

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2018

Eight Councillors were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and four members of the public at their meeting on the 1st February.

Planning. No objections were raised on the applications for alterations and extension to Southay or to the proposed pre-fabricated building at Langford Park Nursing Home. There were also no objections to the siting of a building for use as a pre-school in Station Road. The granting of amended plans with conditions at 3 Meadowlands was noted.

Pollution Monitor. A Pollution Monitor had been installed in the village to ascertain the levels of pollution from traffic travelling through the centre of the village. This monitor will be checked every month and will stay in place for 12 months, after which time a picture of any pollution in the village will become clear with excessive readings having the potential to affect planning.

New School footpath. Quotes for the work required for the new footpath alongside Station Road to service the new School were being drawn together in order that grant applications can be made.

New Cemetery area. Meetings were taking place between the Church and the Parish Council on the work required at the new cemetery ground such as the repair of the fence between the two areas, the present layout of the existing graves, depth of the soil in the new area, possible removal of trees and tree roots which could damage any future graves, grass cutting etc. These meetings are ongoing as there is a great deal to be sorted out before the Parish Council takes over responsibility for the Churchyard and new Cemetery.

Councillors' Responsibilities. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for the tidying and repainting of the notice boards in the parish this coming Spring. It was reported that new volunteers were needed to join the Litter Picking team.

It was noted that sometime this year scheduled trains would be running from Okehampton to Exeter and a letter had gone to our MP, Mel Stride,

asking him to ensure that our request for some trains to stop at Newton St Cyres was taken into consideration in any new timetable.

Highways Issues. It was reported that DCC Highways intended to move the 'lego' blocks back further into the bank opposite the entrance to Langford Road thus reinstating the original width of the road and making the corner safer. This road was due for resurfacing too. The School were being asked to respond to the query about the crossing in the centre of the village as discussions are ongoing as to the best method of resolving this safely for all concerned.

Items for discussion at the next meeting. Clarification of the rules relating to the use of drones would be requested and reported back at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1st March at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. We welcome parishioners with their queries and questions for the Parish Council.

The next Parish Surgery will be held on Saturday 3rd March in conjunction with the Church Coffee Morning. Your Councillors will be happy to meet you and help with any questions you may have.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT MARCH 2018

Seven Councillors attended the March meeting of the Parish Council and were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC). Thirteen members of the public were also in attendance.

Police Report 01/01/18 – 07/03/18. Incidents reported. Concern for female walking on A377 in darkness; Road traffic collision (damage only); Domestic incident; 2 x missing persons; 2 x concerns for welfare; possible drunk in charge of a vehicle; concern for driver; complaint against the Police. Crimes recorded. Vehicle interference (car parked on Langford Road was accessed and steering column tampered with).

Public Participation Residents from Half Moon area had submitted a letter expressing their concerns about the recent ticketing of the parked cars in Half Moon Lay-By. Several residents added their concerns to the ones already expressed and the Chairman explained the background and the recorded minutes of a meeting held in 2005.

Mid Devon District Council Cllr Peter Hare-Scott reported that the Council Tax would have to be raised by 3% but that MDDC were managing to stay on budget. The Local Plan consultation period was drawing to a close and results could then be published.

The Council had no comment to make on the planning applications for the closing off of the drive at Plot 22 at the new homes in Station Road or to the retention of 4 static caravans for staff living accommodation at Langford Park Nursing Home.

Chairmanship of Parish Council Cllr D Baker explained that he would not accept any nomination to be Chairman of NSC PC at the AGM in May as he had completed 9 years in the Chair and felt it was the right time for a change.

Areas of Cllrs Responsibilities It was agreed that the notice boards in the parish should be repainted and repaired, the bus shelters should be cleaned and the seats varnished once the better weather arrives. It was noted that the new kitchen in the Hall was being installed and the Arboretum were in receipt of Lottery funding.

S106 Funding Groups and Organisations are invited to let the Clerk know of any projects they may have involving Open Spaces which would fit the criteria for S106 Funding. Once these projects are deemed to fit the criteria they will be required to produce a Business Plan and Costs. Please contact the Clerk, Jane Hole on 851148 for more details.

