

MINUTES
OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2024
AT BISHOPSTEIGNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, SHUTE HILL



3020 MEETING GOVERNANCE

- .01 **Attendance:** Cllr. H. Merritt (Chair) Cllr. K. Benham Cllr. R. Gill
Cllr. R. Gateshill Cllr. J. Grimble Cllr. J. Head
Cllr. D. Robbins (7/9)
County Cllr. Peart, District Cllr. MacGregor. Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford.
6 members of the public at various times.
- Apologies:** Cllr. W. Vooght, Cllr. J. Hanafin. PCSO S. Bunce & PC. B. Chadwick.
- .02 **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr. Merritt declared a non-pecuniary interest for agenda item 2402.05.03 – Funding application from the BCC.
- .03 **Order of Business:** The Chair requested that his member's report relating to Teign Estuary Trail is given following Cllr. Peart's report. This was unanimously agreed.
- .04 **Ratification of Minutes:** Draft minutes of the full Parish Council meeting held at Bishopsteignton Community Centre on 15.01.24 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.

3021 CO-OPTION

- .01 For the current two vacancies on Bishopsteignton Parish Council four candidate applications were received. These had been circulated to current members prior to the meeting. The chair welcomed the candidates as each to introduce themselves adding anything further they felt appropriate. Members asked various questions. The candidates volunteered to leave the room to allow members to cast votes.
- There were proposers and seconders for three of the four candidates. Following voting it was resolved the duly elected councillors are Mrs. Elaine Harris and Mr. Andrew Keohane. Having each signed a declaration of Acceptance of Officer each to their co-opted seat with immediate effect.
- The Chair thanks the other candidates for their time and interest in joining the council.

3022 OFFICIAL REPORTS

- .01 **Police Report:** No report had been provided. No questions were raised for officers.
- .02 **District Councillors Report:** Cllr. MacGregor provided the following report. No comments or questions were raised to be forwarded.
1. My Councillor Community Fund has £50 left to allocate. It says £400 on the list, but by my calculations it is £50. Final date for applications for that will be 23rd February 2024.
 2. Bakers Yard has returned to planning. I have had a few calls from concerned residents already, so I have called it in to committee.
 3. TDC are seeking to leverage as much as possible from fees and charges and the application later today is in respect of utilising green spaces assets for income.
 4. The Devolution Deal for Torbay Council and Devon County Council has been announced. Plymouth withdrew citing it feels it will suit their needs to remain separate.

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Funding detail has yet to be announced, however it is hopefully a scenario that will bring increased leverage for the combined authority. Sadly, no increase in funding for the District Councils from it. Hopefully, it might mean a better opportunity to secure funding for at least part of the Teign Estuary Trail works early.

5. I have today asked for confirmation that all those who made representations to the Local Plan, residents, community groups and Parish & Town Councils to be notified when the Local Plan is to be submitted so they can apply to give evidence if they choose to the Planning Inspector
6. I have also submitted a motion to withdraw the Local Plan for review following U K Govt policy change on targets, heritage and environment to continue to push for Forder Lane to be removed from the LP.

On a wider District level,

7. Queen Street, Newton Abbot. The work is due to be scheduled in late spring / early summer. This may cause disruption for residents travelling into NA for shopping.
8. The developer for Higher Exeter Road Teignmouth has submitted a change to the highways access which when implemented may cause delays during construction and use of rat runs to avoid delays on the B3192.

.03 **County Councillors Report:** Cllr. Peart provided the following report.

Proposed transfer of powers and funding to local government. The Minister for Levelling Up, Jacob Young was in Torbay this week to sign a ground-breaking deal that could transfer significant decision-making powers and funding, from Whitehall to local government in Devon and Torbay. The proposed Deal could mean that more decisions can be taken locally by people who know their areas best, and on things that matter to local people, such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport. Mr Young was joined by the Leaders of Devon County Council and Torbay Council, two local MPs, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. But before the proposal can be confirmed, it first needs to be supported by the two councils, followed by a six-week public consultation.

What is the Devolution Deal? The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that see the transfer of power and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, subject to public consultation. The proposed Combined County Authority would be a partnership made up of Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education. Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities. The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority [hereafter CCA], that will not require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils.

Here's a summary of the highlights: Under the proposals, the CCA would have direct control of adult education to create up to 50, 000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030. It would create a stronger relationship between employers and schools, colleges and universities to provide the skilled workforce the local economy needs for the future. It would see the Government transfer over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net – zero economy. There would be a stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan to affordable housing schemes for local people and reduce homelessness. It would lead to even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co- ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport. Devon and Torbay would be responsible for the developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025 there

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would be a significant boost to high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital.

3023 MEMBERS REPORTS

Teign Estuary Trail – Cllr. Merritt

Cllr. Merritt reported that the chair of the campaign group has written to the DCC leader about how more funds from the devolution deal could be used to support the TET. He explained the recent meeting and the arranged walk of the proposed trail, set up for the benefit of the consultants preparing the business case/plan. At this stage there is no further action required from BPC.

3024 FINANCE

.01 Payments:

It was proposed and seconded, agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED that payments transacted by the clerk across the period 22.01.24 to 16.02.24, be approved retrospectively.

.02 Financial Statement: Statements for the period ending 31.01.24 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair. Clerk to publish this on the BPC website.

