

Chair: Lisa May

Action

23/348 Present

Cllr Sheila Churchward (SC), Cllr John Goodey (JG), Cllr Nicola Guagliardo (NG), Cllr Sarah Ladyman (SL), Cllr Lisa May (LM), Cllr Charles Nuttall (CN), Cllr Lorne Smyth (LS), Cllr Gary Wheatley (GW).

Clerk: Mrs Jill Daw (JD)

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Helen Hibbins (HH)

Teignbridge District Councillor: Charles Nuttall (CN), Kevin Lake (KL)

Public: 2

23/349 Apologies received

Cllr Kevin Smith (KS) – personal reasons

Cllr Adrian Wood (AW) – personal reasons

Devon County Councillor Alan Connett (AC) – personal reasons

23/350 Declaration of interest on Agenda Items

None declared.

23/351 Dispensation requests regarding Code of Conduct

None received.

23/352 Public open session (maximum 10 minutes)

Comments:

1. The Neighbourhood Development Plan leaflet was difficult to follow, contained too much jargon and the intended audience was not clear. It suggested a divided community and council.

23/353 To confirm the Draft Minutes of the EPC Meeting held on 17 July 2023 are an accurate record

Resolved.

23/354 County Councillors Report on items other than those on the agenda

The Clerk read Devon County Councillor Alan Connett's report in his absence:

1. A new planning application for inert Landfill at Lower Brenton Farm, Kennford had been submitted to DCC. It had been requested that this was dealt with by Committee rather than planning officers. This was likely to be in October. Public were able to comment on the application until 2 September. Planning reasons to support resident's views were required.
2. Complaints had been received from residents about the lack of communication from contractors regarding roadworks. At the DCC Cabinet meeting on 12 July it was requested that all contractors working on the highway were required to inform both residents and the Parish Council in advance.
3. The first intake of year 7 pupils at Matford Brook Academy would be based in a wing of St Lukes campus due to the ongoing issues at the Matford campus. Confirmation of travel arrangements to St Lukes had been sought.

Cllr May requested information on the likelihood of next year's intake being possible and further details of what had been put in place for this year's cohort.

JD

4. DCC had submitted a planning application for the Community Centre/GP Surgery at Matford. The consultation closing date was 22 August.
5. Co-Bikes and Co-Cars had ceased operation. Clarity on the retention of assets for public use had been sought as DCC had partly funded the project.
6. Plans to cease the mobile library service had been suspended until after the decision had been scrutinised. A final recommendation was expected in October.

23/355 District Councillors Reports on items other than those on the agenda

Teignbridge District Councillor Kevin Lake reported:

1. Potholes on Reddaway Drive had been repaired. Thanks were extended to DCC Highways for their speedy response.
2. The give-way lines at the Limes surgery junction with Church Stile were barely visible. There were other lines and markings in the vicinity that were programmed for renewal and a request had been made that these could be re-marked at the same time.
3. There had been incidents of fly tipping on private land at the top of Deepway Lane. The landowner would be approached and ask to clear.
4. A letter had been written to Mel Stride requesting that he make enquiries into the issues with the building work and consequences at Matford Brook Academy.

Teignbridge District Councillor Charles Nuttall reported:

5. District Councillors would be briefed on the replacement of the recycling fleet later in the week. National consultations on refuse and recycling were also underway and an update would follow their conclusion.
6. A questionnaire about affordable housing was being circulated to all Parish Councils by TDC.

