

Parish Council report December 2015

A complement of 9 Councillors attended the December meeting and were joined by Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and Margaret Squires (DCC) and 4 members of the public.

During the public session time it was confirmed that the Crown & Sceptre Pub should re-open in the New Year. Concern about cars parking in the bus lay-by opposite the School was raised as buses were failing to stop if they could not see passengers waiting there.

Attendance at Parish Council meetings. As part of the ongoing need to be open and transparent in all Council business it was agreed to keep a register of attendance by Councillors at meetings and to publish this in the Annual report.

MDDC. Peter Hare-Scott was thanked for arranging for a notice to be displayed at the entrance to New Estate warning that children could be playing there. Peter reported that MDDC were seeking to work with other Councils to save on expenditure. He also promised to take back some of the comments about the new waste collection, i.e. wrong collection days detailed on the leaflets, bins with no lids which meant the cardboard was getting wet etc.

Precept etc. The Council discussed its precept for the forthcoming year and agreed on a very small increase of 2%. This increase will mean that a Band D household will pay £34.49 to the parish. Good housekeeping had meant that the increase was kept to a minimum while still being able to maintain the parish in a good state with grass cutting, dog waste bins etc. It does appear that we will be asked to provide some of the services originally provided by other authorities so a contingency has to be included in our precept discussions. Grants to organisations were discussed and the Council agreed to support the Recreation Ground, the Church, the Hall and the new Boniface Cycle Trail.

Footpaths, hedges etc. Thanks were expressed to Richard Brown who had cut the hedges along the road leading to the Station and to Cllr Steve Parker for all his work on the footpaths in the parish. A problem with dog mess in the Arboretum had been reported and it was agreed to bring this to the attention of the Friends of the Arboretum.

Allotments. The Council agreed to undertake a review of the allotments as so many were now unused and a meeting will be held on site in the New Year.

Snow Warden. An appeal is made for a volunteer to act as Snow Warden for Tytheing Close. Training will be given and supplies of grit etc . will be provided. This is an urgent request so if anyone feels they would like to volunteer for this role, they should contact Cllr Adam Reeves on 851150 for more details.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 4th February at 7.30pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. Please come along with questions and queries and to hear what your Council do.

The Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 27th February in the Parish Hall starting at 10.30 am. Again, please come along and meet your Councillors with your questions and queries.

Parish Council report November meeting

Seven Councillors were joined by five members of the public for the November meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Peter Hare-Scott also attended for the first part of the meeting.

Members of the public raised the problem of the choked drain near to Ford Farm, the ongoing problems of parking at the School and in the entrance to Tytheing Close and the fact that the bus stop at Half Moon had been demolished in a vehicle.

Mid Devon District Council. MDDC had asked the Parish Council to decide about the future of grass cutting in the parish. We were given the option of either letting MDDC cut the relevant verges and being charged for the service or taking on responsibility for the cutting ourselves. The Council unanimously decided to take on the responsibility and to seek sponsorship for some of the areas to be cut. Some areas could be cut by volunteers and some could be put out for tender. Cllr Hare-Scott reported that the new waste collection system appeared to be working well. A new CEO has been appointed to replace Kevin Finan who is retiring in early 2016. MDDC have repaired the bent railing in Court Orchard and a sign warning about children playing is on order for New Estate.

Parish Lengthsman. The Raddon Hills group of Parish Councils are considering the possibility of employing a Lengthsman to undertake maintenance work in all the 11 parishes and are asking Councils to put forward suggestions of the type of work and frequency required.

General The allotments had been checked and Cllr Anstey had tidied up some of the fallen posts and replaced the numbers. Surveys had been undertaken in West Town and Smallbrook to check on the water flow and some work would need to be done to alleviate the risk of flooding in these areas. A meeting had taken place with the new Highways Officer for our area and he had taken away a list of outstanding jobs that needed attention.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 10th December in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Please note that this is the SECOND Thursday in the month for this month only.

The Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 19th December in the Parish Hall. Please come along and meet your Councillors and raise any queries you may have. If you then come along to a Parish Council meeting you will hear your issues raised and the answers.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

Parish Council Report for October meeting

Seven Councillors attended the October meeting and were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and for a short time by Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC). Eight members of the public also came along to put forward queries and questions and hear the business of the Council.

