contradictory to the Bishopsteignton Neighbourhood Development Plan, in particular policy BSC1: *'Development which has significant detriment impact on the character of the historic gardens... will be resisted'*.

In addition, the proposal is contradictory to BNDP policies BSB3: *'Any new development should not result in an unacceptable impact on the environmental value of the application site'* and BSB4: *'Proposals that result in harm or loss to existing agricultural or horticultural land and practice, allotments and food production will not normally be supported. This includes the protection of Huntly Walled kitchen garden'*.

Furthermore, the Parish Council support the many residents have expressed objections to this proposal for different and valid material planning considerations. Should the development be permitted, going against the Neighbourhood Development Plan created by this community and made by TDC in Oct 2017, it would raise the following concerns.

- Highway issues: traffic generation, restrictive vehicular access, compromised highway safety for both drivers and pedestrians.
- Increased and therefore excessive parking in a residential area.
- overlooking and loss of privacy to some neighbouring properties and the school.
- The development is not in keeping with the current street scene, the overall design and visual appearance is considered out of character.
- Over development of the site.
- Residents have indicated there has never been a successful application for extending to upwards to allow a Horns Park property to become 2 storey, as this has not been [permitted previously it seems a precedent is set for single storey only in the vicinity.

In addition to this objection from Bishopsteignton Parish Council a call in to TDC Planning Committee is requested should the delegated planning officer is minded to grant approval (see enclosed application form).

2991 HIGHWAYS:

Bollards on Manor Road: Discussed at length, including input from neighbouring parishioners. It was proposed to pursue the neighbourhood highways officer and contact for HATOC to fast-track the application for the extension to the double yellow lines, although it was understood the proposal would still need to go through the advertisement and consultation process. Furthermore, it was proposed and seconded for the installation of 'bendy' bollards (to reduce maintenance cost, initial outlay and damage to passing vehicle but still restrict parking) at this section of pavement towards the junction of Cleland Court. Both proposals were unanimously agreed and therefore RESOLVED.

2992 OFFICIAL REPORTS:

.01 POLICE: No crime report could be provided for this meeting and neither PCSO Bunce nor PC. Harvey was able to attend. The next PACT meeting is to take place at 11am on 16th November at The Old Commercial.

Cllr. Gill reported that to date a new officer to replace PC. Clarke orchard has not yet been appointed. In the meantime, PCSO. Bunce will be supported by other officers for December and January PACT meetings who may potentially take to available role.

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

- The local plan addendum was debated on Tuesday 17th October. Most significantly were the changes in the land supply designated sites.
- This unfortunately did not include removing Forder Lane from inclusion in the plan. The addendum now goes out to consultation before submission to the Planning Inspectorate.
- It's worth noting that the LD group voted to exclude a Dawlish infill scheme and another from Kenton as it does not suit them politically.
- Spending limits at the District were The local plan addendum was debated on Tuesday 17th October. Most significantly were the changes in the land supply designated sites.
- This unfortunately did not include removing Forder Lane from inclusion in the plan. The addendum now goes out to consultation before submission to the Planning Inspectorate.
- It's worth noting that the LD group voted to exclude a Dawlish infill scheme and another from Kenton as it does not suit them politically.
- Spending limits at the district were included in the agenda and the spending limit without recourse to advance scrutiny is doubled to £100,000 for Revenue based items, and £250,000 for capital items.
- It would seem there are few covenants applicable to land held by TDC directly -particularly in terms of parks/recreational spaces. To explore further the covenant issue with The Lawns I have opened discussion with Cllr Wrigley.
- Fees and charges were reviewed mid-year and there were increases across some services, but mostly on paid parking. This is expected to generate additional income of around £300,000 next year. TDC remains able to deliver services as usual, but increasing erosion of funding means constantly reviewing strategy on non-statutory services.
- To that end, money has been set aside for a Strategy Review to ensure TDC can effectively maintain services. I am not sure if that is internally or externally sourced.
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.03 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR:** Cllr. Peart provided the following report.

Grants for Community groups

Community groups and organisations are being invited to apply for grants to help look after people over the winter. Devon County Council is encouraging these groups to apply for funding from its Growing Community Fund which was set up last year. So far, more than £700,000 has been awarded to local projects, many of which are helping communities in many ways. Grants have been awarded to 475 local groups, and of these 216 are helping to address food and fuel poverty, 399 are addressing health and wellbeing, 313 are supporting those with mental health issues and 322 are helping families, parents and parents who are on their own.

Groups who can apply include those bringing communities together for activities and social interaction, provide a warm safe place during the winter or help with food poverty and essentials or offer communities the means to cook nutritious meals on a budget.

Cllr Roger Croad, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality, said: We still have funding available. For more details, contact communitygrants@devon.gov.uk

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2993 FINANCE

- .01 **Payments:** It was proposed and seconded, agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED that payments transacted by the clerk across the period 01.10.23 to 17.10.23, be approved retrospectively.
- .02 **Financial Statement:** A statement for the period ending 30.09.23 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 Grant Giving:** The following applications were considered and resolutions reached:
- Bishopsteignton Flower Club request for £750: It was proposed and seconded to grant £150 to this group. FOR: 8, ABSTAIN: 1, therefore RESOLVED.
 - Bishopsteignton Village Festival Committee for a craft event in 2024 request for £500: It was proposed and seconded to grant £250 for this event. Agreed unanimously therefore RESOLVED.
- Clerk to arrange payments and notification to the applicants.