Half Moon parking concern The Council debated the concerns raised by the residents of Half Moon and explained the background to the problems being experienced there. The outcome of the debate was a

decision to request a site meeting between the residents, DCC Highways, Mid Devon District Council, Stagecoach, Devon County Council and representatives from NSC Parish Council. This meeting to be convened by Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC).

General Matters The Council agreed not to proceed with the idea of an electric charging point for cars in the car park.

The legal position regarding the use of drones was clarified.

It was agreed to check whether the work carried out with the drains at the entrance to Sand Down Lane had been successful.

The date for the official opening of the new School had been fixed as Friday 22nd June at 11.00 am.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 5th April at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. Everyone is most welcome to come along.

The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Hall Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th April. Please come along and meet your Councillors with your questions and queries and enjoy the company at the Coffee Morning.

Jill Baker, Press Officer

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2018

All nine Councillors were joined by six members of the public and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) for the meeting on the 5th April.

Public session

Matters raised included the number of advertising signs that had appeared at Half Moon lay-by: the speed of cars coming from the village and over the brow of the hill by the school; the replacement of a bus timetable at Half Moon; the condition of the road from the school to the village and the number of pot holes that were appearing; the parking situation at Half Moon lay-by. All these points were noted and action to be taken was agreed.

Planning Applications and Decisions

No comment was registered for the following planning applications: Variation of conditions to allow the demolition of the existing house and construction of the boiler/bat house and to allow demolition during the period of March to September at Woodley Farm; The rethatching of front elevation and roof ridge at Mount Pleasant, Pump Street; Erection of two storey extension at Winscott Barton. Planning decisions included: The siting of a building for use as a pre-school at NSC Primary School in Station Road.

MDDC Report

Cllr Hare-Scott reported that the fine for dropping litter had been increased to £150 and parishioners were asked to report any instances with details of car numbers etc.

Maintenance matters etc.

The Council agreed to check whether a salt bin could be placed by New Estate and also agreed a quotation for the maintenance of Half Moon bus shelter and four wooden seats in the parish. Cllr Barnell reported

that he was short of volunteer litter pickers and would welcome any one who is willing to help with this.

‘Next Door’

Concern was expressed about the articles placed on the Next Door website and it was emphasised that while this was an excellent platform for information sharing, great care should be taken to check the information for accuracy before it is posted on the site.

Parish Surgeries

A timetable for Cllrs attending the Coffee Mornings to answer queries at the Parish Council table was agreed and the following Cllrs will be in attendance: May – Cllr Jim Enright; June – Cllr Gina Quicke; July – Cllr Chris Southcott (in conjunction with the Revels); August – Cllr Paul Taylor; September – Cllr Adam Reeves; October – Cllr Graeme Barnell; November – Cllr Jim Enright; December – Cllrs D & J Baker.

Annual Parish Meeting

It was confirmed that the APM would be held on Thursday 3rd May at 7.00 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. The Agenda would include the Chairman’s report for the past year and the accounts plus time for questions from members of the public. This would be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm.

Highways

It was agreed that Cllr Barnell should lead on the issue of the problems faced on the A377 in respect of increased traffic due to the amount of new housing planned in Crediton and district and the safety of

pedestrians crossing the road in the village and by Tytheing Close. Cllr Squires agreed to press for action on the pot holes on school hill and the Council agreed to make contact with the contractor again about the problem of the flooding at the bottom of Sand Down Lane.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 3rd May commencing with the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall.**

The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Church Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th May. Please come along and meet your Councillors and bring your queries and questions.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

MAY 2018

Eight Councillors attended the May meeting and were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) plus 12 members of the public. This meeting started at 7.00 pm with the Annual Parish Meeting when the Chairman, David Baker welcomed everyone and gave a verbal report on the past year. The full report will be in the Annual Report and Directory which will be delivered to all parishioners at the end of May/beginning of June.

