

# Newton St Cyres Parish Council reports 2017

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT ..... DECEMBER 2017 MEETING

All nine Councillors were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) for the December meeting. Fifteen members of the public also filled the Clubroom and eight members stayed until the end of the meeting. Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) sent her apologies.

Simon Trafford, MDDC Planning Officer, attended to answer queries about planning issues and to clarify planning criteria. This input proved to be helpful to the Council in their decision making over current planning applications.

**Planning:** The proposed extension etc. at No 3 Meadowlands was discussed and recommended for refusal by the Parish Council with conditions attached which related to flooding problems, suggested use of materials for cladding, proximity to neighbouring property etc.

**Grass cutting in 2018.** Four quotes had been received to cut the grass areas in the parish and the Council agreed to take up the lowest tender.

**Budget.** The budget for 2018/19 was discussed and the accounts were found to be in a healthy state. It was agreed that the Parish precept should remain unchanged for next year and any slight increase in the Council Tax would be due to the reduction in grant from MDDC.

**Cllrs responsibilities.** The Councillor overseeing the allotments and the litter pickers confirmed he would be holding meetings in the New Year to discuss these aspects and the way forward.

A concern over the positioning of the bus shelter outside the Post Office had been raised at a Parish Surgery and it was agreed to check whether this could be turned round in order that people waiting for the bus could see it approaching down the hill.

Cllr Jim Enright agreed to look after the Surgery table at the January Coffee Morning and Cllr Graeme Barnell will be at the Coffee Morning in February.

**Churchyard.** The Chairman had met with representatives from the Church and arrangements had been put in hand for the new Churchyard to come into being once the old churchyard is full.

**Crown & Sceptre.** The Council had received a notice from MDDC about activating the moratorium for the Community Asset on the Crown & Sceptre. Cllr Barnell had put together a paper on a possible way forward if the need arose and it was agreed to develop these ideas as a possible back-up if a potential buyer did not materialize. The Council agreed not to activate its moratorium.

**Highways Matters.** It was reported that overgrown hedges could be logged on the DCC website in the same manner as potholes and the report of the overgrown hedges in Langford Road had been logged in this way. The website reported that there was no problem with these particular hedges. A parishioner had reported problems with parking outside the Beer Engine and it was agreed to ask Cllr Margaret Squires to add this area to the list for possible yellow lines. The sign had gone up in Half Moon bus lay-by stating that no parking was allowed in the bus lay-by. The Council asked Cllr Margaret Squires to report back on any parking tickets issued. Clarification is to be sought from DCC on the

responsibility for keeping verges, ditches and banks clear and cut and where the landowners' responsibilities lay.

The Council agreed to invite Meg Booth, DCC Head of Highways to the next meeting in February to discuss the crossing in the village for the children attending the new school. The Council also agreed to check whether DCC Highways would be prepared to put up a warning sign on the road from the Church to the A377 about the busy junction ahead.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall on Thursday 1st February 2018 starting at 7.00 pm.** Everyone is very welcome to attend with any questions or issues they wish to raise.

The next Parish Surgeries will be held on Saturday 6th January (with the Church Coffee Morning) and Saturday 3rd February (with the Arboretum Coffee Morning) both starting at 10.30 am. Come and meet your Councillors with your queries.  
Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## **NSC Parish Council Report.....November 2017**

All nine Councillors were in attendance at the meeting in November and were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) plus 4 members of the public. The Council also welcomed Cllr Peter Heal, Chairman of Mid Devon District Council who gave a very interesting insight into the structure of the District Council and the names of the Officers to contact if and when required. Cllr Heal cleared up a matter on planning issues and explained that any alterations to the final planning consent should be notified to the Parish Council and he would ensure that the appropriate officers were aware of this.

Police Report. (For October). Highway disruption (petrol tanker broken down on highway), Burglary, Road related offences – Motorbike riding recklessly, Speeding cars, Possible drunk in charge of a motor vehicle, 'Drag racing' on the A377. Violence on train coming into station, road traffic collision (damage only), 2 x concern for welfare, Nuisance (anti-social behaviour) young people window knocking. One crime of burglary was reported.

Report from members of the public. Thanks were expressed for the notices which had been put up opposite the Hall asking people not to park along there. Cllr Squires suggested that the Parish Council write and formally request double yellow lines to be placed on both sides of the road outside the Hall.

