

DRAFT
Minutes for Roborough Parish Council Meeting to be held on Thursday
20th January 2021 via Zoom at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillor Yvonne Isaac Chairman

Councillor Lorna Pincombe Vice Chair

Councillor Michael Folland

Councillor Martyn Hookway

County Councillor Andrew Saywell

Any resident from the Parish of Roborough may attend the meeting and under item 3 raise matters of concern, they will also be able to speak briefly on any agenda item.

Item 1 Apologies for absence: District Councillor Lock, Councillor Stevens, Councillor Challacombe, and District Councillor Clarke

Item 2 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th November, 2020 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Item 3 Members of the public present to raise any matters of concern. Residents present Mr Chris Hoole, Mr John Bowden and Mrs Ella Jude

Item 4 Declaration of Interests:

Action Points from previous meeting. 1 – 6

- Planning application 1/0859/220/full Clerk to advise TDC for approval (AP1)
- Cllr Hookway to collect spare bin from Mr Rob Brown. (AP2)
- It was agreed to use the services of M J Baker for 2021 for the sum of £150.00 (AP3)
- It was agreed an annual subscription for Zoom at a cost of £119.90 which can be utilised by various Parish Groups and the cost absorbed by Covid-19 grant. (AP4)
- Correspondence from Mr Wilmott regarding New Inn P.H. to be put on the Agenda at the next meeting. (AP5)
- Trading Standards Bird Flu advice poster to be put on the notice board. (AP6)

Action points from previous meeting 1, 3, 4, 5 and discharged

Action point 2 not discharged due to Coronavirus climate

Reports from Councillors.

- **TAG representative Councillor Isaac**
Nothing to report
- **Planning Subcommittee Councillors' Lorna Pincombe, Michael Folland and Tracey Stevens**
Planning application 1/1061/2020/FUL Construction of a Wildlife Pond at land grid reference 256497 118944 Ebberley, Devon – 5 votes for and 1 no comment submitted to TDC as consultee 4/1/2021
Planning application 1/1170/2020/FULM Construction of agricultural covered silage clamp and storage building with associated works (affecting right of way) at Alford Villavin,

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Roborough – 4 votes for, 1 No Declaration of Interest and 1 No comment submitted to TDC
as consultee 4/1/2021

- **Snow Warden Councillor- Martyn Hookway**
The grit bins have been checked and operational.
- **Web Master Councillor – vacant position**
The Clerk reported Vision ICT website have notified the PC that renewals of all Gov.UK web-sites have increased their charges to £65.00 over a two-year period. VisionICT Accessibility Statement is ongoing and working with Ewan Huggons to complete.
- **Highways Councillor - Derrick Challacombe**
No report available
- **Village Hall Committee representative – Councillor Tracey Stevens**
No report available
- **Defibrillator management – vacant position (AP1)**
The Clerk reported Ewan will provide manuals and correspondence once the position is filled

County Councillor Saywell

County Councillor Saywell wished all a 'Happy New Year', and to thank everyone in Roborough for everything they are doing to keep the community safe during this difficult time.

Coronavirus

- Stats – As of 19th January DCC area of Devon now up to 16,436 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.
- Since the 14th January that is a weekly increase of 1,567 infections.
- By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 52 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon 100 in the last 7 days, West Devon 79 cases in the last 7 days.
- There are now over 20,000 tests a week being carried out in the County.
- Locally, we have done incredibly well to keep our local infection rates as low as we have. **Torridge has one of the lowest infection rate per 100,000 in England (76.2)**, along with North Devon and West Devon, and **Devon as a whole has the one of the lowest rates in Upper Tier Authorities in England (195.3 per 100,000)**. At present Devon is actually the lowest Upper Tier authority, bar North and North East Lincolnshire, but things can change quickly.

However... **cases are stabilising and beginning to fall**. We still need two more days of firm data to be confident that the trend is heading down, but the early indications are promising.

Infection cases in Devon are highest in the working age population and elderly (75yrs +), with elderly cases, sadly, mainly attributable to some care home outbreaks. In Torridge, cases are very much in the working age bracket, and we had seen an increase in cases and outbreaks in workplace settings and subsequently households.

