

**HALWELL & MORELEIGH ANNUAL PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING
& ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Monday 15th May 2023 at 7pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. District Councillor – Newly elected District Councillor, Simon Rake, thanked Helen Reeves for all her work and expressed the hope that he could act well as her successor.

2. County Councillor – Rufus Gilbert

- 1) Well, 2022/23 has been another very challenging year for local authorities and government.....
- 2) The housing of our Ukrainian guests and getting their children in to school, on top of assisting the Afghans and Hongkongers has been challenging and continues to be so for DCC.
- 3) Covid-19 The winter did not see another major outbreak and the flu also seemed not to have been a major problem.
- 4) Avian Influenza. This has proved challenging on top of the human virus and influenza.
- 5) Coronation celebration road closure party applications have predominantly been going well.
- 6) Scams are still proving a terrible blight and effecting some people horribly across Devon.
- 7) Highways. We had made headway in catching up with potholes and clearing drainage gullies, but the winter rains and frosts have set things back a bit. We are starting to catch up again and the recently announced £200M announced from of Govt to help, giving DCC £9.4M will help.
- 8) We now have a new Chief Executive and head of Children's services which should prove beneficial Effects for all and not just the DCC budget.
- 9) This has been the most difficult DCC budget to set in memory. At one point it looked to be the end of DCC.
10. Devolution deal for Devon to include Plymouth and Torbay at Level 2 has been agreed by the Levelling UP Minister subject a final business case being agreed by all parties along with parliamentary approval. This will assist in providing improved housing, public transport and Investment opportunities
 - a) Plymouth & South Devon Freeport. This is now up and running well, with CEO and Chairman etc being fully employed. I am a Director.
 - b) LEP's. Local Enterprise Partnerships were dissolved at the last budget statement and the roles will be undertaken by my DCC portfolio of Economy. The reason being to make the delivery of the service more democratically accountable.

LOCAL ISSUES.

- 1) I have given from my Locality Allowance £1200.00 for the defibrillator.
- 2) I have attended most of your PC's throughout the year.
- 3) I have continued to update you on Gara Bridge damage.

3. POLICE REPORT – None**4. CHAIR'S REPORT –**

- The Parish Council have taken steps to have the situation at Gara Bridge resolved so that access is not prevented due to the constant damage being caused. At present the bridge is open but DCC have failed to take any effective measures to prevent further damage.
- The PC have made many representations to DCC to have the road surface at Moreleigh Cross and the potholes from Moreleigh Cross to Stanborough repaired. It is understood that work to Moreleigh Cross down to Diptford Turn is scheduled sometime this year.
- The abandoned caravan at Halwell Barn layby had to be moved by the Chair to allow access after many attempts to get SHDC to do this. In the end, after many weeks, the caravan was removed.
- The Chair feels that the signage near Martin Pears has been largely ineffectual.
- After the criticism which has been levelled at the PC over the preceding months it was a surprise that the election for Councillors was not contested.
- A handful of parishioners, albeit small, have repeatedly complained at meetings this past year.
- Due to parishioners requests that 4 VAS signs be installed in Moreleigh the PC has taken advice from Highways. It is not possible to site a VAS at the Gara end of Moreleigh and Highways advice is that permanent signs are ineffective.
- Comments have also been received about the size of the PCs reserve. When taking into consideration necessary contingencies, the pot would be considerably smaller if Members and parishioners did not carry out work in the Parish free of charge.
- The Coronation Lunch was very well supported and was a great success. Ruth Widger was presented with a rose in recognition of her many years of service to the Parish Council and to the parish.

5. MORELEIGH CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE – Rosemary Hannaford

- After 18 months of being closed, the temporary building work to the church has now been completed and the electricity has been reconnected due to the fire which occurred in the mains cupboard.
- Moreleigh Church is finally open. We held our first service on the 14th May, a Rogation Service which was well supported by the surrounding Parishes.
- The PCC would like to express their thanks to St. Leonard's, Halwell, for hosting services for Moreleigh during the time we have been closed, it has been very much appreciated.

6. ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE - Rose Palmer

- This year has seen the easing of Covid restrictions, we have continued to hold an evening service once a month and since Moreleigh has been temporarily closed we have hosted their evening service.
- The church has been kept unlocked and open to visitors to use the book exchange and leave items in the food bank box where items are regularly taken to Totnes and Kingsbridge food banks. We continue to hold the monthly lunch on Tuesday's catering for up to twenty.
- With current funds and grants available, we are aiming to make the church a space for all to use and enjoy. A good kitchen, ample floor space and work being now done to install a toilet will give the church great potential to host more events. We have had a good response from the survey which was sent out to Halwell residents recently.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for the contribution to the churchyard maintenance. The churchyard is used regularly by the Halwell residents as a cut through for walkers and dogs as they head for Bickleigh Lane.

