

Additional Information for the meeting on 18th Sept 2024

- 1 Public Open Session** 5 minutes maximum per speaker
- 2 Co-option of New Councillor**
- 3 Apologies & Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes**
 - To approve the meeting minutes 11th June 2024
 - To approve the meeting minutes 9th July 2024

5 External Reports 5.1 County Cllr Squires including:

5.1.1 Highways Event 21st August report from Cllr Uglow

Recording of the session: [An introduction to self-help highways schemes \(youtube.com\)](#)

- Copy of the presentation
- [Road Warden Scheme](#):
- [Snow Warden Scheme](#):
- [Self-Funded Delivery Scheme](#): Interested councils should discuss their ideas with their Neighbourhood Highways Officer.
- [Parish Paths Partnership](#): Find out about annual grants to maintain local rights of way

Connect Events coming soon:

- [Understanding road maintenance](#) – 18 Oct, 1pm.
- [An insight into roadworks](#) – 5 Dec, 1pm.
- [Highways investment unveiled](#) – 6 Feb, 1pm.
- [Highways and the planning system](#) – 3 Apr, 1pm.

And you can watch our past Connect Events here:

devonalc.org.uk/connectevents/

5.1.2 Footpath Gate Hillcrest entrance to field

Email from a Parishioner:

The footpath gate from the field leading to the Berrybridge Road at the Hillcrest (EX5 5JR) entrance end cannot be closed because the hasp is out of alignment. Could you please report this to whoever undertakes these repairs or let me know who I should contact.

5.1.3 Road Warden Scheme

Ongoing issues with supply of equipment and materials.

5.2 District Cllr Roberts

5.3 Saturday Market

13th July 2024 1. ? Is there any influence we could have in reinstating the 3 evening buses into the village. The 355 goes to Silverton i was informed, could this also be reinstated here.

2. Update of timetable for focus. (editor is already on the case)

3. Interest in the councillor position.

4. Padlock to the allotments needs some attention. (Difficult to undo may need some TLC).

10th August 2024

1. Request from a parishioner that the garage renewals are recieved 1 month before the renewal date.

2. Potential members for TCLT who originally put their names down some may not have been contacted. The parishioner who advised i have passed how to become a member but i am unsure who else has been affected.

3. A parishioner has reported that there seems to be an increase of rats in an area of land at the back of the houses in Bullens street (church side). They are coming into the rear gardens and asked if the PC could help.

6 Projects

6.1 Affordable Housing

The Board met at the end of July and will now not meet again until the end of October; this is due to further meetings with other parties and members being unavailable.

We held a meeting with Arron Beecham of MDDC planning in August. This proved very encouraging and we were given positive support from Mr Beecham. Draft plans of what may be possible for both the north and south sites were presented and there were no immediate signs of any planning conflicts. The importance of having both sites developed together as a joint project was made; the south site will be used to manage water runoff from the north site and will be the main bio diversity area.

It is envisaged that some open market houses will be built on the south side to support the building of Discounted Market Sales homes on the same site; the north site will concentrate on rental and some self build homes. The final numbers will be discussed at a future Open Meeting with the village.

In the next few weeks there will be meetings with two Housing Associations to discuss their potential involvement.

TCLT has recently opened a bank account and will be depositing the £1.00 membership fees that are starting to arrive following a publicity drive online and in Focus. All Cllrs are encouraged to join!

6.2 Barliabins

6.3 Road signs for approaches to Berrysbridge

Email from the Chairman

Proposed spend of up to £300 on three road signs on the approach to Berrysbridge to deter large vehicles.

6.4 Update on 'The Exeter'

6.5 Additional wildflower areas

Email from a parishioner:

Please do let me know if the PC are in favour of more areas as I would love to help. I have more ideas of areas we could do too. If you would like me to join you again at your next meeting to discuss I would be more than happy too.

Reply from the Chairman

I am so happy that you are happy with the results of your hard work! The next step would be for the PC to gauge the Parish's response to the project and see if we have the public's support for more of your verges.

7 Recreation Ground

7.1 Financial Report for July and Aug

7.2 Play Equipment source of funding

National Lottery Fund reply:

Why we can't fund your project

At our initial review, we need to take into account our current investments, competing applications, and other existing services; this is with a view to investing in a diverse range of projects (revenue & capital – inclusive of community assets) across the county of Devon.

In addition, in comparison to other applications considered we couldn't see how it would involve your community enough. People are at the heart of everything we do. Because we believe that people understand what's needed in their communities better than anyone.

When we make decisions about funding, we look at how you've involved your community, inclusive of direct beneficiaries, in the design, development and delivery of the activities you're planning. We also like to see that the people you're trying to involve have come up with the initial idea for your project too.

The panel have chosen to prioritise other applications on this basis.

7.3 Memorial Bench

Email from a parishioner's relative:

I have spoken to the football club about the proposed siting of the bench. We would like to put it on the same side as the changing rooms towards the bottom of the field (beyond where their dugouts will be situated and he was happy with this.

Dad's brother lives in Broadlands in the end block and so it would be visible from his window (VA).

We were wondering if we will need a full concrete base or whether small pads for each leg to be bolted onto? Does the parish council have a preference ? We would like to get this sorted as soon as possible?**8**

8 Grounds Maintenance

8.1 Handyman Work for the month

8.2 DCT Community Resilience Forum 26th Sept

You're invited to the Devon Community Resilience Forum on Thursday 26th September 9.30am – 4pm at Crediton Rugby Club, Exhibition Road, Crediton, EX17 1EP.

Is your community prepared to respond to adverse situations? This could be anything from emergency weather situations to a power cut, major accident or anything that disrupts the community and could put people or property at risk.

A Parishioner has offered to attend for Thorverton.

9 Planning & Consultations

9.1 Decisions

9.1.1 24/00380/LBC Perry Farm Conversion of barn's 1st floor – Granted

9.1.2 24/00961/CAT Eden House, Jericho St Fell 2 trees – No Objection

9.1.3 24/00949/FULL Rull Orchard Dwelling & infrastructure – Refused

9.1.4 24/00758/CLP Tregony Loft conv. & roof lights – Certified Lawful

9.1.5 24/01241/NMA West Ashley Porch extension – Granted

9.2 Applications

**9.2.1 24/01012/FULL Castle Orchard, Dark Lane
Conversion of 2 flats to dwelling etc**

9.2.2 24/00851/HOUSE 3 Dark Lane Single storey extension

9.2.3 24/01206/FULL Lynch Farm Roof to cover yard

**9.2.4 24/01279/FULL Berry Dairy
Change shop to ancillary accommodation**

**9.2.5 24/01292/CAT Littlemead, Jericho St EX5 5NY
Intention to fell fir tree**

10 Correspondence

10.1 Email re Garage 5B including Licence to Assign for sale

Garage 5B is being sold and Council's solicitors have been instructed to draw up the necessary Licence to Assign.

10.2 Fencing at Broadlands

Ref: Rear Fencing

I would like to thank you for your patience whilst I have been trying to resolve the issue with regards the new fencing at the rear of your properties installed by Heritage Homes. It has not been a straightforward situation, however I finally have an agreement that I hope you will be happy with.

If you wish you may remove the old fences, inside of the new ones erected, and gain a few inches to your gardens. Hopefully this will make tending your gardens easier and give you easier access.

However the new fencing that has been installed by Heritage will be your responsibility as tenants to maintain and not the responsibility of MDDC. It also has to be noted that IF Heritage decided to remove the fencing it would fall to you as resident to replace. Therefore any replacement/damage/repair etc.to these fences will not be undertaken by MDDC at any time.

The fencing should be left as is and not tampered with, i.e. not cut/removed/changed to gates.

10.3 Allotments and garages including usage for recreation

From Cllr Shelton:

With regard to potential plot owners I wonder if there is anything in the agreement regarding its usage. I know there is a person who has requested a plot but wants it solely to grass out and be able to sit! Not quite the use we would want, especially if there are people who wish to be more self-sufficient.

10.4 Email from N Lane

1. I have been disappointed at the apparent lack of progress with finalising the purchase of the patch of land intended to be used as a New Cemetery. I think that Council needs to focus on this as a matter of urgency. I have seen references to the purchase being with the vendor's solicitors, but cannot understand why this should be proving so difficult. Are councillors aware of the issues holding this up and are they aware of the costs already incurred and likely to be incurred before completion? I feel that a detailed discussion is long overdue.

Chairman's view

I have asked Stuart to talk to Nick Heard before next week. I hope that will give us something (anything!) new to say at the meeting.

2. You will recall that we ran a Satisfaction Survey for three successive years, but that Council decided to rest that last year (a great shame in my opinion as a run of results gives useful feedback on progress, which an interrupted run does far less successfully). The minutes from last October say that it was to be postponed, so the survey should be run again this November, but if that is to happen Council needs to confirm it. I would very strongly recommend using the same simple questions as before as this allows good analysis of progress. Using different questions makes comparison impossible, so annual progress or regression is not apparent. I would be happy to carry out analysis of the results again if that would be helpful.

Chairman's view

For the record, I was never a fan of the Satisfaction Survey and voted against the idea in the last Council period. I feared that it would only be completed by those with an axe to grind about the PC and would be ignored by the majority who think we do a decent job but don't have the time or inclination to register this by filling in quite a long questionnaire. When we agreed to postpone the idea last year I didn't think that this meant we

would definitely re-introduce it in November, only to discuss whether or not we have changed our minds. Whatever the case I would strongly urge the PC to consider something else other than this sort of online method, such as questioning parishioners at various venues like the pubs, the PO, Big Breakfast Saturdays etc.

3. It would be worth discussing Winter Warmth again. It felt to me as though the sessions last winter were not very successful, largely because they were not known about. Before taking any decisions I would expect councillors to want to be aware of the cost of last winter's sessions and some information on how they were received. The couple of times that I went into the pubs when a session was supposedly on, no-one seemed aware. So, my recommendation would be either to set them up and publicise them or to forget the whole idea.

Chairman's view

I actually updated the Winter Warmth poster myself last year, as we needed to change the dates, so work was done on the publicity. Notwithstanding the potential issues with The Exeter, I would recommend we offer support this winter, so hope it'll be included in the October agenda.

4. Jim will have seen that I think that it is long overdue for us to review the Emergency Plan. I have been urging Cllr Hodge to do this - without any success to date - so that those who have a role know what is expected of them, and so that we can reassure villagers that there is a workable plan. I have offered to attend a resilience workshop being run by Devon Communities Together in late-September and so it might be worth having a review of Thorverton's plan after that and put the item on the agenda for October's meeting. Again, my view on this is very simple: either have a plan that people are aware of and know their roles, or don't have a plan at all. The plan currently on the website is shown as a draft of December 2022, so review and publicising the plan would seem to be timely.

Chairman's view

I have mixed views over an Emergency Plan for a place the size of Thorverton. If the centre of the village floods (the most likely emergency?) then the village won't wait for someone with a high vis jacket and a clipboard to turn up and sort out the problem. The Thorverton Arms would probably be open for refuge, but if that building is the centre of an emergency (say a fire?) then people will automatically congregate towards

another area, like The Exeter or the Memorial Hall. It might be worth considering having one Cllr nominated as being the PC 'representative' on site (emergency warden perhaps?) and I wonder if Colin might volunteer for this; his practical hands on approach is what will be needed. I therefore tend to agree with Neville's later comment in his para below that we either have a proper plan, or don't have one at all.

10.5 Thorverton Bus Services in the Evening

See Saturday Market report above and parishioner email:

Since moving to Thorverton in October 2023, my wife and I have tried to use public transport whenever possible.

With a little planning, the 355 and very occasional 675 / 678 services can be useful during the daytime.

The issue arises during the evening, with the final bus from Exeter to Thorverton departing at 18:00 (17:55 on Saturdays). Clearly this precludes an evening out in Exeter, unless one drives.

There have been some positive changes with effect from the latest timetable.

Stagecoach have extended certain evening journeys of the 55 service (Exeter - Tiverton - Exeter, normally excluding Thorverton and Silverton), to include Silverton. But not Thorverton.

Silverton residents can now travel directly home from Exeter at 20:00, 21:30 and 23:00. Ideal timings! If only they included a slight diversionary loop to Thorverton. Would it be possible for the Parish Council to lobby for such an extension to our bus service? I'm sure this would assist many residents and not just my wife and I. We are enjoying Thorverton, by the way.

10.6 Invitation to Mid-Devon Civic Service



The Chair of Mid Devon District Council
Cllr Frank Letch MBE
Invites

All Town and Parish Chairs and their guest

To his

CIVIC SERVICE

To be held on Sunday 20th October 2024 at 3pm
At St. Paul's Church, Church Street, Tiverton, EX16 5HU

Followed by afternoon tea at
The Old Heathcoat School Community Centre,

10.7 Police Councillor Advocate scheme



An opportunity for councillors and police to work together for the good of their communities with the Councillor Advocate Scheme!

Are you interested in working with your local policing team to help inform your local community on policing matters and to feedback local issues to the police service?

If so, this could be an opportunity for you!

The Councillor Advocate Scheme has been set up by the Police and Crime Commissioner to help councils build a relationship with their local policing team. You can [find out more on our website](#).

11 Finance

11.1 Bank balance Current account £ 27,481.83 (30th August 2024)

No reserve account statements being received.

11.2 Payments

11.2.1	Grounds Maintenance July & August BF20240100	£ 610.36
11.2.2	Savills Half-year rent for allotment field (inv937841)	£ 90.00
11.2.3	Geoff Pook Professional services re ThrvCLT	£ 1,103.00
11.2.4	CLT Network Incorporation fee Inv-3675	£ 325.00
11.2.5	Horizon Cons. Engineers CLT Viability Report inv 4255	£ 2,700.00
11.2.6	J P Roberts	
	Clerk pay for July	£ 456.89
	Clerk pay for August	£ 456.89
	Reimbursements Green Waste permit	£ 70.00
	Grounds Maintenance July inv BF20240054	£ 315.79
	New allotment gate padlock	£ 21.00
		£ 1,320.57

12 Business at the Chairman's Discretion

Items for Information Only No decision making during this item.

13 Next Meeting Tuesday 8th October 2024