New School. It was reported that this work was underway and it is hoped to move into the new premises in May 2018. The Parish Council will be kept informed of any official opening ceremony in the future. Plans for the footpath between the new school and the playing fields were at the discussion stage and the old school footpath will still be maintained to allow children from the Tytheing Close area to walk down to the village safely. It was agreed to check if there were any old covenants on the original school building which may have to be taken into consideration when the building is vacated.

Highways matters. The work to clear the drain at the bottom of Sand Down Lane would be undertaken soon. Highways were suggesting that the 'lego' blocks at the base of the hill opposite Langford Road should be moved back further into the hill as traffic was starting to re-align the road as a consequence of having to drive round these blocks. Cllr Squires agreed to take on board the comments by the Council over the pothole filling on School Hill. It was agreed that it appeared to be making two jobs out of one job as only some of the potholes had been filled during a recent visit by DCC Highways.

Greater Exeter Planning Strategy. The Council agreed to keep a watching brief on the Greater Exeter Planning Strategy as the plans progressed through the consultation process.

General matters. It is proposed to hold a meeting of the allotments holders and the litter pickers in order that a progress report can be made. The Recreation Ground reported that they are looking for a Project Manager to oversee the erection of the new play equipment as funds are being held to go towards this play equipment.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 7th December in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall starting at 7.30 pm. There will be no January meeting unless a planning issue arises, in which case notices will be posted on the notice boards. The February meeting will be held on Thursday 1st February 2018.

Parish Surgeries will be held on the following dates, in conjunction with the Coffee Mornings: Saturday 2nd December; Saturday 6th January and Saturday 3rd February. Please come along and meet your Councillors with your questions and queries.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## **Parish Council Report .....October 2017**

Seven Councillors were present at the October meeting and were joined by Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and later by Margaret Squires (DCC). Councillor Graeme Barnell was welcomed to his first full meeting.

### **Police Report**

Suspicious vehicle, possible link to dog thefts. RTC damage only, Lake Lane and A377.

Road related offence A377, Motorbike doing wheelies. 2 males walking in road at 0400hrs. Two concerns for welfare. Three incidents of dangerous driving A377. RTC with injuries, Motorbike and car on A377. Road related offence – possible DIC (drunk in charge)  
Highway disruption, broken down vehicle A377

There have been no crimes recorded in this period.

### **Planning**

Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden on land at NGR 288226 098008 (Adjacent to 3 Court Barton Cottages) Newton St Cyres Devon. No comment.

### **MDDC**

Following a complaint about horses being ridden around New Estate, Cllr Hare–Scott said that horse riders have a right of way to do so. Cllr Hare-Scott reported that MDDC was on financial course for the year.

### **Finance**

Noted that the Parish Council had passed it's external audit.

### **General maintenance and Parish matters**

Cllr Reeves reported that footpath 1 had a gate removed but this has now been put back.

Cllr Southcott reported that footpath 7 which had ridges from ploughing in the field was going to have the ridges removed and levelled by the farmer.

Cllr Reeves reported that the new school was progressing well and was predicted to be ready around the end of March 2018, with a move over Easter, so as to be in use by the start of the summer term.

Cllr Southcott proposed that there should be a grand opening of the school when it was ready and Cllrs agreed.

Cllr Reeves reported that the Arboretum was going to be installing a wheel chair path.

Upton Pyne had requested help with a donation of £150 towards tree felling work required at Langford Bridge, as part of ongoing flood defence work there. This was approved as a one off payment by Councillors from their flood relief fund still unused on the understanding that flooding of the road would be reduced.

A resident has agreed to pay half of the £300 cost of the flood defense work required at Sandown Lane and a grant is in place for the remainder. The work may therefore be commissioned by the Clerk.

There was confirmation from Kingswood Homes that open space in Kingfisher Close would be maintained via a home owner maintenance agreement.

Cllr Reeves reported that contractors would soon start installation of the fence around the churchyard

Following a recent incident when an ambulance was unable to pass by the Village Hall to reach a resident, due to parking outside on Bingo night, it was agreed that signs would be put up outside to request no parking in certain areas.

### **Devon County Council**

Cllr Enright will email Councillors with details for consideration of Highways Town and Parish Council's upcoming conference venues.