Coffee Morning Plant Sale at St Leonard's Saturday 3rd June 2023 10am-12noon

7. VILLAGE HALL TRUST AND SOCIAL REPRESENTATIVE – Helen Reeve

- The hall has made a good recovery from covid and is being let out well with regular weekly Sessions as well as children’s parties, bingos and of course any village events.
- There was a question about trying to lock the doors to the storage under the stage and that the hall would need painting soon outside. It was felt the painting could wait another year.
- The hall does want to tarmac under the basketball ring and quotes are being sourced. The finance of the hall is healthy but we must always try and do one or two good events in aid of the hall each year to keep it that way.
- The monthly village draw is a good way to support the hall in a little way.
- The new gate for the hall is still in the hands of our local blacksmith, it will be a unique piece of art and quite fiddly to hang. It will certainly be something to look out for.
- The social side of the hall also recovered well last year with there being a busy weekend for The Queens platinum jubilee. This was celebrated with a Thanksgiving service and presentation of coins from the Parish Council to the village children, a picnic in the park with live music which ended up being held in the hall due to rain and our annual sports day and village princess competition incorporated with a street style party in the hall where food was a bring and share. The whole 3 days were attended well and we were proud to be celebrating such an achievement. The Parish Council also gave a new bench to the play area for the Jubilee. The village fete and show was well attended with over 300 entries and made just under £1000 profit which goes to the hall. Halloween and Christmas were celebrated in the hall with a children’s party, craft fare and bingo. And then this year for the Coronation of King Charles III, a Roast Dinner was served up in the hall for 75 where an amazing profit of £902 was made which is going to the Princess’s Trust for a local project.

As always the social committee must be thanked for all their hard work they put into a variety of events throughout the year for our community.

8. TALK BY SUNE NIGHTINGALE (Chair of Dittisham PC) ON SUSTAINABILITY.

Sune presented an interesting talk with graphics about sustainability in the South Hams and how the PCs can embrace this. He mentioned that Halwell & Moreleigh PC have helped by planting the ground opposite the Old Inn in Halwell with wild flowers and refraining from mowing until much later in the year. Members were interested to hear his suggestions and thanked him for taking the time to come to the meeting.

HALWELL & MORELEIGH ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15th May 2023

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Treeby, N. Palmer, J. Collins, A. Dalgleigh, H. Reeve, R. Tozer, P. Westlake,
In attendance: S. Winstanley (Clerk) Cllrs. R. Gilbert, Sune Nightingale

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Denys Treeby was nominated and seconded. There being no other nominees, Denys Treeby was elected Chair and signed the Acceptance of Office.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Neil Palmer was nominated and seconded. There being no other nominees, Neil Palmer was elected Vice Chair .

OPEN FORUM – Three members of the public attended.

- A comment was made that the PCs contingency funds had been queried. The view was expressed that having funds available for the unexpected is prudent.
- The subject of the PC investing funds was again raised. It was pointed out that until September of last year a safe investment (which the PC would be bound to make) would have provided 0.1% interest and the work to set this up would not warrant such action given that it would only be an investment of approximately £5,000.
- A request was made for a bus shelter. It was explained that the subject had been widely discussed on several occasions previously and it had been found impossible to find a suitable location in which to place a bus shelter.

3. APOLOGIES – M. McInerney, J. Mussen, M. Hicks

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 17th April, 2023. It was proposed, seconded and Resolved that the Chair sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable Pecuniary interests including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. D. Treeby declared a pecuniary interest in both planning applications 1035/23/OPA and 1262/23/PDM. H. Reeve declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 1035/23/OPA. J. Collins declared a pecuniary interest in application no. 2345/23/TPO.

6. CLERK'S REPORT – No report

7. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS – to be considered:

D. Treeby & H. Reeve left the meeting.

1035/23/OPA – Hr. Stanborough Farm, Moreleigh TQ9 7JQ

Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved for a permanent agricultural workers dwelling.

Following discussion it was resolved to support the application.

H. Reeve returned to the meeting.

1262/23/PDM – Barn at Boreston Farm, Halwell TQ9 7LD

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings/barns to 1No (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b))

Following discussion it was resolved to support the application.

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D. Treeby returned to the meeting.

2345/23/TPO – 7 Crocadon Meadows, Halwell TQ9 7LH

T1: Quercus robur – reduce crown to south towards No. 8 by 2m (by drop crotching) to balance the crown & reduce crown from north by 1m towards No. 7 (leave a tree with crown to south 6m and to north 5m) to provide clearance from adjacent dwellings. – No comment to make.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS:-

a) To approve payment of the following bank transfers:

£134.31 – DALC subscription

£338.08 - S. Winstanley – April

£75.00 – J. Leverington – audit

£338.08 – S. Winstanley (May)

b) Cash at bank – £27,272.40 (including £515.99 VAT refund, £5300 Precept)

c) To approve an increase of 1 Spinal Point in Clerk’s contract ***All approved***

9. To discuss the bad surface of Bickleigh Lane

Prior to the next meeting the Chair will meet with James Collins to made a site visit.

10. A pole will be installed in at the entrance to Crocadon Meadows prior to the next meeting, so that a SCARF assessment can be carried out.

11. COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS – No reports

12. DATES OF MEETINGS at Halwell & Moreleigh Village Hall for the coming year

19th June 2023

17th July 2023

18th September 2023

16th October 2023

20th November 2023

15th January 2024

19th February 2024

18th March 2024

15th April 2024

20th May 2024 Annual Meeting of Parish Council

SIGNED

D. Treeby Chair