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Even if we have reached the peak we must not let our guard down now. Hospital cases still rising and we expect that this will continue for a couple of weeks after the peak of community infection and deaths, sadly, will also still rise.

So while the situation is not as bad here as other areas of the country, the situation remains extremely serious. Please **stay at home**, and only leave home if you absolutely have to. When you do go out, don't forget to **socially distance, wear a face covering in indoor public spaces and wash your hands regularly.**

We don't have definitive proof yet but it is extremely likely that the new variant of coronavirus is here, and this strain is much more infectious than previous strains – where there have been outbreaks, in a workplace or care home, the number of infections has been much higher.

Community Testing

DCC will start rolling out Community Testing for coronavirus at the end of this month.

Community testing will help to find individuals who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms and need to isolate and who may inadvertently be spreading the virus. A positive or negative result will not remove the need to follow existing COVID measures socially and in the workplace.

Rapid lateral flow tests will be used, which will provide a result within thirty minutes. This will not be a substitute for the national coronavirus testing – if you are symptomatic, people should book a free NHS test via the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website or by calling 119.

The first site is planned to open near the end of January, at County Hall in Exeter, with other sites planned to become available across the County in February and March.

COVID Vaccinations

On the more positive side... the good news is that residents of Torrington Rural aged 80+ and residents and staff of care homes **have started to receive their vaccinations.** County wide, **1000s of people have received their first vaccination dose.**

Main points for vaccine rollout:

- We now have vaccination hubs up and running at all four acute hospitals in Devon -these are vaccinating hospital staff and over 80's inpatients about to go home and outpatients
- 20 Primary Care Network (groupings of GP Surgeries) vaccination sites are up and running
- Mass Vaccination sites in Plymouth and Exeter to be opening before the end of January
- Vaccination of care home staff and residents is well underway, with the NHS aiming to complete vaccination by 24th January.
- Locally, there have been vaccination sites at Holsworthy, Barnstaple, Okehampton and now Crediton. This has been due to the complexities of storing the Pfizer vaccine. Now that the Oxford vaccine has arrived, I know from talking to the head of one of Torrington's GP Practices that they are looking at rolling this out more locally so people do not have to travel long distances.
- The NHS is also looking at mobile roll out for more isolated rural communities.

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Priority for Phase 1 according to JCVI priority list is: Care home residents, over 80's and frontline health and care staff.

Thousands have been vaccinated already with each Primary Care Network having received at least one batch of vaccines (975 vaccines per batch); we received the Oxford vaccine last week and we have the workforce in place to undertake the vaccine programme. It is, however, a huge logistical exercise, very much dependent upon the speed and rate of vaccine supplies. Please though wait for the NHS to contact you when it is your turn.

Covid-19 Prompt Action Grant

DCC's COVID-19 grants have opened again for the third lockdown. The guidance is slightly amended and can be found on this link along with the online application form. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/>

The biggest difference to the first two waves is that DCC are working in partnership with Devon Community Foundation to fund food projects. So any project that is for food provision needs to apply here <http://devoncf.com/apply/community-food-programme-2/>

Libraries and Recycling Centres

- Devon's libraries are now temporarily closed for the new lockdown.
- Household Waste and Recycling Centres remain open for essential use only.

Can I again thank you for all you are doing to stay safe and to keep our communities safe during this difficult time. Hope is on the horizon with the vaccine... but we must not let our guard down or become complacent. Please follow the rules. DCC will do all that it can, as it has done during the first and second lockdown, to support the people of Devon during this difficult time and to protect the old, the young, and the vulnerable. We will recover from this pandemic and the lockdown. But in the meantime, please stay at home and stay safe.

DCC Budget

DCC's Budget is due to increase by just under £37million thanks to some additional Government funding. Specific details remain TBC and I will update the Parish Council next month.

Locality Budget

Please note if you have any projects in mind, funding for these will need to be allocated by the end of February.