Cllr Squires reported that DCC are taking on 25 Apprentices spread across several departments. The funding is coming from the National Apprenticeship Levy.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council** will be held on Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm in the clubroom of the Parish Hall. **The Parish Surgery** will be held on Saturday 4th November.

Everyone is very welcome to attend the Council meeting and surgery and ask questions or give comments.

Cllr Gina Quicke

# Parish Council Report .....

## September 2017

6 Councillors were present at the September meeting and were joined by 7 members of the public including three candidates for the vacant position on the Council. Both Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) apologised for their absence.

### **Police Report.**

JULY Incidents: Bull in road; Large branch in road (Langford); Road Traffic Collision – damage only; Harassment; Gunshots heard; 4 x reports of dangerous driving.

JULY Crimes: 1 Burglary with intent to steal (unsuccessful attempt to steal quad bike); 1 Assault causing Actual Bodily Harm.

AUGUST Incidents: Insecure vehicle; Missing person; Suspicious circumstances (building entered); Suspicious vehicle abandoned; Suspicious call/scam on elderly resident; information on driver under the influence of alcohol; Branch in road; Abandoned call; Vehicle driving with children not in seat belts; 1 domestic incident; 1 vehicle road traffic collision (head injuries); 3 vehicle road traffic collisions; Concern for welfare; Domestic harassment; Car driven erratically.

AUGUST Crimes: 1 x person/owner in charge of dog dangerously out of control; 1 x harassment.

### **Input from Simon Trafford (MDDC Planning) and Ian Sorenson (DCC).**

Simon and Ian had been invited to listen to concerns about the increase in housing being planned for Crediton and Coplestone and the subsequent extra traffic which would use the A377 through the village bringing with it the extra noise and pollution and safety concerns. Both Simon and Ian took on board the concerns raised and agreed to respond with answers. The Council agreed to invite both Simon and Ian to come to the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 3rd May 2018 where parishioners would be able to hear their input and ask further questions.



### **Co-option of Councillor.**

The Parish Council's Co-option Policy was agreed. The three candidates were invited to make a 5 minute presentation and then the Councillors present were handed voting papers on which to vote. The result was that Graeme Barnell was co-opted to the Council with immediate effect.

### **Planning.**

The Council viewed the plans submitted for the erection of two garages and partial demolition of a shed at 5 Creedy View (17/01253/HOUSE). The Council agreed to object to the plans as submitted.

### **Village Flag Pole and Flag.**

As very little response had been received it was agreed to raise this idea again at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 3rd May 2018 when parishioners could air their views.

### **Councillors' responsibilities.**

The bus stop by the notice board in the village needs bolting down before the winter winds and Cllr S Parker agreed to look at this.

Quotes for next year's grass cutting contract would be sought from interested parties and a decision made on a new contractor.

Some of the sites used by the Community Speed Watch have been changed and this is making it more difficult for the volunteers. An explanation will be sought.

The Councillors had all been allocated a footpath to walk and check and the results had been fed to Cllr S Parker in his role as Footpath Officer for action.

The Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation to all the parishioners who voluntarily took on various tasks around the parish and which ensured the area is always so neat and tidy. Special thanks were

expressed to the Recreation Ground Club for the excellent state of the grounds this year.

### **Churchyard.**

It was noted that the transfer of land for the new churchyard had taken place and it was agreed to meet on site to discuss the fencing required. A plaque would be purchased noting that the land had been donated by John Quicke of Quickes Estates.

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

**The next Parish Surgery** will be held in conjunction with the Coffee Moring on Saturday 7th October in the Parish Hall. Please come along and meet your Councillors with any questions or queries you may have. Everyone is most welcome to come to the meetings and/or meet the Councillor on duty at the Surgery.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

THERE WAS NO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN AUGUST.

## **Report from the Parish Council ..... July 2017**

Eight Councillors were present at the July meeting and were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC). Ten members of the public also attended to raise issues and hear the work of the Parish Council. In the Public Participation session the problem of

potholes in School Hill was raised and Cllr Squires reported that these had been brought to the attention of DCC Highways. The problem of the concrete barriers opposite the entrance to Langford was raised as they had become partially hidden by debris and weeds. This problem will be taken up by the Parish Council with DCC Highways.

