

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT ..... DECEMBER 2016

Eight Councillors attended the December meeting and were joined by Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) and three members of the public.

### **Planning.**

The meeting were informed that the application for the new School had been approved and the Cllrs made no comment on the proposed extension to the Tennis Club building at the Recreation Ground. The extra advertising signs that had appeared at Half Moon lay-by were discussed and it was agreed to check the legality with the Planning Authority.

Local maintenance. The Chairman and the Clerk had toured the parish noting where maintenance work could be carried out by Thorverton Parish Council handyman. The list was approved by the Cllrs and it was hoped that this work would start to be undertaken in 2017.

### **Local Parish Plan.**

Following the first meeting of the Development Group a list of actions had been drawn up with details of which group in the parish would take responsibility for the action points.

### **Resilience Group.**

Jock Campbell had presented a paper to the Council with details of the Community Resilience Forum Meeting he had attended where emergency planning, the role of the Fire Service and Police and Community Rest Centres were discussed. Cllr Reeves reported that the early warning system in the parish had worked during the recent heavy rain. The Cllrs were also told that a volunteer road maintenance person could be trained to Chapter 8 level free of charge. **Anyone interested in becoming part of this scheme should contact the Parish Clerk, Jane Hole, for more details on 851148.**

### **Speed Watch.**

An appeal was made for more volunteers to join the Community Speed Watch Team and it was emphasised that the presence of the Team in

the village was helping to reduce the speeding through the village and more volunteers would mean the team could be out in the village more often. **Anyone willing to join the team and play their part in making the road through the village safer should contact Tom Clague on 851639 for more details.** Thank you.

### **Precept.**

As the December Parish Council meeting is the time when the precept for the following year is agreed the Cllrs discussed the budget figures taking into account expected expenditure for the following year and agreed that no increase in the precept would be required for 2017.

### **New date and venue for Parish Surgeries.**

The Cllrs agreed to take the Parish Surgery table and information to the village Coffee Mornings in 2017 instead of to the Village Market. This will mean that the Cllrs will attend the surgery in rota on **the first Saturday of every month (10.30 am to 12.00 noon) in conjunction with the Coffee Mornings run by the Church, the Parish Hall, the Twinning Group, the Craft Club, the Friends of the Arboretum and the Gardening Club.** Please come along to the Coffee Mornings where there will be plenty of stalls selling a variety of goods and meet your Councillors with your queries and questions. Details of the surgeries will be published in the Newton Wonder every month.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall on Thursday 2nd February at 7.30 pm. We will be pleased to see you there when we can again take on board your concerns and queries.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## Parish Council report ..... November 2016

All nine Councillors attended the November meeting and were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and one member of the public. Three other members of the public joined the meeting for the public session and then left at 7.40 pm.

**Police Report.** Calls during September 2016: 1 x concern for welfare; 1 x traffic; 1 x hit & run in NSC; 2 x burglaries; 1 x cows in the road (A377); 1 x drugs related; 3 x males walking in the road (A377); 1 x vehicle left running; 1 x alarm. Crimes in September 2016: 3 x burglaries.

Public Session. Concern was raised about vehicles parking on the grass verge opposite the School at the entrance to Tytheing Close which were obstructing the view towards Exeter. It was agreed that this should be reported to both the Police and to the School for action.

**Red Telephone Boxes.** The Council are in the process of purchasing the two telephone boxes in the village (one by the Beer Engine and one by the Crown & Sceptre) and are inviting NSC residents to come up with ideas for their use. One suggestion is for books which can be borrowed and swapped but any other suggestions will certainly be looked at.

**Parish Hall and car park etc.** It was reported that the drainage work in the car park had been completed and had worked well during a recent heavy rainfall. The antique light at the far end of the hall is in need of repainting and maintenance so the Council agreed to seek a price for this work to be carried out.

**Allotments.** Following a meeting of the allotment holders it had been agreed to raise the rent of an allotment to £20 per plot per year in an attempt to break even on the costs involved. These would be reviewed again next spring.

