

East Worlington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2024, 7.30pm at East Worlington Parish Hall.

Cllrs Present: Andy Bell (Chair), Diana Sturla (Vice-Chair), Barnabas Hurst-Bannister & Nigel Pankhurst.

Also: Members of the public were in attendance.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

1.11.24: Welcome (Chair)

The Chair to opened meeting and it was agreed that due to the Clerks absence due to ill health that Cllrs would take notes for the Clerk to create Minutes from.

2.11.24 Apologies for absence: (Chair)

Resolution to approve apologies (with reasons) made prior to the meeting.

Apologies were noted from County Cllr Yabsley, District Cllr Jones, the Clerk and a representative from the PCC.

3.11.24: Minutes of the Last Meeting (Chair).

Cllrs to consider the approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th September 2024.

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.11.24 Co-option Vacancy (anyone wishing to stand should contact the Clerk) (Chair)

Cllrs to consider candidates who have [completed the form](#) and been confirmed as eligible to stand prior the Meeting. No forms received.

5.11.24 Declarations of Interest. (Chair)

Cllr Hurst-Bannister declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 13.11.24 d)

6.11.24: Public Speaking Time (max. 3minutes/person. Session time: 10 minutes).

Items raised included:

- Members of the Public to send their letters to DCC Highways to the Chair.
- Report that grit/salt bin near Oak, Ash & Thorne is empty.
- CCTV – Quote being obtained for the Village Hall, with query to be raised about cost for 3 cameras in and around the village (Old Post office, Oak, Ash & Thorne). Cllrs asked for this to be placed on the next agenda.
- The Chair was asked to chase the Bell Rope grant from Batsworthy.
- Enforcement officers will inform District Cllr Jones re Rusdon Orchards.

7.11.24: Report to & from Devon County & N.D District Cllrs (Max. 10 minutes)

*This is for reports between Cllrs rather than discussion points unless listed on Agenda.

No reports noted.

8.11.24: Reports to and from the Parish Road Warden (Cllr Sturla).

- It is hoped that the Highways works will commence on the 30th of November in accordance with the plan for verge ploughing etc. a W.W.W announcement will be made nearer the time.
- No updates on the Village signs.
- Salt has been ordered.
- Affeton to Keepers Cottage potholes have been sorted. Cllr Sturla has logged potholes and blocked drains.

9.11.24 Current & New Business:

a) Community Survey & and Parish Liaison working groups – Update from working groups (Cllrs Bell & Hurst-Bannister)

It was reported that a meeting for the Parish liaison group is anticipated in the New Year.

b) To discuss Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (Chair)

It was reported that there is already a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in place and as such there is no need to progress this matter.

c) To retrospectively approve the letter sent to DCC Highways regarding the speed limit within in the Village (Chair)

Cllr Sturla proposed that the Council retrospectively approve the sending of the letter to Highways regarding the speed limit within the village as drafted by the Chair and circulated to Cllrs, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. (RR2024/046)

d) Cllrs to receive update on War Memorial works (Chair/Cllr Sturla)

Cllrs were in favour of the deposit being paid and works to commence ASAP. Cllr Sturla agreed to inform the Clerk so that the deposit could be paid prior to commencement of the Clerks Annual Leave.

e) Fire service consultation (Chair)

“Every year we ask our communities and businesses about the level of precept (council tax contribution) for the fire and rescue service. This consultation is open now until midday on 26 November.

We would like to hear from as many people as possible across Devon and Somerset to better understand our residents’ views. Please can you complete the [online survey](#) and share this with your networks. Should you or anyone else be unable to complete this online please call 01392 872354 and leave a message with your name and number.

Whilst we are aware of the pressures many of us are facing now and in the coming months, your feedback will help to make more informed decisions for the next financial year.”

The Chair agreed to send out the information via the W.W.W.

f) Meet the Leader of DCC – Opportunity for Cllrs to attend a meeting with Leader of DCC, James McInnes on 12th December 6-8pm at Roundswell Community Centre, Gratton Way, Town Centre, Barnstaple, EX31 3NL

“Join us for an exclusive opportunity to meet the Leader of Devon County Council, where parish councils can hear directly about the county’s current priorities, key challenges, and plans for the upcoming year, including discussions on the budget and future strategies. This session will provide valuable insights into the Council’s vision and allow for an open, interactive discussion on parish priorities, helping to inform Devon County Council’s thinking moving forward. This is a chance for your parish to have its voice heard and to engage in meaningful dialogue on issues that matter most to your community. Whether it’s budgetary concerns, service priorities, or long-term plans, this is your forum to collaborate with the county leader and the senior leadership team, and fellow parish representatives.”

The Chair agreed to attend.

g) Government Consultation: Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings (Chair/Clerk)

Covering Email from DLAC: At the Local Government Association Conference, the deputy prime minister announced a consultation on **allowing councils to use virtual attendance** at council meetings. This [consultation paper has been published](#) with a closing date of **19 December**, applying to both parish meetings, and parish and town councils. We know the issue of remote meetings has been important to our members for a long time, and DALC's position is to advocate for parish and town councils to have the **flexibility to meet remotely**. NALC has also been campaigning nationally on this topic and we all welcome the Government's consultation. **We urge all parish and town councils to complete the consultation.** This consultation is vital for demonstrating the strong support for this flexibility.

Cllrs Sturla proposed that the Chair would respond that the Council is not in favour of remote meetings and proxy voting, seconded Cllr Hurst-Bannister. All in Favour – Motion Carried. (RR2024/047)

h) Invitation to attend (in person or virtually) at the North Devon Council Parish Forum on Wednesday 27 November 2024 at 6.30 pm, in the Barum room, BEC (Chair/Clerk)

Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should attend virtually if possible.

i) Update on the Parish Magazine including funding for printing and timeline (Cllr Sturla)

It was reported that the deadline for articles is 1st December with publication in early Spring. Cllr Sturla to approach District Cllr Jones for funding.

j) Cllrs to consider approval of EWPC 015 Reserves Policy V2 – Draft as circulated.

Deferred to next meeting.

10.11.24: Finance Matters (Clerk):

a) To approve the Financial Schedule as circulated (18/11/24).

Deferred to next meeting.

b) To receive and approve the 2nd Quarter budget 2024-2025 report as circulated (18/11/24).

Deferred to next meeting.

c) To receive and discuss the 1st Draft 2025-2026 Budget.

Cllrs noted that they would like to see the draft precept figure reduced from approx. 3.3% to 3% or less. They noted that the Clerks hours are to increase to 20hr/month in next financial year. Other feedback to be passed on to the Clerk for inclusion in final draft.

11.11.24 Reports & items for future agendas:

Councillors are reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.

a) Clerk: Advanced notice 80th VE anniversary – 8th May 2025

b) Clerk: Notice of Annual Leave 30/11/24 to 08/12/24 & 21/12/24 to 05/01/25 inclusive.

12.11.24: Confirmation of the next meeting: (Chair) Any changes will be on the Website.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 23rd January 2025, 7.30pm at the Parish Hall.

13.11.24: Confidential items (PART II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2).

a) Resolution required to move the Council into Part II.

b) Parish Hall lease renewal – To consider quotes (Cllr Sturla) (*Commercially sensitive*).

c) To consider report from H. R Committee following Staff Appraisal (*Employment matter*).

d) Land Transfer – Update (Cllr Sturla/Cllr Bell)

e) Request for funding from Ringsash Methodist Circuit (Clerk)

f) The Chair to return the meeting to public session to hear resolutions.

Signed: Cllr A. Bell Date: 23/01/2025