**Council vacancy.** The Council agreed to defer any decision until the September meeting when it was hoped that all three applicants could attend.

**Mid Devon District Council.** The Council had invited MDDC Planning Officer to come and speak at the September meeting on the question of the Local Plan and how infrastructure is to be included. More specific detail of the queries concerning the Local Plan would be forwarded to the Planning Officer in order that he would come prepared with answers.

Cllr Hare-Scott reported that the Auditor had signed off their accounts and they were in a healthier state than in previous years. The Council are in the process of testing insulation panels on their buildings.

**Devon County Council.** Cllr Squires was thanked for her contribution to the cost of the new fence required at the extension to the Churchyard. Cllr Squires urged people to report potholes and highways concerns through the DCC website as this would produce an incident number and would be logged. The finger post at Shute Cross had been broken off and it was agreed that a letter should go to DCC requesting a replacement.

**Updates.** Parking in Half Moon Layby: Devon Highways have confirmed that this location is enforceable by Traffic Wardens and they will monitor the parking there. Any concerns should be logged through the following Log number: ENQ171016816.

**Crown & Sceptre:** Heavitree Brewery had cut the hedge above the pub which had been obscuring the view when pulling out of the Pub car park and had confirmed that the premises are on the market.

**Village Flag and Flagpole:** A suggestion had been put forward for the purchase of a flagpole and a possible design for a village flag. Councillors agreed to discuss this after further thought.

**Parking in Station Road:** Concern had been expressed about cars parking both sides of Station Road and it was agreed to monitor this situation.

**August Surgery:** The Council agreed to hold a free Coffee Morning and Surgery on Saturday 5th August in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall – **more details appear elsewhere in the Newton Wonder.**

**Results of Questionnaire:** Only three replies had been returned out of the 400+ questionnaires which were delivered with the Annual Report. This was a disappointing result as many had indicated in the answers to the Parish Plan that they would like to see more clubs and organisations start up in the village and also that they would be willing to volunteer help.

**Footpaths:** Cllrs are walking the various footpaths in the parish and reporting problems to Cllr Parker for any action required. **Open Spaces:** It was agreed to check who would be responsible for the maintenance of any open spaces as a result of the development in Station Road.

**There will be no meeting in August so the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 7 September in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall.** The meeting will start at 7.00 pm to allow for an input by MDDC Planning Officer on the Local Plan etc.

**The next Parish Surgery will be held on Saturday 5 August in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall (10.00 am to 12.00 noon).** There will be

free coffee and biscuits, a Raffle and a Tombola Stall plus the Surgery Advice Table. Everyone is welcome to come along and meet the Councillors, enjoy a sociable atmosphere and maybe win on the Tombola or Raffle!

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT.... JUNE 2017

Vice Chairman Jim Enright chaired the June Parish Council Meeting which was attended by five Councillors and two members of the public. Cllr Peter Hare-Scott and Cllr Margaret Squires were unable to attend and sent their apologies.

**Police Report** No crimes were reported during this period.

**Public Questions** A parishioner asked about parking in the bus stop at Half Moon and was informed that residents there had been given notice not to do so, and also the police had said they would take action when passing if a car was parked there illegally.

### **Planning**

Hunters Lodge- erection of extension and other alterations following demolition of existing store - permission granted

Advertisement sign at A377 south of Newbridge Cross – permission granted

Broadgate Cottage – repair of damaged wall and render to match existing – permission granted

Erection of detached double garage and car port at 5 Creedy View – withdrawn

**Smallbrook drainage works update** – Allan Cash (DCC) in an email said they were hoping to thrust bore the pipe, but were still looking into how to carry out the work because of the difficult site and closing the road.

### **General maintenance and Parish matters**

Maintenance up to date of boards, bus shelter and seats etc. Twenty of the forty allotments are now taken and anyone interested in renting an allotment should contact Jane Hole on 851148.

There is a new Neighbourhood Watch deputy at Tything Close and the telephone box at the Beer Engine is being well used for book swapping.

There is a vacancy for a new Parish Councillor and anyone interested in applying should contact Jane Hole on 851148.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6th July at 7.30pm in the clubroom of the Parish Hall.** The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Church Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd July (10.30am to 12.00 noon)

Everyone is very welcome to attend the Council meeting and surgery and ask questions or have comments.