**Parish Plan & Housing Survey.** A new Development Group has been formed and has held their first meeting to discuss the issues raised in the Parish Plan. Groups will be contacted in the near future to follow up some of the ideas and suggestions raised in the Plan. A Housing

Survey form will have been delivered to all households in the parish and the Council hope that as many as possible will be completed and returned so that a true picture of the housing needs in the parish can be formed.

**Parish Surgery.** Among items raised at the surgery in October was a request for a light by the garages in Court Orchard, a concern about a step from the car park into the lane behind Shuttern Close, and a query about the installation of a barrier against the road outside No 2 The Village. All these points will be raised by the Council to the appropriate department.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting has been changed as the School Panto is booked for the usual date of the first Thursday in the month. The Parish Council meeting will now be held on **Friday 2nd December at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall.**

The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 17th December at 10.30 am in the Parish Hall. Please come along and meet your Councillors and raise any concerns you may have.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## **Parish Council report ..... October 2016**

There were nine Councillors present at the October Parish Council meeting and this is the full complement of Councillors. They were joined by Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) for the first part of the meeting and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) who stayed for the full meeting. Three members of the public also attended.

### **Devon Air Ambulance Trust**

The meeting started with an input from Toby Russell from DAAT who thanked the Council for their support of the remote switching gear which had been installed at the Recreation Ground and which would enable night flying and landing by the Air Ambulance. Toby explained that training would take place with the paramedics over the next three weeks so they would be familiar with the site and the facilities there. He also asked that advance warning could be transmitted to DAAT of any events at the Recreation Ground which may impede the landing of the helicopter, such as a large marquee in the centre of the field etc.! Jock Campbell was warmly thanked for his involvement in getting the site approved and for liaising with DAAT over the details.

### **Planning**

Cllr Enright reported on the recent MDDC Planning meeting where approval had been given for the variation of condition 10 of the planning permission for the new School and associated housing. Cllrs Enright, Squires and Hare-Scott were thanked for their input at the planning meeting. Cllr Enright also reported that the land at the entrance to Station Road had been purchased and was now in DCC ownership.

### **Vice Chairman**

Cllr Enright was proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and was unanimously voted into this position.

## **Defibrillators**

The Council agreed to maintain the defibrillator presently situated on the wall of the Crown & Sceptre and to take on responsibility for the maintenance of the next defibrillator which would be purchased out of the money in the defunct Community Support Group account for the Recreation Ground. It had been agreed by the CSG that any money left in the account should be donated to the Parish Hall.

## **Christmas newsletter**

Articles and ideas for the next Parish Council newsletter were invited and a new distribution list is being put together. The newsletters will be delivered to all households during November. A Housing Needs Survey will also be delivered to all households at the same time as the newsletter. An article on Neighbourhood Watch was suggested and it was agreed to set up a Facebook page linked to the Parish Council's Facebook page.

## **Parish Surgery**

Concern had been expressed at the September surgery about parking on the bridge by the Beer Engine Pub as this may cause a problem if emergency vehicles were required.

## **Highways issues**

The problem of the blocks across the road from the Langford turning was discussed and it was agreed to write to DCC and request that the white lining be re-marked to allow for the narrowing of the carriageway by these blocks. It was felt that the blocks may be in situ for some time as removal of tree stumps etc. may cause the bank to become unstable. It was agreed that safety markings should be put on the blocks.

A sign will be placed at the Recreation Ground to indicate the DAAT landing site and this will be paid for out of Locality funds by Cllr Squires.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 3rd November at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. The November Surgery will be held at the Village Market on Saturday 26th November.** Please come along to either or both of these events and air your views, ask questions etc. You will always be welcome.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## Parish Council report ..... September 2016

Six Councillors and three members of the public were joined by Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) for the meeting on the 1st September.

The Council had received a notice of resignation from Cllr J Ward and had thanked Cllr Ward for her past service to the Council. Notices advertising the vacancy had been posted on the Parish Council website and Facebook page and a notice had been placed in the notice board on the Village Green. As a result Jim Enright had requested he be considered for the vacancy. The Council agreed unanimously to co-opt Jim and he then took his place among the Councillors. Cllr Enright had been a Parish Councillor previously and was welcomed back into the Council.

Highways issues. Cllr Margaret Squires had obtained some answers to our queries and confirmed that the work needed at Shuttern Brook had been surveyed and was now on the list, a speed check in West Town had been carried out and the results did not justify speed bumps. The problem of the concrete blocks opposite to Langford Road needed to be checked out with Devon County Council and Cllr Squires agreed to follow this through. It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Hall that they apply for funding for the drainage works from Cllr Margaret Squires' Locality Fund.

Mid Devon District Council. MDDC were thanked for repairing the potholes near New Estate. A questionnaire about street cleansing was completed as requested and the Council found very little fault with the system as it stands. NSC have a very active team of volunteer litter pickers who make a big difference to the tidiness of the village.

Discussion also took place on the proposal by MDDC to amalgamate the litter bins and the dog waste bins. The map that had been circulated was found to be incorrect so the Council resolved to point this out to MDDC plus the fact that all but one of the dog waste bins were purchased by NSC Parish Council. The Council agreed to suggest to MDDC that the litter bins and dog waste bins could be emptied by one lorry making one round trip.

Housing Survey. The Council agreed to check the Housing Survey template on offer to see if any additional questions were required as we will be taking up the offer of conducting the survey with funding from MDDC.



Development Group. The Council agreed to call an initial meeting of the Development Group who would be taking forward the suggestions and requirements from the recent Parish Plan results.

Cllrs' responsibilities. A meeting of the current Allotment holders would be called in October as yet another plot had become vacant. The Community Speed Watch is in abeyance for 8 weeks due to illness, resignations and house moves by some of those involved. Cllr Steve Parker was nominated to be the Council's representative on the Boniface Trail and he would report back to the Council in the same manner as the reps on the Parish Hall, the Recreation Ground Club etc. Cllr Enright agreed to take on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Officer and would liaise with PCSO Lisa Crocker.

The Council agreed to ask parishioners for any ideas that they may have for the role of a casual worker who would keep the village tidy, such as grass cutting, weed control, leat cleaning, sign cleaning etc. Any ideas should be forwarded to the Parish Clerk, Jane Hole on 01392 851148 or email: [nsc\\_pc@outlook.com](mailto:nsc_pc@outlook.com)

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6th October at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. Everyone is very welcome to attend and bring along their queries and questions. The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 22nd October, in the Parish Hall. Please come and support the Market and chat to your Cllr on duty.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

**There was no meeting in August**

## **Parish Council Report..... July 2016**

Eight Councillors were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and eight members of the public for the meeting on the 7th July.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm with an input from Sue Southwell, Rural Housing Enabler, Devon Communities Together who explained the process for undertaking a housing survey to gauge the opinion of the parish for affordable housing, how many and where etc. Sue explained that the average price of houses for sale in Newton St Cyres meant that an income of approximately £93,000 per year was required to obtain a mortgage and buy in the village. These figures pointed to a need for affordable housing and the Council agreed to discuss the possibility of a housing survey at their next meeting. In the meantime, Sue would register our interest with Mid Devon District Council to seek their support for a survey.

The question of the supply of waste bag supplies was raised again and Cllr Hare-Scott agreed to check whether these could be made available through our local shop.

**Mid Devon District Council.** Cllr Hare-Scott reported that Mid Devon were on course to be the first in the country to publish completed accounts this year. It was also reported that a full planning application for the new School in Station Road and the housing development there would be lodged with the Council in the next couple of months.

**Risk Assessments in the Parish.** Cllrs will be undertaking risk assessments in the parish during July and August and presenting the updated papers to the September Parish Council meeting. These risk assessments are an essential part of the running of the parish and cover general responsibilities, Litter Pickers, Community Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, Arboretum, Car Park etc.

**Quality Council.** The Chairman reported that the Parish Council is one of only 5 Councils in the County to have obtained the same level of qualification (and one of those Councils is Exmouth with a far larger population). Congratulations were recorded to Jane (the Parish Clerk) for all her hard work with this.

**General.** It was reported that the vacant allotments had been topped and a survey was taking place on the facilities offered by other Council run allotments.

Cllr Parker agreed to trim the edges of the car park and also reported that the fallen step in Footpath number 5 would be repaired.

The Council agreed to explore the possibility of purchasing the two redundant telephone boxes in the parish and requested that an article appears in the Newton Wonder asking parishioners for ideas for their use.

**The Community Speed Watch** are seeking new members and an advert appears in the magazine.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 1st September 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN AUGUST UNLESS THERE IS AN URGENT NEED AND THEN NOTICES WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE NOTICE BOARDS.**

The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 27th August (10.30 am to 12.00 noon) where a Parish Councillor will be available to take your questions and queries. Members of the public are always welcome at Parish Council meetings, please come along with your views and questions.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## **Parish Council Report ..... June 2016**

Seven Councillors were joined by five members of the public at the June meeting and Cllr Margaret Squires was present for the early part of the meeting before leaving to attend another Parish Council meeting in her area.

The Chairman, Cllr David Baker, congratulated the Clerk and the Councillors on their achievement as a Quality Council (Fundamental Level) and explained this had been achieved through the hard work of the Clerk and the support and commitment from the Councillors. It was reported that the Hall was now connected to WiFi and the Council will need to discuss how they can best make use of this facility for future meetings.

Devon County Council. Cllr Squires explained about the new system for applying for Town and Parish (TAP) funding and details can be found elsewhere in the Newton Wonder. DCC has also received Government money for pot-hole repairs and Newton St Cyres should benefit from this extra funding.

Planning etc. There were no objections to the application to erect a conservatory at 25 Court Orchard. It was agreed that the Council should write again to Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council expressing their concern over the increase in traffic if and when new houses are built in Crediton. With regard to the revised plans for the entrance to Station Road, the Council agreed they would support the safest possible measures in that area.

Finances. The Council agreed to support the application from NSC Church for funds towards the levelling of sunken graves and associated work. A percentage of the funds requested was agreed upon. It was noted that the clearing of the allotments had taken place and the invoice was paid to the contractor.

Dog Fouling. A reply had been received from the Dog Warden and it was agreed that any parishioner witnessing dog fouling that had been left on the ground or put in a bag and thrown into the hedge etc. should contact the Clerk on 851148 and she will explain the possible actions that can be taken.

Notice Boards. Again, a problem had been reported about notices being stuck onto the notice boards with glue or with staples. The Council take pride in their notice boards and each Cllr has a responsibility to make sure their own board is kept tidy BUT removing plastic, stuck on paper or staples is extremely difficult. It should be noted that these boards are for parish events only and not for events taking place outside the parish

or for commercial advertising. The Council will greatly appreciate everyone's help with this. It would also be appreciated if notices were not posted until a week or two before the event and not a month before. Allotments. A meeting had taken place with the allotment holders on site and it had been agreed by the tenants that they would share the expense of topping the allotments and make an effort to attract more tenants from the village and immediate area. A review of these allotments will take place again in October/November when more decisions on the future of the present allotment field may have to be taken.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 7th July in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall starting at the earlier time of 7.00 pm. There will be a speaker at 7.00 talking about Affordable Housing with the main meeting starting at 7.30pm** The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 23rd July. The Parish Council welcomes you to the Market with your queries and to attend the meeting to take part in the Public Session at the beginning and end of each meeting.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer.

## **Parish Council report ..... May 2016**

Seven Councillors and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) were joined by 12 parishioners for the May meeting of the Parish Council which had been moved to a Friday evening as the original date clashed with the elections.

During the public participation session concerns were raised about the security of houses bordering the proposed route of the Boniface Cycle Trail and householders were assured that a consultation period was planned once a possible route had been found. Problems with the excessive amount of dust created after the roads had been resurfaced had been reported to Devon County Council and affected householders were encouraged to make claims through the Highways Department. A number of residents also expressed concern about the entrance to Station Road and the safety aspect, now that a new Section 106 Agreement had been approved, when extra cars are using the road once the school and new houses are built.

Police report – crimes. Crimes reported in March: 1 x theft from motor vehicle; 1 x burglary to outbuilding at Half Moon; 1 x theft (linked to burglary at Half Moon); 1 x miscommunication act; 1 x possession of class B. Crimes reported in April: 1 x dogs not under proper control. As this was the Annual Meeting of the Council, officers and responsibilities were agreed. David Baker agreed to stand as Chairman but warned the Council that he intended to move house and therefore may not be in a position to carry on as Chair. As there were no volunteers to take on the role of Vice Chairman it was agreed to run without one for the present. However, the Council were made aware that should David not be able to attend a meeting or moved from the Parish, someone would have to step up to the role of Chairman. The Councillors all accepted their respective representation roles on various bodies and committees and a full list will appear in the Annual Report due to be circulated in June.

Planning. No comments were passed on the planning applications before the Council: Erection of woodchip storage building at Five Elms road; Erection of replacement dwelling at Elms House; Erection of extension to existing agricultural storage building at Quarryfield, Langford.

Station Road. The Council agreed to write to Devon Highways and to the Planning Officer expressing concern and requesting further clarification on the Section 106 ruling over the entrance to Station Road.

Mid Devon District Council. Cllr Peter Hare-Scott reported that waste collection would now be sited at Willand as the lease with Tesco had run out. Plans for development at Junction 27 had not been included in the Local Plan but planners were to look at the proposals again.

Reports from Councillors. Cllr Parker reported on work to be carried out on footpath No 1. Cllr Southcott reported that the grant to the Recreation Ground would be used for the erection of safety netting. Cllr Parker reported that the Community Speed Watch team were looking into permanent speed cameras and seeking funding from the new Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Reeves reported that he was in discussion with the Environment Agency over the debris in the Creedy. It was reported that a full grant had been obtained for the equipment required to enable night landing at the Recreation Ground by Devon Air Ambulance. The Community Group hoped to provide a defibrillator for the Recreation Ground and for the Parish Hall. The Council will continue to lobby planners over the lack of infrastructure discussions when large numbers of houses are planned for Crediton. Allotments. The Chairman reported that a major clear up had taken place at the allotments, clearing all the vacant plots and Cllr Parker was thanked for putting in time and effort on this task. It was agreed that an open meeting should be held with the allotment holders to discuss the future of the allotments in light of the excessive cost of maintaining them and the poor take-up of plots by parishioners.

Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to all 90 year olds in the Parish and invite them to come to the Cream Tea in the Hall on Sunday 12th June. Cllr Reeves agreed to check with the School about the presentation of the commemorative mugs. Cllr Gina Quicke had obtained prices for ingredients and will obtain these. Help on the day was requested from Councillors.

Parish Plan. It was agreed that implementation of the actions detailed in the Parish Plan should be taken on by the Development Group and volunteers to join this group were invited to make contact with the Chairman. (See separate advert in the Newton Wonder for details)

Highways matters. It was reported that the bridge in Station Road had been fully repaired now and work would start on the damaged bridge in Pump Street this summer. It was agreed to write to the landowner about the concerns over safety of the trees and shrubs on the bank opposite Langford Road entrance.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 2nd June at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall Clubroom. The possibility of finding a

voluntary Dog Warden will be an item on the agenda for this meeting. The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 25th June from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon in the Parish Hall. Please come along with your concerns and queries. If we do not receive feedback and problems from you, the parishioners, we cannot act on them for you.

Cllr Jill Baker  
Press Officer



## **Parish Council report .... April 2016**

Eight Councillors and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott were joined by 4 members of the public for the April Parish Council meeting.

### **Police report for February.**

Calls: 1 x dog on road; 5 x cows on road; 1 x Road Traffic Accident; 1 x river burst banks; 2 x concern for welfare; 1 x dangerous driving; 1 x car off road; 1 x possible fraud telephone scam. Crimes reported: 1 x theft of money from honesty box.

### **Matters raised by the members of the public.**

Half Moon lay-by – report of a motor bike parked for a considerable period. Signs advertising the Fish & Chip van obscuring visibility. Parking on pavements in the bus lay-by. Lamp-post on the village green showing signs of wear at the base. ‘For Sale’ sign on the village green. All the points were taken on board by the Parish Council and actions agreed. David Swallow was thanked for agreeing to repair the windows in the bus shelter.

### **Planning.**

Removal of Condition (7) of planning permission 07/00352/FULL to allow the office/workshop to be used as a residential annex at Ford Farm. No comment.

Approval had been received for outline planning permission for the new School site in Station Road.

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

Cllr Hare-Scott reported that interest was being shown in the Tiverton Urban Extension. Cllr Hare-Scott agreed to check whether the pot-holes outside Creedy View/New Estate could be filled and also to check the cost of the new signs in the car parks detailing the new parking charges

### **Grants.**

The suggested grants to the Parish Hall and the Recreation Ground were approved. The proposed grant to the Boniface Trail was agreed

subject to conditions. These included confirmation of a Bank Account and an agreement to hold a public consultation on the proposed route. This consultation to include the preferred route in detail, the width and type of surface to be used, any 'furniture' to be installed, i.e. lighting, fencing etc.

The Parish Council agreed also to support the proposition by the Devon Air Ambulance Trust to use the facilities at the Recreation Ground for night landings and to set aside up to £200 to cover any shortfall. A similar amount would also be set aside to facilitate the installation of Wi-Fi at the Parish Hall.

### **Parish Plan.**

Thanks were recorded to Roger Cashmore and Roger Wilkins for all their work on the Parish Plan. The Plan will be launched at the Annual Parish Meeting and residents will be invited to join a Development Group to take the actions forward.

### **General.**

Parish Council minutes. A draft set of minutes will be displayed in the main notice board on the village green and it should be noted that these are DRAFT minutes until approved by the full Council at their next meeting.

Flowers in Pump Street. It was agreed that the flower baskets would not be put up on the Pump Street bridge this year as major repairs to the bridge are scheduled.

Website and Facebook. The Parish Council have a new website and a Facebook page. Planning applications, notices of road closures etc. will be published on Facebook. The website address is: <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/newtonstcyres> To find the Facebook pages, search for Newton St Cyres Parish Council and the page will come up.

Quality Council status. The Council have been awarded Foundation status under the National Quality Council Scheme and the Clerk was congratulated on her work in putting the paperwork together and for her submission.

Trees etc. in the River Creedy. It was agreed to follow up the problem of fallen trees and debris in the River Creedy and to ascertain responsibility for clearing this.

Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. Details were agreed for the celebrations to be held on Sunday 12th June. The celebration mugs have been purchased and arrangements are in hand to invite residents who are 90 years old and over to come to the Cream Teas in the Parish Hall.

Dog Fouling etc. Dog owners are reminded that their dogs have to be micro-chipped as from early in April and if they are caught fouling the footpaths etc. and the owner does not pick it up, the maximum fine can be £1,000. The Council were keen to make sure that dog owners are aware of their responsibilities and the penalties that can be imposed for flouting the law.

### **Change of date for the next Parish Council meeting.**

Due to the Police & Crime Commissioner elections being held on our usual date, the next meeting of the Parish Council has been arranged for **FRIDAY 6TH MAY**. Venue will still be the Clubroom of the Parish Hall and the meeting will start at 7.30 pm. The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Village Market on Saturday 28th May at 10.30 am. Parishioners are very welcome to come along to both these events and meet their Councillors.

## Parish Council Report for March 2016

Six Councillors, five members of the public and Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) attended the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 3rd March. Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) joined the meeting later.

Public Session: Concerns were raised about the state of the Crown & Sceptre pub, which is now closed; cars parking in the bus lay-by at Half Moon; cars parking on the road in Court Orchard and an abandoned car by the garages in Woodlands. The Council decided to follow up on all these matters with letters to the appropriate bodies. Thanks were expressed to an employee of Quicke's Estate for their help in cutting down overgrown hedges and verges at the entrance to Meadowlands and in Station Road.

Mid Devon District Council: Cllr Peter Hare-Scott explained that the Council Tax had been raised by 2.7% and they had managed to balance the budget again for this year. The Council agreed to lobby MDDC over their decision to raise car park charges to £2 for 10 hours and to express their concern over the proposed development of 300 houses in Crediton. This development will seriously impact on the village as the present infrastructure is already struggling to cope with traffic and more cars coming from Crediton will [?make the situation] unsustainable.

Councillors' responsibilities: The bus shelters are to be cleaned in the near future and the seats will be inspected once the drier weather arrives. The village green will be treated if needed and the allotments will be tidied up in April. Councillors were reminded of their commitment to keep the notice boards in the Parish up to date and to remove any out-of-date posters regularly.

Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting: This will take place on Thursday 28th April in the Parish Hall starting at 7.30 pm. This is an important evening in the Parish calendar as the results of the recent Parish Plan will be launched and discussed. Everyone is very welcome to come

along and join in the discussions and see the results of the survey. Also at this meeting the Crediton Courier will be presenting an [?item] on the history and production of the weekly newspaper. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be on offer to all who attend.

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations: Plans are in hand to celebrate this important event. A small working group will meet to arrange for celebratory mugs to be given to all children and residents aged 90 or over; a cream tea will be organised to take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday 12th June. More details will follow in due course.

Dog Fouling: A more sober note was struck when reports came to the Parish Council about the continued dog fouling taking place in some areas of the village (even in the areas around the present dog waste bins. This is potentially a serious offence and dog owners are reminded that, if their pet is seen to foul the pathways etc. and the owner does not pick up and dispose of it sensibly, a heavy fine can be imposed. Photo evidence can be used to prosecute any offenders.

Please note the notice on the next page:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 7th April at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall. The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Mini Market on Saturday 23rd April, again in the Parish Hall, from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.

Please come along with your questions and comments to either or both of these events.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer

## Parish Council report for February 2016

Eight Councillors were joined by Cllr Peter Hare-Scott (MDDC) and three members of the public for the meeting in February. It was reported that David Swallow had repaired the broken window in the bus shelter at Half Moon and the Council expressed their sincere thanks for this support.

Police report. December 2015: 1 x concern for welfare; 1 x possible prowler; 2 x alarms; 1 x male selling power tools in Half Moon; 1 x possible Internet fraud; 1 x tree down on A377; 1 x possible drink driver; 1 x suspicious vehicle plus 1 x assault  
January 2016: 1 x poorly Police Car on A377!; 2 x ponies in road at Half Moon; 1 x tree down in Half Moon; 1 x dangerous driving on A377; 1 abandoned 999 in Langford plus 1 x drink driver.

Mid Devon District Council. Cllr Hare-Scott reported that the new system for waste collection seemed to be working well after some of the minor problems had been sorted out. MDDC had raised Council Tax by 1.99% and at the moment were on budget. Provision of housing was a major issue which had to be resolved in the very near future.

Parish Plan. It was reported that a 55% return had been accomplished to the questionnaire and the results were being formulated into a document which would be launched at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 28 April. Highways matters were still showing as a major concern followed by the lack of affordable housing in the parish.

The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. It was agreed to hold discussions with the School about a possible joint celebration and to report back to the March Parish Council meeting.

General. It was suggested that discussions should take place with the Parish Hall Committee about the provision of Wi-Fi in the Hall and the Parish Council would be prepared to help with any costs involved.

Thanks were registered to Royal Mail for painting the post boxes in the parish. A promise had been made to the village to repair the damage to the Village Green by the mobile sign that had been placed there in error. The sign advising of road closures should have been in the Half Moon Layby but had been placed on the Green by mistake. The resulting damage is large ruts which will need levelling out and rolling once the ground is drier. Work is to take place in the allotments to tidy up the empty plots and prices are being obtained. The Council agreed in principle with the suggestion of a night landing site for the Air Ambulance and this will be discussed by the Recreation Ground Club.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Clubroom of the Parish Hall on Thursday 3rd March at 7.30 pm. The next Parish Surgery will be held in conjunction with the Mini Market on Saturday 26th March (10.30 am to 12.00 noon) in the Parish Hall. Everyone is very welcome to come to Parish Council meetings and there is always a time slot allowed for parishioner's questions and comments.

Cllr Jill Baker, Press Officer