The Parish Council meeting commenced with the public session when a parishioner thanked the Council for calling the meeting to discuss the Half Moon lay-by parking and the possibility of a footpath from the lay-by to the bus stop. Progress on the Boniface Cycle Trail was offered in

response to a question and it was reported that plans are going well with regard to landowners consents and the future planning application. It is planned to develop the Trail in three stages, from Crediton to Smallbrook, from Smallbrook to Langford Road and finally from Cowley to Exeter.

The Annual General Meeting of the Council followed the APM and elections and responsibilities for Councillors were agreed. Cllr David Baker retired as Chairman of the Council after 9 years in the role and Cllr Jim Enright was elected as Chairman. Cllr Graeme Barnell was elected as Vice Chairman for the coming year. The list of Councillors' responsibilities was updated and all the Councillors accepted roles and tasks to fulfil for the coming year.

Planning

The application by Hanlons Brewery for additional restaurant/bar area, amended entrance, outdoor dining area and 11 holiday lodges was discussed and the Council agreed to recommend the application with the condition that provision was made for a footpath from the Half Moon lay-by to the bus stop as a safety consideration.

No comment was made for the application to erect an artist's studio at Ash View Cottage.

Permission had been granted for the following applications: Alterations/extensions to Southay; Closing of drive through to Plot 22 at East of Station Road; Retention of 4 static caravans for staff living accommodation at Langford Nursing Home; Variation of conditions to allow the demolition of the existing house etc at Woodley Farm.

Review of Standing Orders etc.

The Council reviewed the list of Policies etc. and the Chairman agreed to check through them all in more detail and it was agreed to change our

Insurers. The Friends of the Arboretum are to be informed that they could apply to the Parish Council for a grant to pay for the insurance of their new mower.

New School

It was noted that the Councillors had been officially invited to attend the opening of the new School. Progress was reported on the provision of a new footpath from the new School to the river bridge.

Reports from Councillors on areas of responsibility

Cllr Graeme Barnell reported he is actively recruiting volunteer litter pickers and will call a meeting of the volunteers shortly. Cllr Adam Reeves reported that the School crossing patrol would move down into the village but discussions were still being held about moving the flashing lights into the village also. It was also noted that the SLOW sign on School Hill was now obscured by the excessive ivy growth on the telephone pole in front of it.

Council Elections

It was noted that elections for the Parish Council would be held in May 2019 and it was agreed to encourage more people to stand for election as there would be vacancies on the Council. The Council decided to hold a special event at a Parish Surgery in early 2019 to answer questions about the role of a local Councillor etc.

General Matters

Cllr Graeme Barnell agreed to press on with raising the problems of more housing being built north of the village and the consequent extra traffic this will bring and will attend a meeting of Crediton Town Council in the first instance.

It was reported that some pothole repairs had taken place on School Hill but the road was scheduled for proper repair in the future. The problem of access by wheelchair users and pushchairs on the new footpath in Station Road was raised and it was agreed that a dropped kerb at the entrance to the new School was essential.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 7th June at 7.30pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall.

Everyone is invited to attend to bring questions and queries. The next Parish Surgery will be held on Saturday 2nd June in the Parish Hall in conjunction with the Coffee Morning. Please come along and meet the Councillor on duty with any queries you may have.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

JUNE 2018

Eight councilors attended the June meeting and were joined by Cllr Margaret Squires for the first part of the meeting plus 19 members of the public. The Chairman, Cllr Jim Enright, introduced representatives from Devon County Council Highways, Devon County Council Estates and Mid Devon District Council Planning. It was reported that a site meeting had taken place one afternoon at the crossing in the village when the children were leaving the new school in Station Road. As a result it had been suggested that a feasibility study should be undertaken to make for a safer crossing for the children. This could include relocation of the bus stops, the installation of average speed cameras with a 20mph limit and re-siting the flashing warning lights for the school. The outcome of these suggestions would be made public for consultation in due course. Residents of Sand Down Lane had written with a number of questions and concerns about the old school site and it was confirmed that the building would be managed and made safe until it was disposed of. It would be marketed on the open market and advertised widely. Questions were also asked about the maintenance of the original school footpath to Pump Street and it was confirmed that the Parish Council will continue to maintain this footpath but that it was not a public footpath

and was only for the use of children and their parents going to and from school. Other queries included the future provision of Broadband in the area and the future of the trees in the immediate area of the old school. All the points raised were taken on board by DCC. It was also noted that affordable housing could be part of any development on the old school site.