23/356 Chairman's Report

1. Thanks were extended to Derek Madge for leading a Councillors' guided tour of village assets and amenities.

JD

23/357 Clerk's Report

1. The Citizens Advice Teignbridge Town and Parish Quarter 1 report: April 2023 – June 2023 had been circulated.
2. The Exminster Parish Allotment Society (EPAS) had informed the Parish Council that some plants and tools had been stolen from the allotment area recently.
3. Several canisters of nitrous oxide were found at Deepway Green and had been reported to the Police. Apparently, abuse was escalating but was not illegal although selling of it was prohibited. Thanks were extended to the resident who disposed of the canisters.
4. Devon Air Ambulance had advised that the use of night vision goggles may make it unnecessary to deploy the landing light at Deepway.
5. Footpath 13a's closure had been temporarily extended until 10 March 2024 or until the works were complete, whichever was the sooner.
6. A survey and scheme proposal on Exminster traffic issues had been devised by the Traffic Management Team at DCC. A final plan and costings were awaited before it was brought to Council.
7. Exminster Nature Recovery Progress Report - July 2023 had been received and circulated.
8. Exminster Methodist Church's Outlook July 2023 publication had been received and circulated.
9. A Road Traffic Order advertisement for no waiting on the A379 and 20mph speed limits in specified locations on the Vistry development area of Matford would be published in the Express and Echo. Consultation would continue until 8 September.
10. The Green Spaces Group had been recognised by Devon Wildlife Trust for its work towards the Saving Devon Treescapes project. Contributions included tree planting (including the landmark tree in Spurfield), holding a community hub tree give away event, taking part in the fixed photography citizen science project and setting up the mini tree nursery.

11. A resident from Days Pottles Lane had thanked the Council for alerting them to the recent application at West Exe Park and the potential impact on Berry Brook. They had written letters of objection to TDC and the Environment Agency.
12. One of the large oak trees on Crockwells Meadow had been damaged during the recent high winds. Instructions had been given immediately to a local contractor to make the site safe and remove the debris. Advice was being taken on how to deal with its remains.
13. The external lighting at St Martins Football Ground was vandalised last week. This had been reported to the Police.

23/358 To note the Media Relation Policy has been reviewed with no amendments required

Noted.

JD

FINANCE MATTERS

23/359 Payments for Approval

It was resolved to approve payments in the sum of £1327.65.

23/360 To consider a grant application from the Teignbridge Citizens Advice Bureaux in the sum of £500

It was noted that the Bureaux had supported Exminster residents to the total of £80,000 in the 2021/22 Financial Year.

It was resolved to approve the grant in the sum of £500.00.

JD/HH

PLANNING MATTERS

23/361 Planning Applications

1. **23/00936/MAJ | Construction of an electricity substation, operational electricity plant, substation access road and surface water drainage outfall | Matford Home Farm Matford Mews Matford Devon EX2 8XT**

A comprehensive report had been circulated including and expanding on the objections raised in the previous application for the same site. A paragraph in support of siting a substation at Peamore had been added.

It was resolved to submit the report objecting to the application.

The report would be uploaded to both the TDC portal (current application) and DCC portal (original application).

HH

2. **23/01370/TPO | Large Eucalytus Tree - 5m canopy reduction | Greenacre Trood Lane Matford Devon EX2 8XX**

It was resolved to approve the recommendation of the Tree Surgeon to reduce the height by up to 4m with a maximum diameter of cut 100mm and lateral canopy reduction of 5m with a maximum diameter of cut 125mm.

3. **AHX/DCC/4337/2023 - Lower Brenton Farm, Brenton Road, Kennford, EX6 7YL - Provision of temporary construction, demolition and excavation waste recycling facility; importation and landfilling of up to 700,000 cubic metres of inert waste materials; and associated works including installation of drainage infrastructure and alterations to existing vehicular access**

HH

Information on this application and its potential impact was being gathered.

Cllr Goodey, in his capacity as Clerk of Kenn Parish Council, explained its position and the reports that had been commissioned.

Cllr Churchward would liaise with Cllr Goodey to include shared concerns in Exminster's report that would be brought to the Parish Council meeting on 21 August.

SC/JG/
JD

23/362 Planning Decisions

1. **23/00995/FUL, Devon Hotel, Old Matford Lane - Installation of external platform lift with associated access improvements - GRANTED**

23/363 To update Council on planning concerns reported to Teignbridge District Council

Cllr Churchward reported that the over-arching issue with communication was that the planning department was understaffed, for both planning and enforcement. Outsourcing had been largely unsuccessful due to the complexity of the applications and the requirement for internal assistance.

The reinstatement of Teignbridge Association of Local Councils (TALC) was requested, but it was acknowledged that it would be costly.

Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) was facilitating a forum to discuss issues on 12 October. Cllrs Churchward and Goodey volunteered to attend.