Cllr Gina Quicke

## **Parish Council Report .... May 2017**

Eight Councillors attended the May meeting and were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and six members of the public. The meeting was held in the main hall as the Clubroom was being used as a Polling Booth for the County Council election.

During the public session a concern was raised about the state of the fence at the entrance to Court Orchard which would be overlooked by the new houses. It was agreed to check ownership and raise this with the appropriate body.

### **Councillor resignation and vacancy for a new Councillor.**

Unfortunately Cllr Kate Anstey has had to tender her resignation from the Parish Council due to work and family commitments. The Council accepted Kate's resignation letter and thanked her for her support and enthusiasm over the years. This leaves a vacancy on the Council which will be advertised on notice boards etc. If any parishioner would like to apply for the vacant position, they should make contact with the Parish Clerk, Jane Hole, in the first instance. Jane can be contacted on 851148.

### **Police Report.**

Logs recorded in April: 1 hit and run on the A377 & 1 highway disruption at Half Moon. No crimes were reported during this period. PCSO Nikki Payne expressed her wish that these low numbers continue!

### **Election of Officers etc.**

As this meeting is also our Annual General Meeting positions were confirmed. David Baker was re-elected as Chairman with Jim Enright as Vice Chairman. Other responsibilities and representative roles were allocated and a full list will appear in the Annual Report & Directory which will be delivered to all households in early June.

### **MDDC Report.**

Cllr Hare-Scott reported that they had finished their year ahead of budget and plans were being formalised for developing land behind the Town Hall in Tiverton. It was hoped to be able to install an air pollution monitor in NSC at the end of the year.

### **General maintenance matters.**

The Clerk reported that two new tenants had taken allotments and these would be cleaned ready for occupation. The seats in the parish will be re-stained and the tree on the village green will be pruned in the autumn. Cllrs were all allocated a footpath in the parish to walk and check. Any work that needed to be done would be reported to Cllr Steve Parker who would ensure this was carried out.

### **Communications**

Cllr Parker had set up a community website called Next Door where residents could log their interest and share information and requests for help etc. This had been well taken up so far. The website can be found on: [www.newtonstcyres.nextdoor.co.uk](http://www.newtonstcyres.nextdoor.co.uk) The Cllrs are producing short profiles for inclusion on the Parish Council website and will have individual photographs taken to include on the site.

### **Dog fouling.**

The Clerk was asked to find out if it would be possible for the Parish Council to introduce byelaws to help control dog fouling in the parish. The Clerk was given authority to purchase a pink aerosol spray of biodegradable paint to highlight where dog fouling had taken place.

### **New housing development.**

Mid Devon District Council had confirmed that the new road into the new houses in Station Road should be called Kingfisher Close. This was the name chosen by the school children and endorsed by the Parish Council.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1st June at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall.** The next Parish Surgery will take place with the Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd June. We welcome everyone to the meetings and to the surgery with any queries or comments.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer



# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT ..... APRIL

Eight Councillors attended that April Parish Council meeting and were joined by six members of the public, Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC).

Police Report. No crimes were recorded for the period 1st March to 4th April which was good news! The following incidents had been reported during that period: 2 x Erratic driving; 1 x Harassment; 3 x Missing persons; 1 x Highway disruption (debris on road); 1 x Dangerous driving; 2 x Cows on road; 1 x Sheep on road; 1 x Dog on road; 1 x Road traffic accident (hit and run). PCSO Nikki Payne thanked the community for their understanding and support during the difficult search for a missing resident and would remind residents that she can be contacted on 101 or by email: [Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

Public Session. Two parishioners raised a query about the trees which had been felled in Station Road and asked whether there were plans to replace them. It is understood that they had to make way for the new footpath to the School and the plans seemed to indicate a hedge would be planted. An allotment holder was assured that only allotments which had been re-let would be rotovated and all other vacant plots would be mowed.

Planning. The following decisions were taken.

Compass House – erection of a single story side extension after demolition of existing store. No comment

Hunters Lodge – erection of extension and other alterations following demolition of existing extension. Support the application.

Lindisfarne – creation of new vehicular access for off street parking following demolition of existing wall. No comment

Advertisement sign south of Newbridge Cross – erection of non-illuminated fascia sign. No comment

5 Creedy View – erection of detached double garage and car port following removal of garden shed. The Council objected on the grounds of the size and position in front of the main building line.