District Councillor Lock

It was reported that the New Business Grant forms and information are now on TDC website for people to access if they think they qualify

There has been no further news with regards to Eaglescott

District Councillor Clarke

No report available

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Item 6 Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk has received resignation from Roborough Parish Council by Councillor Ewan Huggons which has been circulated to Councillors.

The Council would like to thank Ewan for his services and wish him well in his new career and a letter to be sent in this respect. (AP2)

A Notice of Vacancy was duly posted on the notice board and expired on 23rd December 2020. There was no valid request for a by-election. Notice of the vacancy advising the Roborough Parish Council's intention to fill the position by co-opting has been put on the noticeboard and expired on 17th January 2021.

Correspondence was received from Mr Chris Hoole expressing a wish to be considered for the vacant position of Parish Councillor.

Mr Hoole expressed that he should be happy to support Roborough Parish Council and appreciated all the work they do.

Mr Hoole was invited to leave the meeting.

The matter was discussed and Proposed by Councillor Pincombe and Seconded by Councillor Folland that Mr Chris Hoole to be accepted as co-opted Councillor for Roborough Parish Council. All in favour motion carried. Clerk to carry out necessary paperwork (AP3)

Councillor Hoole was invited back into the meeting.

It was agreed Councillor Hoole will take over position of Web-master.

Item 7 Financial Report (Clerk)

Nat West Current Account	£ 3196.42
Nat West Reserve Account	£ 380.38
NS&I	£ 1725.70
	<u>£ 5302.51</u>

VAT Reclaim

The PC has submitted a VAT reclaim for £2175.00. The original was sent on 14/10/2020 and chased up on 3/12/2020 where it was deemed to have been lost. A copy of the return was sent on 3/12/2020 and chased up again on 5/1/2021. HMRC unable to locate the copy but would respond in due course. Chased again on 11/01/2021 and advised to send VAT126 return by email which has subsequently bounced back and the Clerk has resent it. Clerk has since set up a Government gateway account and the return has been accepted by HMRC and we await processing.

Item 8 Precept 2022

Following discussion, it was Proposed by Councillor Folland and Seconded by Councillor Hookway that the Precept for 2022 to be increased by 1.99%. All in favour motion was carried. Clerk to advise TDC (AP4)

Item 9 Eaglescott Airfield

Councillor Hoole reported there was a meeting the previous evening with Ashreighney PC. Concerns were raised with regards to the lack of response from NDC and their investigation. Furthermore,

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Simon Newton, proposed all four neighbouring Parish Councils work together and meetings to be arranged.

Councillor Pincombe raised concerns and subsequently telephoned Lieutenant Commander Robinson and expressed the dangers arising from low flying Merlin Helicopters over farm cow sheds. The current situation could panic cows in sheds which could lead to injury/death or handlers could be trampled. Robert Graydon was also contacted with regards to the situation.

Councillor Hookway also expressed concerns over the dangers of low flying helicopters over cow sheds.

Councillor Hoole advised that it is a local planning issue and as such Eaglescott is very attractive and they will continue until the LPA agreed otherwise.

Item 10 Community Fibre Broadband

Ella Judd reported 30 Businesses and 54 Residents' have submitted their applications for Community Fibre Broadband to BT which equates to 90k (Business) and 81K (residents) making a total of £171k of vouchers locked in. The application was submitted on 2/1/2021 and PC awaits response from BT of their installation costs. It was agreed to put on Agenda for next meeting (AP5)

Item 11 Correspondence

Mr Gordon Wilmott has requested the PC look into the state of repair of The New Inn PH. The Thatch to the roof has been repaired together with the ongoing repairs to window frames. It was agreed there was no need for intervention by the PC due to works completed or ongoing and advise Mr Wilmott (AP6)

Item 12 Cheques for signature

Cheques signed since last Parish Council Meeting: None

Cheques for signature at the meeting:

Ewan Huggons (Zoom meeting subscription)	£28.78
Ewan Huggons (Zoom meeting subscription)	£101.64

Annual subscription for Zoom meeting was discounted down from £142.80 to £101.64

Item 13 Any Other Business

None

Date of next meeting

17th March 2021

Meeting Closed

8.30 p.m.

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