JG/SC

23/364 To note any planning matters regarding the Matford development

1. Planning

- a. A meeting of the Matford Working Party took place on 3 August.
- b. A meeting with Sarah Ratnage (DCC) and Fergus Pate (TDC) would take place on 11 August to further discuss a bus service for Matford.

- c. A "Residents' Day" had been organised by TDC and the Rangers at the Ridgetop Park on Saturday 12 August. Matford residents had been invited directly and a poster would be displayed on the Parish Council notice board. Refreshments would be available and activities would start at noon from the Sunrise Seat area.

2. Community Centre

A meeting with DCC and the Architects for the Community Centre would take place on Tuesday 15 August.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

23/365 To agree the recommended changes to the Grass Management Plan

Cllr Ladyman summarised the two reports that had been circulated, outlining the management of each area.

It was unclear whether the recommendations had come from the Green Spaces Group or the Environment Working Party.

Discussion about the way forward for both Working Groups were underway.

Due to the confusion, it was agreed that the plan was referred back to the Environment Working Party.

[Cllr Nuttall left the meeting.]

EWP

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) MATTERS

23/366 To receive an update on NDP matters

Cllr Goodey gave an update on the onerous application process to obtain grant funding from Locality to support the NDP Refresh.

As details had only just been released (part-way into the financial year) there would be a backlog of applications. Funding could not be backdated.

Preparing a budget would be Cllr Wood's priority.

23/367 As set out in section 6.0 of the Exminster Neighbourhood Development Plan 2013-2033, it is proposed that 2500 copies of the attached Report 2023 will be printed and delivered to all households in the Parish at a total cost of £900 plus VAT

Cllr Wood and the Deputy Clerk were thanked for their work on the leaflet.

Cllr Goodey suggested some minor amendments to the wording taking into account comments that had been made on the circulated version.

Discussion about the content of the leaflet ensued. The importance/urgency of the communication was appreciated but there was also disappointment that the Parish Council would be spending £900 on a leaflet that Councillors were

unable to agree on. Comments made in the Public Open Session regarding readability and tone were supported.

[Cllr Ladyman left the meeting.]

Issues with delaying publication were outlined. It was thought that these would largely be mitigated if the expenditure could be authorised, allowing the printers/distributors to be put on notice. In the meantime, the leaflet could be re-drafted for approval at the Parish Council meeting on 21 August. Accordingly, the resolution was split into two parts.

It is proposed that 2500 copies of the report (to be agreed) will be printed and delivered to all households in the Parish at a total cost of £900 plus VAT.

Resolved (unanimously)

To edit the report for approval at the Parish Council meeting on 21 August.

Resolved (3 for, 2 against, 1 abstention)

Cllr May would amend the report with assistance from the Deputy Clerk and Cllr Smith.

23/368 Financial matters relating to the Refresh of the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Deferred. See item 23/367.

1. **To agree a budget for the Refresh of the NDP**
2. **If the above is resolved, to pursue a grant application with 'Locality'**

23/369 Councillors' Reports – for information only

1. Cllr Churchward reported on a delay regarding the cycle path signage.
2. Cllr Goodey reported on the bridge on Footpath 2. It was not possible to repair or replace the bridge in its current location but a new permanent crossing could be installed in its vicinity – subject to funding by Exeter City Council. Cllr Guagliardo requested information about this situation from the Clerk and Cllr Goodey.

JD/JG

[Standing Orders were suspended to allow the meeting to continue past 21:30]

3. Cllr Wheatly reported that a recommendation on the maintenance of the tennis court and MUGA would be on the next Parish Council agenda.

23/370 Public Open Session – (Maximum 10 minutes)

1. The Terms of Reference indicated that the Green Spaces Group had the responsibility for supporting the Council in developing a Management Plan for green spaces. The revised plan should include costings and details of how the work would be carried out.

2. It was encouraging that the Parish Council had taken note of comments made about the NDP leaflet.

The meeting closed at 21:35

Date of next meeting: Monday 21 August at 19:30 in the Victory Hall

Signed:.....Kevin Smith..... Date:....21 August 2023.....