Broadgate Cottage – repair to wall with block and render to match existing. No comment

Report from Mid Devon District Council. Cllr Hare-Scott reported that the Council were on budget at the close of the Financial Year. Plans for 300+ houses at Pedlars Pool had been submitted and concern was expressed by the Council on the effect that the extra traffic would generate on the A377 and especially through the village. Cllr Hare-Scott agreed to see if a Pollution Check could be carried out in the narrow part of the road through the village.

Notice Boards, Finger Posts, Telephone Boxes etc. A new notice board had been erected at the bottom of Sand Down Lane with a much easier surface for pinning notices. A quote for replacing the broken sign post opposite the entrance to Station Road was accepted as was a quote to paint the telephone boxes at the Station and in the village.

Speed Camera. The Chairman had visited Rodborough in Gloucestershire to talk to the Parish Council there about their new ANPR camera. This camera is a permanent fixture and records speeds 24/7 in both directions. It records vehicle registration numbers and a photograph. The Council agreed to follow this up with discussion with the Police and to seek funding if it was felt to be viable. The website for the camera used at present is: [safespeed.com](http://safespeed.com).

Dog Fouling. As this is a constant agenda item it was felt that more serious action should be pursued. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Clerk of Colebrooke Parish Council to obtain details of the biodegradable pink paint that Council intended to purchase which would

be used to highlight mess left on footpaths, roads, pavements etc. and hopefully shame the perpetrators into doing something about it. FREE dog poo bags will be available at the Parish Surgeries which are held at the Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of the month.

Highways matters. The problem of flooding into houses at the bottom of Sand Down Lane would be discussed at a meeting to be arranged with DCC Highways Manager. The handyman from Thorverton would start his schedule of maintenance and repairs in the Parish shortly.

New Housing Development. The School children had submitted a list of names for consideration for the road into the new housing development in Station Road. The Council agreed to submit the name Kingfisher to Mid Devon District Council as the preferred choice. MDDC will make the final decision and also add Road, Close, View etc. after the name.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 4th May at 7.30 pm. This meeting will be held in the MAIN HALL as the County Council elections are using the Clubroom.

The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Church Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th May (10.30 am to 12.00 noon).

As always everyone is very welcome to attend the Council meetings and to talk to the Councillor on duty at the Surgery table with questions and queries.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

**Parish Council report ..... March  
2017**

Seven Councillors were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and later by Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) for the March meeting of the Parish Council.

Police Report. (February 2017) Incidents reported included: Road traffic collision with altercation; concern for welfare on A377; pony on road; road traffic accident – car into wall; bad driving on A377; intruder in garden; domestic incident; concern for welfare, female in distress on A377. Crimes recorded included: 1 x driving a motor vehicle when above the alcohol limit; 1 x criminal damage; 2 x burglary – non dwelling. The Police believe the burglaries are connected to the spate of burglaries overnight between 21st and 22nd February across the Crediton area. The Police are asking that residents make sure that sheds etc. are securely locked and checked regularly. Any high value items should be marked and numbers recorded. PCSO Nicola Payne thanked the members of the public who take the time to call the Police when they see a situation that concerns them. She can be contacted for non-urgent matters on her email: [Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) or by calling 101 to receive a log number.

Matters raised by the public. Parking is still a problem in Half Moon lay-by and letters have been delivered to all households in the area. Cllr Squires will follow up the request for the Enforcement Officers to check when they pass through on their way to Crediton. Fly tipping is also a problem and some down Station Road had been reported to MDDC and subsequently removed. Fly tipping had also taken place over the hedge in Lilly Lane and had been reported.

Speed Camera. The Chairman reported that he had arranged to visit the parish in Gloucestershire where a permanent speed camera had been installed and which recorded speeds by vehicles 24/7. The system appears to work in a similar way to the present Speed Watch operating in the parish but without the need for anyone having to set up the camera and be in situ. Cllr Baker will report back to the April meeting on his findings.

General matters around the parish. It was noted that the notice board at Tytheing Close needs repairing and a new larger board had been ordered for Sand Down Lane. The lamp post outside the Hall had been painted and the glass shades need cleaning.

Cllr Parker will treat the grass on the Village Green and prune the tree nearest to the entrance to Pump Street.

A new tenant had been found for an allotment and notices would be displayed about how to look after resident's chickens, ducks etc. during the restrictions imposed as a result of the Avian Flu outbreak. Parishioners are asked to be vigilant and report any deviation to the rules to Trading Standards.

The Friends of the Arboretum had received £1,000 from the collection at Tesco and intended to explore the idea of disabled access to the Arboretum. The Friends are also planning a 'dog mess awareness day' on the 18th March. The Parish Council agreed to purchase a quantity of Dog mess disposable bags and have these available FREE OF CHARGE at the Parish Surgeries on the first Saturday of each month (in conjunction with the planned Coffee Mornings).

Parish Plan Actions. Groups and Clubs are to be asked about their requirements for volunteers, the time involved and any special times involved. Organisers are asked to contact Roger Wilkins with lists on 851337. Roger will then compile a list of these requirements and circulate it to those who have shown an interest in volunteering in the parish.

Red Telephone Boxes. The Parish Council now owns the telephone box at the Station and will shortly take responsibility for the box in the middle of the village. The box at the Station will become a Book Swap Shop and Cllr Chris Southcott will be looking after this. Cllr Southcott has

already received a good quantity of books and will rotate the stock to keep the selection fresh. The box in the village will eventually house the defibrillator which at present is attached to the Crown & Sceptre plus a few shelves to hold a Book Swap.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6th April at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and bring along queries and comments.

The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall on Saturday 1st April (10.30 am to 12.00 noon). The Coffee Mornings are a sociable event with stalls and a raffle to enjoy and an opportunity to talk to the Councillor on duty

**Date for your Diary** . The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 27th April at 7.30 pm. There will be an input about Broadband coverage in the parish and one from Cllr John Daw, Chairman of Mid Devon District Council. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be available and there will be displays from various groups in the village. Notices will be displayed in the notice boards nearer the time.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## **Parish Council Report..... February 2017**

**NEWTON ST CYRES PARISH COUNCIL  
REPORT THAT ALL HIGHWAYS ISSUES (FOR THE PRESENT) HAVE  
BEEN RESOLVED!**

All nine Councillors attended the February meeting and were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and 5 members of the public.

### **Police Report.**

The following calls were logged during December 2016 and the end of January 2017. Children playing chicken in the traffic; Pony in road; Drunk male in road; 2 x suspicious males possibly cattle rustling; Dangerous driving; Suspicious activity; Abandoned 999 call; Suspected drunk in charge; Road traffic collision, hit and run; Sheep on road.

Crimes reported in the same period: 1 x Assault causing actual bodily harm. Parishioners are reminded that urgent calls to the Police should be made on 999, non-urgent incidents should be made on 101 to receive a log number and non-urgent contact can be made by email:

[Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

### **General Power of Competency.**

The Parish Clerk's recently acquired qualification has given the Parish Council new powers, mainly financial powers, and which will benefit the residents of NSC and these powers could enable the Council to financially support more projects including those put forward by individuals. The Council resolved to apply for the next level of qualification which again will prove the efficiency of the Council and, if successful, will mean that NSC will be the first Parish Council in Devon to hold this qualification. The only two other Councils with this qualification are both Town Councils – Crediton and Tiverton.

### **Planning.**

The Parish Council supported the removal of a Douglas Fir and Leylandii hedges at Hunters lodge and made no comment about the use of a dwelling at 1 Smallbrook Cottages as two dwellings or the removal of the payphone from the telephone box in the village.

### **Mid Devon District Council report.**

Cllr Hare-Scott reported that the budget had been agreed by the Cabinet and that an increase in Council Tax was inevitable. The Council had agreed to house 5 Syrian refugees in private accommodation.

### **Annual Parish Meeting – (Thursday 27th April).**

The Council agreed to invite speakers about the provision of Broadband in the area to come to the APM.

### **Councillors' Areas of Responsibility.**

It was agreed that the tree on the village green nearest to Pump Street should be pruned as a safety issue. The problem of notices on the notice board being pinned on top of other notices was raised and it was emphasised that this should not be happening, especially if the notice

covered over was the agenda for the Parish Council meeting. Cllrs were asked to keep an eye on this and to remove old posters and move posters around so that all current ones can be clearly seen. It was agreed to put a larger notice board at Sand Down Lane as this board was very well used and is one of the smaller ones in the Parish. It was also agreed to take up the offer by Peter Hawksley to run workshops for computer and iPad users who wished to learn the basics in a simple manner. the Parish Council offered to pay for the hire of the Clubroom for these sessions if Peter wished to use this facility.