Devon County Council issues.

Cllr Margaret Squires was asked to find answers to the various issues raised by the Parish Council including the flooding issue in Sand Down Lane, the cleaning of the concrete blocks opposite the entrance to Langford Road, the collapsed wall in Shuttern Brook in West Town, the problem of the number of advertising signs on the A377 and the provision of a dropped kerb in Station Road at the entrance to the new school.

Cllr Squires hopes to hold another meeting concerning the provision of Broadband in the coming months. Cllr Squires also was asked to ascertain when School Hill was scheduled for re-surfacing, when the verges in Station Road would be cut and when the provision of more carriages and more stopping places could be expected on the Tarka Line.

Planning matters.

Erection of two-storey and single storey extension at 2 Meadowlands – No comment.

Works to fell one Beech tree with a Tree Preservation Order at Garden House – No comment.

Erection of artist's studio at Ash View Cottages – Granted

Erection of two-store extension at Winscott Barton – Granted

Re-thatching front elevation at Mount Pleasant – Granted

Cllrs Areas of Responsibility.

Footpaths.

Cllrs were reminded that they each have a footpath which they should walk on a regular basis and report any work needed to Cllr Steve Parker. It was agreed to check the route of the permissive footpath from Tytheing Close to the village.

Churchyard.

It was agreed that this was in urgent need of tidying up and the new graveyard area was also very overgrown. This would be dealt with in due course.

Allotments.

There were two very overgrown vacant allotments and it was agreed to raise this with the present allotment holders at their next meeting.

Notice Boards etc.

The notice boards in the parish had all been painted and repaired, the bus shelter at Half Moon had been treated and the seats all re-varnished.

Litter pickers.

Volunteers are needed for litter picking at Half Moon lay-by area.

Other Matters.

Cllrs all signed the required consent forms under the General Data Protection Regulations and the Chairman emphasised the importance of being aware that personal information should not be shared without the owners' specific consent.

Grants.

Grants from the Parish Council can be applied for in November and the Council do have a policy for this which can be viewed by requesting a copy from the Parish Clerk.

Signs on the Village Green.

The Parish Council also have a policy for signs on the village green and any organisation wishing to erect a sign should request a copy of this policy from the Parish Clerk.

Overgrown hedges and verges.

It was noted that visibility was being impaired by the overgrown hedges on School Hill above the Crown & Sceptre and at the entrance to Higher Marsh Lane turning towards the village. Landowners would be contacted and asked to cut these back.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 5th July at 7.30pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall.

The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Revels on Sunday 8th July at the Recreation Ground. While you are enjoying the Revels please call in and talk to the Councillor on duty with any queries or questions.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

Parish Council Report July 2018

Chairman Jim Enright chaired the July Parish Council Meeting which was attended by seven Councillors and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott. There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

Apologies Received from David and Jill Baker and Cllr Margaret Squires

Mid Devon District Council

Planning Applications: 18/001813 Creation of a new vehicular access, 2 Brook View – No comment

18/00768 Change of use Cafe to children's nursery, Quicke's Home Farm – No comment

Planning Decisions: 18/00702 erection of 2 storey and single storey extension 2 Meadowlands - granted.

Also noted was that the Town and Parish Fund (TAP) is now Communities Together Fund, and applications must now involve two or more communities working together, to benefit two or more communities.

Cllr Hare-Scott reported that MDDC was on course to declare their accounts by the end of the month, their audit was looking good and they were working on next year's budget.

Parish Council Matters

Cllr Reeves reported that a **salt bin would be in place by the winter at Creedy View/New Estate**

Cllrs agreed that a quote to continue strimming the old school path was acceptable.

Cllrs agreed that the church should have sole responsibility for arranging the cutting of the churchyard, and that instead of the PC paying these costs, the Church would need to apply for a grant from the PC in November, and manage the payments to contractors themselves.

Cost of making a path to the new school was discussed and an application to "National Lottery Awards for all" grant was being applied for and also to the TAP fund, to help take this forward.

