

HALWELL & MORELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Treeby, J. Collins, A. Dalgliesh, H. Reeve, R. Tozer, M. Hicks
In attendance: S. Winstanley (Clerk) Cllr. R. Gilbert

OPEN FORUM – Two members of the public attended.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- The Devolution proposals for Devon (not now to include Plymouth) have been agreed with government and should come in to force April 1st.
- There will no changes to the make up of Districts, Parishes and DCC.
- The transfer of LEP's Local Enterprise Partnerships to upper tier authorities (DCC) will also be completed by April 1st
- The £2.00 bus fare will continue till end 2024
- Devon will get £6.6M from Hs2 cancellation towards road repairs.
- DCC has bought six replacement gritters.
- DIY waste taken to recycling centres. Contrary to media coverage, this will be limited and not include tyres and asbestos. I will let you know the detail.
- Modbury is still closed but the work has been reduced to 5 weeks to provide a new sewer.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – S. Rake (by email)

- Unfortunately, I am not able to be with you this evening, having been a bit wrong-footed by the change of meeting date.
- The Council's plan and delivery plan for the coming years and the budget for 2024-25 will be considered shortly. The plan is ambitious but realistic.
- The budget for 2024-25 is balanced, with additional spending on the delivery plan drawn from resources freed up by a review of the capital programme and reserves. We are very well aware that the incoming administration inherited a financial position that was sound, and would be the envy of many councils around the country – our thanks are due to Cllrs Hicks and Reeve for the part that they both played in ensuring that this is the case – and we are committed to continuing to run a balanced budget with rigorous financial management. We will also continue to monitor new sources of government funding – the tendency seems to be for central government to make repeated announcements of small scale grants for specific areas or projects, so we need to be in a position to apply for these, not least because the flow of core funding from central government has reached almost zero and indeed is predicted to become negative (i.e. we will fund central government) over the next few years, as things stand.
- On the whole, the new waste collection system has been working well, with missed collection numbers significantly lower than they were, albeit still a little way above the national target. There are still a few teething issues, but on the whole I think that the teams, whether at Follaton House, in the depots or on the trucks, deserve great credit for rolling out a complex service to nearly 40,000 households so quickly and smoothly.
- I look forward to seeing you at your February meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES** – N. Palmer, J.Mussen, P. Westlake, Cllr. Rake

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 20th November 2023** It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that the Chair sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.
3. **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 - None
4. **CLERK'S REPORT** –
 - The gulley cleaning has been ordered
 - The road grit has been delivered
 - New handles are needed for the seesaw – Members agreed to purchase
 - The proposed pump track provider met with Member and it was agreed the PC ask him to attend the February meeting and meet at 6.30. This will be advertised giving the public a chance to attend.
 - Some sheep have been stolen for the 2nd time in Moreleigh.
5. **CHAIR'S REPORT** –
 - The pothole near Moreleigh Cross Farm needs to be reported.
 - There has been more flytipping in the layby near the airfield in Halwell.
6. **PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS – to be considered:**
3970/23/FUL – Totnes Cross Filling Station, Halwell TQ9 7JG
Extension to workshop
Following discussion it was agreed to support the application.
7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:-**

To approve payment of the following bank transfers:

 - a. £175.00 – P. Westlake to reimburse for plants
£114.60 - HMRC
£516.20- S. Winstanley (Dec)
£15.00 – S. Winstanley (reimburse for Internet security)
£430.00 – P, Westlake (balance of invoice for parish work)
£40.00 – Information Commission sub.
£79.99 – S. Winstanley (reimb for Microsoft 365)
 - b. Cash at bank - £26,666.35
 - c. It was agreed to increase the Precept by 6% to take account of inflation and rebuilding the bus shelter, at a cost to each elector of £1.65 approx.
 - d. To consider making donations to the churches for the upkeep of the graveyard. (£350)
It was agreed the PC would donate £350 to each church for upkeep of the graveyards.
8. **To discuss ideas for spending the Section 106 monies on the play area – as above.**
9. **Update on quotes to rebuild the bus shelter** – confirm next meeting
10. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Email from Highways and comments re. PC decisions
Discussion took place concerning the results of the Highways speed survey which average was approximately 27 mph. It was agreed the 20mph speed limit be applied for and the possibility of declassifying Church Street be investigated.
The possibility of mirrors at the exit of Bickleigh Lane be explored.

11. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS – None

12. DATE of next MEETING – In the Village Hall at 7pm 19th February 2024.

SIGNED

N. Palmer - Vice Chair