.03 BPC Grant:

- a. An application from BAGS for £220 towards a solar PV panel to charge gardening equipment on site was considered alongside additional information as was requested at the last BPC meeting. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the grant of £220 as requested and that this be provided from the Climate Action grant. RESOLVED.
- b. An application from Bishopsteignton Community Centre for £300 towards new planters and related materials to improve the aesthetic and biodiversity of the outside space of the centre. Cllr. Benham kindly offered to provide some of the material required and would liaise with the applicant directly. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the grant of £300 as requested, subject to other donations offer by Cllr. Benham, and that this be provided from the Climate Action grant. RESOLVED.

.04 Virement of Funds:

Members considered a suggestion to allocate a donation made earlier in the current financial year. £62.61, which had been donated as a funeral collection for the late councillor Mr. John Jenner to be used by the Parish Council for the good of the community. It was proposed and seconded that this money be allocated to the DAA Night Landing Site reserve. Unanimously agreed, therefore RESOLVED.

Furthermore, it was suggested that the remaining balance in the 2023-24 BPC community grant fund be allocated to the Night Landing Site reserve. This was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed, therefore RESOLVED.

Cllr. Head is actively working on fund raising ideas to ensure there is a reserve for the landing light and defibrillator network. The Chair thanked her for this work.

3025 PLANNING

The application below was considered and the following comment agreed for submission to Teignbridge District Council as the local planning authority.

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Application Ref: 24/00159/FUL - Michael's Field , Newton Road
Proposal: Use of land for stationing of trailer for sale of hot and cold food and drinks

This application was considered. The following comment was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed

BPC Comment: The Parish Council object to this proposal. They do not see a need for a new refreshment vendor in the village, this may undermine or threaten the established businesses already within the village including a similar mobile vendor at The Lawns recreation ground, within walking distance. Concern over the creation of additional litter was raised, and how this would be detrimental to the biodiversity and aesthetic appeal of the site.

3026 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

.01 **2024-25 Meeting Schedule:** The draft schedule presented was considered. It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed, therefore RESOLVED. To be shown on the BPC website.

.02 **Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2024:** several nominations were suggested and considered. It was proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed that Cllr. Henry Merritt be nominated for the draw for attendance in 2024. RESOLVED, clerk to submit before the deadline.

.03 **Policy Review:** The following policies were reviewed by the council.

- a. Internal Control Policy (P.040) – new policy, considered best practice.
- b. Memorial Asset Policy (P.015) – new policy to include trees.
- c. Operation Bridges Policy (P. 26) – amended.

All policies above were proposed and seconded for adoption. Agreed unanimously therefore RESOLVED. Clerk to add to register and website.

3027 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

The related papers were considered by members. Amendments included:

- The maximum age for a nomination for the Youth category shall be 18 years.
- Nominators may not be anonymous.
- Business shall not be included in the Community Groups/Organisations category.

The concept and associated documents were proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed for adoption and promotion later this year. The first awards will be scheduled for the Annual Parish Meeting 2025.

3028 ASSET MANAGEMENT

.01 **Hope Coffee at The Lawns:** Members considered a request from the vendor to attend the site for one additional session per week, preferably Saturdays. It was proposed and seconded to grant permission. FOR: 6, AGAINST: 3, Therefore RESOLVED. Clerk to liaise with Hope Coffee.

.02 **Line Marking in The Lawns recreation ground car park:** Members considered this suggestion however it was considered there was no real benefit to justify the potential cost of this action. It was suggested the vendor use cones to mark the preferred position. Therefore, it was proposed,

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seconded, and unanimously agreed that line marking will not take place in the The Lawns recreation ground car park.

.03 **St Johns Church Lower Garden Wall:** Members considered the report provided by the clerk prior to the meeting. It was proposed and seconded to no longer pursue a report from a stonemason and that the project be progressed with the original contractor who provided a quote, subject to and additional cost caused by the delayed instruction. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

3029 CLERKS REPORT: The report of all ongoing BPC business and activity was provided to members and the public prior to this meeting. The following further matters were raised by the clerk:

.01 **Railing at Bishops Avenue Car Park:** The clerk reported the recent accident and that this has been reported to the council's insurance policy provider, and a quotation for a like for like repair has been requested, although the clerk recommended that when repairs take place a more substantial solution should be considered by the council. Although this was not part of a budget set for 2024-25 the insurance payout and car park transfer reserve could be used.

.02 **BERT:** Mrs. Elaine Cawthraw, as Chair of BERT reminded BPC that new BERT committee members are essential and anyone would be welcome to find out what is required, to contact her directly for further information.

.03 **Covenant on Lawns Transfer Deed:** There was still no news from Cllrs. Wrigley or Nutley on this matter. Cllrs. MacGregor and Peart both agreed to pursue this.

3030 FURTHER MEMBERS REPORTS

.01 **Planning Concerns – Cllr. Benham**

Cllr. Benham raised several issues. Firstly, questioning a static caravan at the top of Wear Farm land. This was a matter to be raised with Planning enforcement. Secondly, she asked if there has been further development, unpermitted, at Park Farm, as it appeared to be larger. A matter to also be raised with planning enforcement.

.02 **Fore Street Highways Concerns – Cllr. Robbins**

Cllr. Robbins asked about the removal of the parking restriction sign outside Supply Stores on Fore Street. The clerk reported this has been raised several times with DCC Highways and they are currently preparing a new, replacement sign to be fixed again. Hopefully a more suitable fixing solution will be used this time. He advised that PCSO Saul Bunce would be interested to know when the new sign is fitted, so he might keep an eye on this.

3031 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There were no matters raised by the public audience.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 21.12