Cllrs all agreed to stop using their personal emails for council business and will change to PC email addresses.

Allotments. There are some neglected and overgrown plots and Cllr G Barnell was trying to meet with the holders to discuss this and looking into ways to correct this.

Information and updates on the gas works starting in August, which will cause delays and some disruption around various sites in the village will be available on the PC Facebook page.

Community Resilience Forum Meeting 14/6/18

Jock Campbell sent a report to the PC of this meeting held by Devon Communities Together. It included emphasis on how important having NSC as a landing site for the Air Ambulance was, and also mentioned the importance of sharing information between communities in emergency situations. The report is available to read on NSCPC web page.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 September 2018 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom, Parish Hall.

There will be no meeting in August unless required for an urgent planning issue. In this case, a meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd August at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.

Next Parish Surgery will be Saturday August 4th at the Parish Hall coffee morning from 10.30 am.

Parish Council Report September 2018

Eight Councillors were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) and four members of the public for the meeting on Thursday 5th September. Apologies were received from Cllr Graeme Barnell.

Planning.

The Council registered 'No Comment' to the following planning applications. Erection of a single storey extension at Orchard View, Meadowlands; Erection of extension to brewery to provide additional bar/restaurant floor space, outdoor dining area and erection of 11 lodges at Hanlons; Erection of agricultural building for free range egg production and temporary agricultural worker's dwelling west of Shute Cross.

Planning decisions.

Application to fell one Beech Tree at Garden House – refused; Creation of new vehicle access at 2 Brook View – granted; Change of use from restaurant/café to children's nursery at Home Farm – granted.

MDDC Matters.

The Council agreed to take no action following the letter from Crediton Town Council concerning the sale of CTC Offices to a private buyer.

The Tree Protection Officer has visited the site of the old School and some of the trees may warrant a Tree Protection Order.

Results from the Pollution Monitor sited in the village had shown levels just below the level where action may need to be taken. The Council will watch future readings as they appear.

It was noted that the Recreation Ground and the Parish Hall had been registered as Community Assets.

Proposed School Footpath

It was agreed to put this item on hold and discuss it again at the October meeting and in the meantime cease incurring any further legal costs. In the meantime a request would be made to DCC for a 20 mph speed

restriction to be imposed outside the new school when the school is in session.

Defibrillator in village.

It was reported that this had been tampered with but was now back in working order and the Council will fund any upgrades required. Cllr S Parker agreed to sort out the book swap shelves as the telephone box was getting over crowded.

Reports from Councillors.

It was reported that NSC Station had been placed third in the Tarka Line Stations competition.

It was agreed to accept a tender for cleaning up the vacant allotments.

The Recreation Ground were endeavouring to find a way to be able to hold the Fireworks evening this year as the insurance requirements had been strengthened.

It was agreed that the new area of land for the extension to the Churchyard should be cut once more this year.

Highways matters.

Cllr Squires took note of the list of outstanding matters relating to highways in the parish including the cleaning of the blocks opposite the entrance to Langford Road, the excessive amount of signs appearing on the A377 verges, the necessity for a dropped kerb outside the new school, loose manholes on the bridge in Station Road. The Council did not raise any objections to the proposed yellow lines in Station Road and West Town.

General matters.

The Councils Risk Assessments were being updated and those completed so far were approved.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall on Thursday 4th October at 7.30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend and air their views and ask question.

The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th October. Please come along to this social event and meet the Councillor on duty with any queries you may have.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

Parish Council Report October 2018

One member of the public joined the nine Councillors for the meeting on Thursday 4th October. Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC).

The Chairman, Cllr Jim Enright, opened the meeting by detailing the contents of a Police Seminar he had attended on Drug use etc. The Chairman urged all Councillors to be alert to any changes they may see in young people in their care as drug dealers were infiltrating local areas through Facebook etc. and through personal contact. The signs to look out for include young people with more money to spend than they would normally have and acting in an unusual manner. Any suspicious actions should be reported to someone in a supervisory role.

MDDC matters.