### **Red Telephone Boxes.**

The Parish Council now own the telephone box at the Station and will soon own the one in the village so the following usage was agreed. The box near the Station would become a Book Swap location and Cllr Southcott would fit shelves and signs and generally maintain this facility. The box in the middle of the village would house the defibrillator which is at present attached to the wall of the Crown & Sceptre. It was felt the phone box location would be more centralised and visible. It would also be possible for this box to have a Book Swap space as well.

### **Advertising signs along the A377.**

The Council had been offered the option of Zero Tolerance for signs placed along the Highway. This means that advertising signs can only be displayed on land owned by the advertiser or on land where they have permission from the landowner. These signs will be subject to the usual planning restrictions covering display signs. All other signs erected will be removed by DCC who will monitor the situation on a regular basis.

### **Highways issues.**

The Chairman reported on a very constructive meeting with the Neighbourhood Highways Manager when most of the outstanding issues had been covered and resolved. The road closure dates for work in Station Road and flood relief at Smallbrook will not clash. The School are to be asked to request a pedestrian crossing on the village once the new School is built as a safety measure for the children and the crossing patrol. The 'SLOW' sign on School hill will be moved as it is hidden by a telegraph pole in its present position. The layby at Half Moon had been designated as a Bus Stop and therefore any cars parked there would be subject to an enforcement order and receive a parking ticket, as is the case for all bus laybys on the A377. The hole in the wall of Shuttern Brook in West Town had been repaired.



**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2nd March at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. Please come along and bring any queries or questions you may have.**

**The Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th March in the Parish Hall. Please come and meet your Councillors while enjoying the stalls and coffee on offer.**

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## **Parish Council report ..... January 2017**

Seven Councillors attended the January meeting of the Parish Council and were joined by three members of the public. The Council do not normally meet in January but this meeting was called primarily to discuss a planning application for the 25 new houses adjacent to the new school site.

The Council discussed the plans which had been submitted and expressed concern about the provision of a footpath to the new school through the new houses. From the plans it was not clear if this had been provided so the Council resolved to ask Mid Devon District Council for clarification. If the footpath has been included then the Council would be happy with the plans. If no provision had been made then the Council would raise an objection.

An application to remove 14 trees from Court Orchard Copse to facilitate the proposed road widening was approved. The Council approved the planning application to erect a single storey rear extension at Quarryfield, Langford Road.

### **Congratulations.**

The Clerk, Mrs Jane Hole, was congratulated on successfully completing the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

### **Report from MDDC meeting.**

The Chairman and the Clerk had attended an update meeting and reported that training was to be available for Councillors on the Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests policies. The Council are also able to suggest names for new streets in the Parish and this may be relevant for the new development in Station Road.

### **Bird Flu.**

The Council were concerned about the ruling about keeping poultry and captive birds in a secure place being extended to the end of February. It was emphasised that this applied to all poultry, including ducks and geese, and they should be kept in a house or shed and away from any possible contact with wild birds. It is the faeces of the wild birds that carry the disease so netting over the runs would not be enough protection.

### **Community Volunteers.**

It is hoped that nominations for 2016 will be with the Council by the next meeting so that a decision can be made about a worthy recipient.

### **Defibrillators.**

An offer of training on the new defibrillator installed at the Recreation Ground had been received and Cllr Southcott agreed to ask members of the Recreation Ground Club committee if they would like to nominate people to attend this course. It would be suitable for people in charge of various sports at the Rec, parents whose children are involved in sporting activities or use the play equipment and the ground maintenance crew.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2nd February in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm.**

**The next Parish Surgery will be held in the Crown & Sceptre on Saturday 4th February at 10.30 am.** There will be FREE coffee/tea, a raffle and a tombola stall at this event. All future Parish Surgeries will be held in conjunction with the Coffee Mornings held on the first Saturday of each month in the Parish Hall. Please come along to these events and enjoy the company at the Coffee Morning event and talk to your Councillors at the same time.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