The bus stop at Half Moon (buses travelling to Exeter) was discussed again and it was agreed that the residents with concerns should take up any issues they may have with the appropriate authorities. Speeding along Station Road was raised again and the Chairman made a plea for more volunteers to join the Community Speed Watch team so that more monitoring sessions could be undertaken. A site in Langford Road was being checked out by the Police so even more volunteers would be needed in the future. Parking outside the School was still an issue and a resident was following up details of a scheme where the school could issue parking tickets.

Mid Devon District Council.

Cllr Peter Hare-Scott reported that the new system for waste collection seemed to be working and the Chief Executive of MDDC is to retire. Cllr Hare-Scott promised to check why the bent rail in Court Orchard had been painted but not straightened and why the notice about Children playing in New Estate had not yet been put up.

Devon County Council.

Cllr Margaret Squires had not been able to find any answers to our queries regarding Highways including a date for a meeting with DCC Head of Highways. A site meeting is to be held in October to look at some of the outstanding work and issues.

Road Wardens.

It was agreed to discuss this at the Raddon Hills Group of Parish Councils as it may be possible to co-operate on the funding for a Road Warden for the area.

General.

Parking in the bus stop at Half Moon was still causing problems and it was agreed to report this to Crediton Police to monitor. The work on the

bridge in Station Road was completed for now but a small amount of finishing work would be undertaken next Spring.

Grants.

The Parish Council may be in a position to allocate small grants to non-profit making or charitable organisations in the parish. Applicants must be organisations operating within the parish and must have a bank account with at least two signatories. Applicants must have a constitution (or equivalent) to submit with their application and their application must show direct benefits to the well-being of the community. Independently audited accounts and an audited financial statement must accompany any application. All applications must be submitted to the Clerk (Jane Hole, The Cellar, Pump Street, NSC, EX5 5DA) by **15th November 2015**. Applicants should note that there is no guarantee that money will be available for grants. Further details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk on 01392 851148.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6 November in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along with questions and queries. The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 28 November (10.30 to 12.00). Please come along and meet your Councillors

The September Parish Council meeting had a very large agenda and several items of correspondence from parishioners to discuss. Eight Councillors attended and were joined towards the end of the meeting by Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC). Eleven members of the public joined the Councillors for the meeting with the main concern being Highways issues. The concerns ranged from the lack of visibility when turning out of Langford Road, the speed restriction signs being covered by vegetation, the speed of traffic travelling along 'Quickes straight' and into the bend at Smallbrook, the overgrown bus stop at Langford, the narrow pinch point at Castlands where a house had been hit by lorries on several occasions and the estimated cost of a pedestrian crossing in the village. All these concerns were aired by members of the public and taken on board by the Council.

The Chairman explained that Devon County Council would no longer be undertaking hedge trimming and verge cutting as a result of their cut-backs but that many of the jobs could be undertaken by Cllrs or members of the public. He himself had cleared the bus stop at Langford that very day. The issues regarding speeding and road markings would be taken up with DCC and our County Councillor when she arrived at the meeting. Unfortunately Cllr Squires did not have any updates on the issues that had been raised with her and DCC at a meeting which had taken place at the beginning of August and Cllr Squires was pressed to take up these urgent matters with DCC as a matter of urgency and to include the new concerns expressed at this meeting.

Other matters raised included the weed killing along Station Road towards the Recreation Ground and the Station and it was confirmed that this was the responsibility of local landowners, Network Rail and the Recreation Ground. The change of site for the bus stop at Half Moon was discussed and it was agreed that the Chairman would talk to Hanlons about help with the siting of this.

As a result of all the concerns raised it was agreed that Cllr Squires should try to arrange an open meeting sometime in October with DCC Highways in attendance where the parishioners could raise their concerns directly with those from DCC who could supply answers.

Other important matters. Cllr Steve Parker was thanked for rebuilding and painting the seat on the village green to such a high standard.

The Parish Council has bought a set of display boards which will be used at public events and at the Village Market. Notices will be kept updated.

The notice boards in the parish had been cleaned and repainted and parishioners were asked to make sure that only drawing pins are used to secure notices to the boards.

The Chairman would produce a paper on the future of the Village Market for discussion at the October meeting.

The results of the survey on the possibility of a community shop had been collated and would be published in the Newton Wonder.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1st October in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 24th October. Please come along to the market and meet your Councillors and to the Council meeting with your concerns. We will do our very best to answer queries and take on board your concerns and issues.

Parish Council Report for July

Eight Cllrs and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott attended the July meeting in the Parish Hall. Three members of the public also attended and raised queries about the white lines in the road at Castlands and the disposal of garden waste. As there are a number of outstanding Highways issues the Council decided that they would try and call a meeting between the Parish Council, our County Councillor and Devon County Council Highways Department. This was felt to be urgent as requests were not being answered and promises of action not being followed up.

Mid Devon District Council. Cllr Peter Hare-Scott outlined the new proposals for the collection of household waste, garden waste and food waste in the district. He emphasised that all households would be notified of the changes and the new system would be rolled out area by area. The main changes included a new food waste weekly collection, plastics collection and a charge for collecting garden waste.

Footpaths etc. A request had come from the Parish Surgery for up to date maps showing permissive footpaths in the parish. Cllr Gina Quicke agreed to place copies with the information that goes to the Parish surgeries so they would be available to anyone who wishes to have one.

Pump Street Bridge. Following the major works on the listed bridge in Station Road, the foot bridge in Pump Street is the next major repair job. Again it is Grade 2 listed and therefore will be the subject of planning permission and consultation with English Heritage. DCC Highways have promised to keep vehicle access open and erect a

temporary footbridge. The Parish Council hope to be able to let parishioners know when this work will take place.

Reporting potholes. Devon County Council has an inter-active map where parishioners can log any potholes they see. Registering them like this usually results in quicker action. The link is: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/> then choose what you need to report, i.e potholes, overgrown vegetation, street lights etc.

Next meeting. There will be **NO MEETING** of the Parish Council in August but there will be a Parish Surgery table at the Mini Market on Saturday 22nd August. The next meeting of the Parish Council will therefore be on **Thursday 3rd September at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall**. Please come along with your queries and see how your Parish Council functions and what it is responsible for.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

Parish Council Report ... June 2015

Eight Councillors plus 6 members of the public attended the June Parish Council meeting. Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) was there for the first part of the meeting and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott arrived late after attending another meeting in Tiverton.

Arising from a concern by a member of the public, the Council decided to press First Great Western to increase the training and awareness of their drivers about the problems of over-shooting the new Harrington Hump on NSC Station. One of the Cllrs has been monitoring the problem since the first complaint had been received and it was obvious that the train drivers were not being careful about stopping alongside the new Hump to allow passengers to alight safely.

Another concern raised in the public session was about the speeding drivers through Langford Road. Excess speeds had been witnessed and the Council agreed that this posed a danger to the residents in the area. The Council agreed to take this up with the Police and request a Police presence from time to time to warn those speeding drivers.

Allotments. One or two allotments were very overgrown and rent was still outstanding so the Council agreed to implement the clause in the Allotment Agreement giving notice to quit the affected allotment. The Council also agreed to ask Quicke's to cut the empty allotments to tidy up the area.

Display Boards/Badges. The Council will be purchasing a set of display boards to use at the Mini Market and at events and all the new Councillors will be issued with name badges.

New Estate/West Town/Half Moon Bus Stop. The Council had received a request for the installation of speed humps in West Town to slow down speeding traffic and agreed to ask DCC Highways to undertake a survey of the road with a view to installing these if possible. Residents of New Estate were concerned about the safety of the children playing in the road outside their houses and again the Council agreed to ask Mid Devon District Council if notices could be erected to warn motorists that children do play in that area.

Another concern raised was of the disruption and noise caused by late night revellers catching the bus back to Exeter at Half Moon and again the Council agreed to consult with DCC Highways whether the bus stop could be moved nearer to the Half Moon Garage and away from the front of the cottages.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2nd July in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall starting at 7.30pm. Please do come along with requests and queries.

The Council will always listen and act wherever it can. There will be no Mini Market in July so no Parish Surgery will be held that month. The next scheduled surgery will take place at the Mini Market on Saturday 22nd August in the Parish Hall (10.30 – 12 noon)

Jill Baker, Press Officer