The Council agreed to support Shobrooke Parish Council in their bid for funding from the S106 “general pot” for a new playground fence in their parish and to support their application from TAP funding for a new grit bin at Shute Cross. It was also agreed that Newton St Cyres should apply for the remainder of the S106 funding and the Arboretum may be an ideal location for the extra funding.

Cllrs responsibilities – reports

A meeting of the allotment holders had taken place. The problem of the rabbits had been discussed and the allotment holders were in favour of ferreting to keep the rabbits under control. The allotment holders were keen to recruit new people to the allotments and agreed to produce an introductory leaflet for distribution in the Village Welcome Pack. Cllr Steve Parker had obtained funding for a new and larger strimmer for his work on the parish footpaths.

The ‘Best Kept Village’ sign on the village green had been damaged and Cllr Parker agreed to relocate and repair the sign as it is in the way of the grass mower where it is presently situated.

The Council agreed to apply for Change of Use for the land purchased to be used for the new cemetery.

The sheds housing the equipment for the Resilience Group had been checked and were all in order and a meeting of the group would be arranged.

The work on shoring up Shuttern Brook had been completed.

Cllrs were requested to let the Press Officer have any articles they wished to be added to the Winter Newsletter by the November Parish Council meeting.

Cllrs to attend the Parish Surgery at the Coffee Mornings were agreed as: November – Cllr Jim Enright; December – Cllrs D & J Baker.

Policies

It was agreed to update the present Press Policy and to formulate a policy for the use of Social Media to bring these policies in line with present trends and usage of social media.

Report from Devon Association of Parish Councils (DALC)

Cllrs Jim Enright and David Baker reported on an interesting DALC conference they had attended where DCC Highways had discussed the Road Warden Scheme and where insurance implications for this scheme were likely to occur. Rural Mental Health had been a subject for discussion and it was agreed that this could be raised at the forthcoming Raddon Hills meeting of local parishes to check where Parish Councils could fit into any scheme of help and assistance in this field.

Highways matters

The list of issues was still as long as ever and it was agreed that a list of the issues that had been on the list for a long time should be compiled and sent to DCC at the highest level requesting action.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1st November at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to attend with queries or issues they wish to raise.

The next Parish Surgery will be held on Saturday 3rd November in conjunction with the Church Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall. Please feel free to come along and meet the Councillor on duty there.

Parish Council Report November 2018

Seven Councillors attended the November meeting and were joined by six members of the public. Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) attended the first part of the meeting.

During the public session at the start of the meeting, a representative from the Motor Bikers Rally which had held an event at the Recreation Ground in September thanked the Parish Council and the residents of Newton St Cyres for their support and understanding. He reported that it had been a very successful event and they had raised a great deal of money for their chosen charities. The group hoped to return again next year for a similar weekend.

DCC Highways issues. The concrete blocks opposite the entrance to Langford Road had been referred to the Bridges and Structures Department for a decision on their future. Notices will be put up requesting that excess advertising signs be removed. The resurfacing of School Hill was now in the budget for some time next year. The problem being encountered by the School Lollipop person while gas works are being carried out has been referred to Highways and a manual handling of the traffic lights when the school children are crossing is being suggested. Other issues regarding flashing lights at the new school etc. are under review. It was reported that Average Speed Cameras may be installed in the village within the next 12 to 18 months.

Funding issues. The application made by the Arboretum for funding to replace the entrance gate with a disabled friendly gate was approved, subject to the agreement of the landowner and the Council also agreed to award a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau in response to their request.

Council vacancy. The vacancy for a Councillor would be advertised locally and in the meantime Cllr David Baker was elected as Vice Chairman.

Community Matters. Discussion on the papers put before the Council took place and the following were agreed: The proposed Community Fair would be advertised in the Winter Newsletter and it was hoped that this would bring groups and potential helpers together; the idea of including the Parish Councils newsletter in the Newton Wonder and delivering this to all households free of charge as an encouragement for more subscribers was discussed and it was agreed to look into the figures and logistics more thoroughly as a possible exercise in 2019; the idea of a Community Support organisation would also be discussed In the coming year.

Councillors' Reports. Allotments – Cllr Paul Taylor will be the contact person for allotment queries until the end of the present session in April next year. The Village Green will need treatment for the weeds growing there. Cllr Steve Parker will oversee the planting of the flower baskets in Pump Street next year. Cllr Jill Baker reported on a recent meeting of the Raddon Hills group of Parish Councils and asked that an item on rural mental health issues be put on the agenda for the next meeting and a representative from Newton St Cyres be allocated to attend a meeting of the parishes to discuss this problem and possible ways forward.

Policies. The Council agreed the contents of the Press/Media Communications policy and the Digital & Social Media policy and these will become standard guidelines for all Councillors to follow.

Parish Surgeries. The following dates for the Parish Surgeries were suggested:

January 5th (Church Coffee Morning) – Cllr Jim Enright

February 2nd (Arboretum Coffee Morning) – Cllrs David & Jill Baker

March 2nd (Church Coffee Morning) – Cllr Steve Parker

April 6th (Twinning Coffee Morning) – Cllr Paul Taylor

May 4th (Church Coffee Morning) – Cllr Jim Enright

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6th December at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall and this will be its Budget meeting. The Council always welcome members of the public to their meetings.

The next Parish Surgery will be held on Saturday 1st December in conjunction with the Gardening Club Coffee Morning. We look forward to meeting parishioners at this social and friendly event.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

DECEMBER 2018

Eight Councillors were joined for part of the meeting by Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) and six members of the public.

New Councillor

Two applicants presented their reasons for wishing to fill the vacancy on the Council and the vote resulted in Liz Ouldrige being elected. Cllr Ouldrige subsequently signed the declaration required and took her place with the Councillors.

Devon County Council

Several Highways matters were raised and the Chairman agreed to write to DCC listing the outstanding issues and requesting urgent answers and actions. Among the outstanding issues are the blocks opposite the entrance to Langford Road, the amount of advertising signs that have appeared along the A377, resurfacing of School Hill, possible 20mph limit in Station Road around the new School and the move of the flashing signs from outside the old school to the new school site in

Station Road. Cllr Parker was thanked for his work to remove the ivy growing up the traffic sign on School Hill and promised to remove the Best Kept Village sign on the Green as it had fallen into disrepair.

Planning

The Council agreed to make no comment on the proposed conversion of barn to two holiday units at Ford Farm or to the proposed construction of an on-farm anaerobic digestion plant at Lords Meadow Industrial Estate, Crediton.

Grants etc.

It was confirmed that payments to the Recreation Ground, the Churchyard and the WiFi in the Parish Hall are all obligations that the Parish Council had agreed historically and would be continued. Other grant applications would be considered on their merits providing they met the criteria laid down by the Council.

Budget

The proposed budget for the coming year was examined in detail and agreed. A more detailed report appears elsewhere in the Newton Wonder.

Resilience Plan

The report on a recent meeting was accepted and it was agreed that basic information from the plan would be posted on the village notice boards.

Councillors' Responsibilities

Cllr Ouldrige agreed to look after the allotments, keep check on the notice board and bus shelter at Half Moon and to take her share of delivering newsletters etc. It was agreed that Cllr Jill Baker should send the templates of the newsletters and Annual Report to the Clerk for safe keeping until another Press Officer is elected after the May elections. It was also agreed that the Council would undertake to put together a display for the vacant focus board in the Parish Hall. This display to be mounted by the Chairman and the Clerk and to be in situ for one month.

General Maintenance

Cllr Chris Southcott, Cllr Steve Parker and the Clerk had checked round the parish for maintenance work that is required and had put together a comprehensive list of jobs to be done. It was agreed to request that the handyman from Thorverton be asked to undertake this maintenance over the coming months.

Parish Council Elections

Next May sees elections for Parish Councillors and all nine places on the Council will be available. The Council would encourage anyone with an interest in the parish to seriously consider putting their name forward for election. It is a very rewarding role and a great deal of good can be achieved by the right people with the interests of the village at heart. More details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, Jane Hole on 851148.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 7th February (there is no meeting in January unless an urgent planning application appears) at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend. The February Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd February in the Parish Hall. Please come and meet your present Councillors with your questions and queries.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer