

Chair: Kevin Smith

Action

24/134 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 Kevin Smith (KS), Cllr Gary Wheatley (GW), Cllr Adrian Wood (AW).

Clerk: Mrs Jill Daw (JD)

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Helen Hibbins (HH)

Teignbridge District Councillor: Charles Nuttall (CN)

Public: 6

24/135 Apologies received from

None offered.

24/136 Declaration of interest on Agenda Items

Cllr Smith declared an interest in items 24/151 and 24/159 as a trustee of the Deepway Centre.

24/137 Dispensation requests regarding Code of Conduct

None received.

24/138 Public open session (maximum 10 minutes)

1. Pesticides needed to be eradicated completely. There were other alternatives. The School and Pre-school were supportive of a pesticide free Exminster. It was acknowledged that there was a cost involved in non-chemical weed control.

24/139 To confirm the Draft Minutes of the EPC Meeting held on 4 March 2024 are an accurate record

Resolved.

24/140 Clerk's Report

1. An invitation to Teignbridge District Council Housing Team's follow up to the 2023 survey "Delivering Rural Affordable Homes" would be held in the Council Chambers at Forde House on Thursday 28 March at 4pm.
2. Teignbridge District Council had submitted the draft local plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.
3. A report by Cllr Churchward on the Teignbridge Town and Parish Councils' Conference on 12 March 2024 had been circulated.
4. An email had been received from Vistry regarding land at Matford.

5. A concerned resident had contacted the Parish Council about a white powder in a trail through Crockwells Meadow and the surrounding area. On investigation, it was found to be a local Hash House Harriers running trail laid in flour.
6. An email had been received from a resident who challenged the validity the information posted on Facebook by Pesticide Free Exminster, claiming that balanced arguments were not offered and hoping that any response from the Parish Council would be proportionate.
7. An email had been received from a resident commenting on the pesticide report.
8. Cllr Wheatley and the Clerk attended Deepway Green last Wednesday evening and advised the organiser of a youth rugby club (Saracens) that it was not appropriate to use Deepway Green or its facilities for training sessions while the wet weather prevented them from using their own pitch. Any regular use of Deepway Green or facilities by an organisation or club needed to be agreed with the Parish Council. A letter had been received from a resident asking for the rationale behind this approach that had been responded to.
9. Further emails had been received regarding the use of Deepway Green. Having conferred with the Chair, it had been suggested that the requests were considered by the Property and Amenities Lead Councillor in conjunction with the Chair and Clerk, with the outcome reported to Council in the Clerk's report. This matter would be on the next agenda for discussion. JD
10. Any apologies for absence from meetings should be emailed to both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. ALL
11. It would be helpful if Councillors drew questions or queries on paperwork circulated with an agenda to the attention of the Clerk or Deputy Clerk so that clarification could be sought prior to the meeting. ALL
12. The Parish Council meeting on 2 April would be held in the Annexe as it was a Tuesday and the hall was not available. The meeting on 15 April would be in the Victory Hall.

24/141 To note receipt of the monthly Police report

Noted.

24/142 To accept the report and approve the response to the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) consultation on behalf of Exminster Parish Council

It was resolved to approve and submit the response as proposed in the circulated report:

Confirmation is sought that the running costs of the CCA will be paid by government and not any of the constituent, district, city, town or parish councils or their taxpayers.

Greater representation for district and city councils should be proposed and, a role in the CCA for parish and town councils to show that devolution is happening. JD

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN MATTERS

24/143 To receive and accept the independent report from Devon Communities Together regarding the Household Questionnaires

Resolved.

24/144 To agreed to make the final payment of £4322.50 (plus VAT which is recoverable) subject to receipt of the formatted version of the independent report and the Excel database

Resolved.

24/145 To request the Exminster Neighbourhood Development Plan (ENDP) working party to produce a report for the Parish Council meeting on 2 April 2024 setting out the next steps including a draft ENDP Update to be delivered to all households

Resolved.

PROPERTY & AMENITIES MATTERS

24/146 To receive the report on the use of pesticides on Parish Council land and approve the recommendations of the report

Cllr Ladyman requested that votes were recorded for this item.

The Chairman and Cllr Wheatley explained the background to report.

In summary:

- Pesticides would not be used on soft areas, where strimming and cutting would take place as an alternative.
- Pesticides would be used on hard areas at the lowest concentrate possible.
- The goal continued to be to become pesticide free.

Cllr Ladyman tabled an amendment to the report including an “integrated weed management system for hard surfaces document” and alternative recommendations.

Discussion took place. Cllr Ladyman proposed substitution with the alternative recommendations, seconded by Cllr Churchward. A vote took place.

For: Cllrs Ladyman, Churchward and Nuttall

Against: Cllrs Goodey, Wood, Guagliardo, Smith and Wheatley

Abstain: Cllr May (Cllr May asked that the reason for her abstaining was noted as lack of time to consider the alternative information tabled with inadequate notice).

As the amendment was not carried, discussion on the recommendations in the original report continued. At the conclusion of discussion it was proposed to accept the recommendations in the original report as listed beneath, with the

addition of a review of the policy in 6 months-time on the basis that Teignbridge District Council policy may have changed in that time.

1. To carefully manage the use of glyphosate pesticides and work towards their eventual elimination.
2. To continue to use glyphosate pesticides to treat invasive weeds such as Japanese Knot Weed. The application of Glyphosate would be by specialist companies contracted by the Council to treat the weeds and at an appropriate concentrate to be effective.
3. To replace the use of glyphosate pesticides at the locations in Annex 1 by strimming and hand weeding by the grounds maintenance contractor at an additional cost to the Council estimated to be an extra eight hours every other cut – this would be 94 hours per annum and a cost of £3,055 in 2024-25. These are all “soft” surfaces where the use of pesticides would potentially affect the environment.
4. To continue the use of glyphosate pesticides at the locations in Annex 2. In the main these are all “hard” surfaces where the use of pesticides would have little affect on the environment.

The application should only be undertaken by a qualified individual, on a minimum number of occasions in a year, and with the lowest concentrate to be effective, with appropriate records of application being maintained.

The Council should work towards the application of pesticides by a system which reduces spray drift and runoff (called a condensed droplet application) by 2025; when this is introduced there may be a slightly higher cost to the Council – either because equipment needs to be purchased by the Council, or through slightly higher rates to the grounds maintenance contractor.

5. To delegate to the Clerk in consultation with the Properties and Amenities Lead Councillor and / or the Chairman to add and remove locations in Annexes 1 and 2, on the condition that they endeavour to maintain the principles of “hard” and “soft” surfaces when making amendments.
6. To continue to encourage landowners within the Parish to be thoughtful over the use of glyphosate pesticides.
7. To update the Parish Council’s Environmental Policy to be consistent with these recommendations.

A vote was taken.

For: Cllrs Churchward, Guagliardo, Wood, Goodey, Smith and Wheatley

Against: Cllr Ladyman

Abstain: Cllrs Nuttall and May

Resolved.

JD

FINANCE MATTERS

24/147 RFO's report

1. Direct Debits during February:

	£
NatWest Bankline	6.00
Utility Warehouse	263.97
EE	35.98
ICO	35.00
NEST	210.09

2. Confirmation had been received that the transfer of funds from the Milbury Reach CCLA account to the General CCLA account took place on 6 March in the sum of £82,650.47
3. The AGAR paperwork had been received from the External Auditor. The deadline for submission was Monday 1 July, but an extension had been requested until Tuesday 2 July.
4. The IT/email transition to Cloudy IT would take place on 20 March. The Deputy Clerk would use SMS to communicate new details if necessary.

24/148 Accounts for Approval

It was resolved to approve payments in the sum of £19,015.32

HH

24/149 Draft accounts for February 2024

1. **Budget Comparison Report**

Noted.

2. **Balance Sheet**

Noted.

24/150 To approve the reviewed Internal Control Procedures

The procedures had been reviewed by Cllrs Goodey, Smith and Smyth.

Resolved.

JD

24/151 To consider a grant application from the Deepway Centre Trust in the sum of £500 in respect of essential refurbishment to the garden area.

Cllr Smith left the meeting and Cllr May took the Chair.

It was resolved to approve the £500 grant.

JD/HH

Cllr Wood noted that the grant application process would be reviewed in the coming months by the Finance Working Party.

FWP

Cllr Smith returned to the meeting.

PLANNING MATTERS

24/152 Planning Applications

1. **24/00168/MOD, Old Matford House, Old Matford Lane - Modification of Section 106 agreement on planning permission 22/00145/FUL**

Deferred.

There were no details on the planning portal for this application. It was noted that the plot fell outside of the settlement limits for Matford and Exminster. These issues should be raised with TDC and discussed at a future meeting.

JD

2. **23/02162/MAJ, Land At Matford Home Park, South Of A379 - Outline - 12 self/custom build plots (all matters reserved)**

It was noted that each individual dwelling would have its own application but exterior design would be in general conformity with the emerging estate.

Cllr Churchward highlighted some anomalies with the application, included in the circulated report: drainage and noise levels/glazing.

It was resolved to comment on the application by submitting the report.

HH

3. **24/00331/HOU, 53 Old Quarry Drive, - Two storey side and rear extension**

The exterior design of the extension was described as unusual as it had a flat roof and wooden cladding. However, with the exception of the cladding, the materials used would match the existing property.

It was resolved to comment on the application as follows:

- The applicant should ensure that the wood cladding is unobtrusive in colour to meet the Neighbourhood Development Plan Quality of Design Policy EXM03.
- Old Quarry Drive was narrow and therefore a traffic management plan would be very useful during demolition, preparation, building and finishing off processes to reduce the impact on other users of the estate road.
- Minimise the amount of waste produced and promote sustainable methods of waste management in accordance with Policy W4 of the Devon Waste Plan and the Waste Management and Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document. Therefore, it is requested that the planning officer makes a condition to ensure that all waste material is dealt with in a sustainable way from the outset of the development including any groundworks, demolition, construction and operation.

- Assuming that the bat survey and biodiversity comments are to the Biodiversity Officer's satisfaction, then to complement these it would be appropriate to consider the Exminster Parish Council's request that all development within the Parish includes biodiversity enhancement measures such as bat, bee, bird, hedgehog and insect habitats.

HH

4. **24/00292/TPO, Sannerville Chase , Road from Wracombe Farm to Glebelands: (T1) Lawson Cypress - Crown lift to 2m over the adjacent carparking area, (T0017) Oak - Crown lift over adjacent lawn, (T0018) Oak - Crown lift over adjacent drive, (T0019) Sycamore - Crown lift over adjacent drive, (T0012) evergreen Oak - Crown lift over adjacent drive**

There was no arboricultural report on the planning portal or details of when the proposed work would be carried out.

It was resolved to object to the application for the above reasons.

HH

24/153 Planning Decisions

Noted as listed beneath:

1. **23/02300/LBC, Spurfield House, Main Road - Glazed walkway canopy, three external escape/access/egress doors and localised render repair to exposed brickwork to part rear wall at ground level - GRANT OF CONDITIONAL CONSENT**
2. **23/00161/FUL, 16 Dawlish Road - Detached garage with an upstairs room, retaining walls to rear and side of garage, and levelling and steps to front of dwelling - GRANT OF CONDITIONAL PLANNING PERMISSION**

24/154 Other Planning Matters

None.

24/155 To note any planning matters regarding the Matford development

Items to be covered in 24/161.

1. **Planning**
2. **Community Centre**

24/156 Councillors' Reports – for information only

1. Cllr Churchward was working on the following:

- Environmental reports including the SLCC biodiversity guidelines and the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Adaption Strategy.
- The proposal from Real Ideas for advocacy for parishioners and support for Exminster Parish Council.

24/157 Public Open Session – (Maximum 10 minutes)

No comments.

24/158 It is proposed that in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act of 1960, the Press and Public will be excluded from items 24/159 to 24/161 (part II) having due regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved.

PART II

24/159 To receive a report regarding the Deepway Centre

24/160 Staff Matters – recruitment

24/161 To discuss issues relating to Matford

The meeting closed at 20:50

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 19:00 in the Victory Hall Annexe

Signed:...Kevin Smith..... Date:...2 April 2024.....