2994 ASSET MANAGEMENT

- .01 **Fore Street Toilets Regeneration:** Members considered again the possible uses for the building if converted, however a majority felt these changes were not necessary. It was proposed by Cllr. Benham, seconded by Cllr. Robbins, that the facility be redecorated with no internal changes. This was unanimously agreed and therefore RESOLVED.
- Cllr. Gateshill raised a second part to the considerations, that the council currently pay rent for use of the Community Centre, for storage and all meeting rooms.
- Cllr. Merritt declared a non-pecuniary interest, would stay to discuss but would not vote.*
- Cllr. Gateshill suggested savings could be made by moving all stored items to the recently converted storage space at The Lawns and only booking meeting rooms as and when required. This was discussed; Cllr Hanafin stated the Community Centre most likely rely upon this income, and it is within the council's power to provide essential support to this community asset. The clerk confirmed the break clause of 6 months' notice was in place should the council wish to review this at any time in the future. It was proposed by Cllr. Benham, seconded by Cllr. Gill, for BPC to remain a tenant at Bishopsteignton Community Centre for the foreseeable future. Agreed unanimously therefore RESOLVED.
- .02 **Cemetery Maintenance:** Following a recent site visit a report was provided by the clerk, for members' information and opportunity to raise queries. Cllr. Gill questioned the existence of a tap at the cemetery. The clerk reported there was no evidence of there ever being a water connection, either physically or in written records.
- .03 **Defibrillator at Michaels Field:** Members considered the report provided by the clerk prior to the meeting. It was noted that all members, and the public audience were disappointed that a bill of £250 would be issued by the District Council for its permission to BPC to install this lifesaving community asset. However, it was propped by Cllr. Gateshill, seconded by Cllr. Merritt, to accept the TC Heads of Terms, and proceed to a licence agreement and the purchase and installation of a defibrillator at Michaels Field. FOR: 8, ABSTAIN: 1, therefore RESOLVED.

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2995 CLERKS REPORT: The report of all ongoing BPC business and activity was provided to members and the public prior to this meeting. The following comments were raised/points added:

- **Remembrance:** for this year's civic events the clerk was unable to attend so asked members for assistance on the day. To be advised of duties required in due course.
- **Scouts/Community Hub:** it was confirmed the scouts had not been successful with their grant application however the clerk stressed it was still essential to resolve the Lawns covenant matter with TDC, in case this or another opportunity arose in the future. It was agreed a working party meeting was necessary and should be arranged in due course.
- **BERT:** Members were advised a meeting of the working party was scheduled for Tuesday 24 October, to which more members were welcomed. Cllr. Vooght is attending as a representative of BPC and Luton residents.
- **Earmarked Fund from the late Mr. John Jenner:** The chair suggested the fund be earmarked for something suitable when a matter arises, rather than be swept up into general funds. Agreed unanimously. Cllr. Gill suggested it be put towards the defib cabinet required for the unit to be installed at the Cockhaven Arms, this was considered a good use, but no formal resolution was made.
- **Wall at St Johns:** When questioned the clerk explained problems in extracting a report from a stonemason, although only the recommended stonemason had been contacted. Others to be asked.

2996 MEMBERS REPORTS: members gave brief summaries on the following matters/events:

- **Teign Estuary Trail:** Cllr. Merritt provided a report prior to the meeting, this summarized the recent workshop held at Devon County Hall with officers from TDC, officers and members of DDC, BPC members Cllr. Benham & Merritt, and members of the campaign group. He suggested another parish councillor would be beneficial to the working party, but none was forthcoming. A future meeting date was announced; 29.11.23.
- **Devon Association of Local Council (DALC) Annual Conference:** Attended by Cllrs. Benham and Shaw. Cllr. Benham gave a general summary of information provided and relevant issues and considerations for local councils. Slides to be circulated to all BPC members, via the clerk, in due course.
- **Teignbridge Town & Parish Forum:** Attended by Cllr. Benham who reported this was an opportunity for TDC to explain its difficulties recently with planning officer recruitment and how this was leading to failings in this department. Also discussed were the financial constraints of the District Council, how it was working from its reserves, caused mostly by 27% cuts to the funds provided by central government over the last few years. They would continue to make cuts to services but may need to file a section 114 notice by the end of the next financial year. This limits future spending of the authority; TDC officers must carry out their duties in line with contractual obligations and to acceptable standards, while being aware of the financial situation. Any spending that is not essential or which can be postponed should not take place and essential spend will be monitored.

2997 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

One member of the public reported an overgrown private hedge which was reducing visibility and therefore compromising public safety. The clerk offered to write to the homeowner.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 21.46

DATED:

CHAIRMAN: