

Thorverton Parish Council

Additional Information for the meeting on Tuesday 8th October 2024

- 1 Public Open Session** 5 minutes maximum per speaker
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Apologies**
- 4 Minutes**
To approve the meeting minutes [18th September 2024](#)

5 External Reports

5.1 County Cllr Squires

5.2 District Cllr Roberts

5.3 Saturday Market

5.4 DCT Resilience Forum

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5.5 DALC AGM & Exhibition

Report from the Chairman

I have just returned from the annual DALC Conference and have the following info to share with you. I suggest we discuss these at our meeting next week, but I'm happy to answer any queries beforehand if required.

Conversation with DCC Highways

I think we managed to sort out the supply of equipment for Rob Flatt and his team. I don't quite know why the request was held up but while I was there authorisation was given for a tamper, broom, wheelbarrow and hi-vis vests was given which means Rob can start to use the Instarmac that has been delivered. For future *ref [Officer name]* is our contact.

The plan to use a local worker to replace missing cobbles was explained and welcomed. All signage must be done through the Road Warden scheme for insurance purposes.

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[Officer] and her colleague are aware of our intention to augment the signs on the Berrysbridge approaches with a picture of an HGV with a red cross.

We could get a very modest grant to cut grass if we were using volunteers, but they won't award anything if it goes to paying a contractor; moreover,

if we cut a safety splay for drivers at a road junction and someone has an accident we will not be insured. I suggest we therefore leave this to DCC, but keep an eye on what they are no longer doing as they spend less time on grass cutting.

They liked the work we are doing on sowing some verges and leave this down to us.

DCC Presentation

The main item to confirm is that there will be a collaboration between DCC and Torbay Council as a new Combined Authority as the new govt carried out the proposal made by the old one - it'll be

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named 'Team Devon'. Plymouth will not join this, which was disappointing to DCC. Having 'paid attention' to the messages they received at the last Conference DCC are diverting an extra £12m to Highways issues.

Asked about whether the extra income that a 200% Council Tax levy on second homes would be spent on local housing needs, the answer was a firm 'no'. The DCC leader said that it'll go into the revenue pot like all other income and then decisions will be made on where to spend it. He also said that Homes England were the major source of revenue for Affordable Housing as far as they are concerned - 'sitting on £billions' was mentioned, but not sure if this can be taken as an firm fact!

Devon Communities Together and Middlemarch presentation

[An officer] said it would not be easy to trace those that had responded to the HNS last year, asking for help over housing, as the info is gathered anonymously. She did say that we had a very good

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return of questionnaires at 35% and that the HNS should therefore be considered quite accurate.

Another HNS can be carried out but she also came up with the suggestion of asking Devon Home Choice if they could provide (confidential) details of the local waiting list to the CLT. *[The officer]* said this would really start to grow as the project develops and the prospect of houses being built looks more certain.

The other way to get info would be to carry out local surveys ourselves, such as at The Big Breakfast or through Open Meetings. The presentation slides, which included a section presented by Middlemarch, will be available shortly and I will pass them on to the CLT; to be honest there will not be much on there that we don't already know and indeed I was asked to say something about Thorverton as we are seen to be well advanced in our AH project. There were a number of general enquiries and I recommended that anyone interested in seeing how we have tackled the project should

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look at our website for guidance. It was interesting to note that they recommended getting planning permission early on as this will make the project more attractive to potential business partners such as HAs.

Banking

The Unity Trust Bank had a stand at the conference; they were part of the Co-op bank until recently and then split away to concentrate on community businesses, such as PCs. I'll do a bigger presentation on them on Tuesday, but take a look at their website at www.unity.co.uk. The most interesting thing about them was that the Relationship and Business Development Manager was ALWAYS available by phone or email, and could help us with all our banking queries. Isn't this the sort of service that the big banks have dropped recently? Could this be the answer to Jim's problems??

FIA protection of our funds and not bad rates of interest either; you get 4% for locking in deposits for six months.

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6 Projects

6.1 Affordable Housing (Thorverton Community Land Trust)

6.2 Barliabins

6.3 Christmas Trees

Email from the supplier

I have spoken to Clare and she has agreed to do the same as last year and put the cost of her tree against the village trees.

We have therefore attached our invoice allowing for this, the total is £260 and we will arrange to deliver the trees on Thursday 21st or Friday 22nd November as requested.

Email from a parishioner

I see in the September minutes 6.6 a question was raised about why the pc purchased a tree for the Memorial Hall

This was suggested and agreed about 10 years ago to acknowledge the effort and expense to the hall as they provided mulled wine, mince pies, Father Christmas, satsumas and entertainment for the children

6.4 Wildflower Verges

6.5 Winter Warmth

7 Recreation Ground

7.1 Financial Report for September

Cost of paint (see September minutes) £32.62

7.2 Other matters

8 Grounds Maintenance

8.1 Contractor Work for the month

8.2 Other matters

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9 Planning & Consultations

Planning Decision

9.1 **APPROVED 24/00851/HOUSE 3 Dark Lane** Front extension

Planning Application

9.2 [24/01204/LBC](#) 9 Silver St Upgrade gutters & fascias

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Consultations

			
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9.3 Devon & Torbay Local Transport Plan LPT4

Deadline 30th Nov

Webinars

Tuesday 8th Oct 4-5pm

Monday 18th Nov 4-5pm

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9.4 Devon Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

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Deadline 30th Nov

Webinar

Weds 30 Oct at 15:30

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9.5 Re-federation consultation: Exe Valley and Moorsway Federations

Full details available from the school, circulated to Cllrs on 27th Sept.

CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES Deadline 15th November

The Governors of Moorsway Federation and the Exe Valley Federation have set up a consultation process to seek the views of parents, staff, the community, the Local Authority, the Diocese and other key partners. The consultation process will last six weeks, starting from Friday, 27th September 2024.

Governors would welcome your views and comments and invite you to any of the following meetings ...:

Thursday 3rd October at 9.15am at Cornwood C of E School

Thursday 10th October at 9.15am at The Erme School, Ivybridge

Thursday 10th October at 3.30pm at Shaugh Prior School

Friday 11th October at 2.15pm at Silverton C of E School

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10 Councillor resignation and recruitment

Cllr Nightingale resigned on 27th September.
There are now two vacancies for Councillors.

11 Correspondence

11.1 Council's Solicitor

Clerk's email to Council

I was extremely surprised to read that Gilbert Stephens are 'no longer taking on commercial work'!! Perhaps this explains the delay with the new cemetery. I am even more surprised that GS didn't actually tell us themselves. I found it out when [a parishioner] rang me chasing his Licence to Assign and via this email.

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11.2 Sheep Dip

Email from Savills

I am just getting in touch as we are the new managing agents for the Church Commissioner of England.

I believe that the old sheep dip area owned by the Church is currently being used by the council and we were wishing to put a formalised agreement in place for the use of the area.

12 Website Revamp

13 Finance

13.1 Bank balance Unavailable due to lack of statements

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13.2 Payments:

13.2.1 Cllr Graham Sims	Reimbrsmnt Mower Service & Paint	£ 466.82
13.2.2 Cllr Colin Marshall	Reimbrsmnt COSSH Cupboard	£ 258.84
13.2.3 HMRC	PAYE for Quarter 2 (ending 5 Oct)	£ 332.60
13.2.4 GX Accountancy	Payroll services for quarter 2	£ 63.00
13.2.5 J P Roberts	- clerk pay, (September)	£ 456.69

14 Business at the Chairman's Discretion

Items for Information only No decision making during this item.

15 Next Meeting Tuesday 12th November 2024