

Minutes for Roborough Parish Council General Meeting held on 21st July 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Councillor Yvonne Isaac Chairman

Councillor Lorna Pincombe Vice Chair

Councillor Michael Folland

Councillor Tracey Stevens

Councillor Derrick Challacombe

Councillor Chris Hoole

District Councillor Rosemary Lock

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: Councillor Martyn Hookway

Item 2 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct

Minutes of the Annual General Council Meeting held on 5th May 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct

Item 3 Members of the public present to raise any matters of concern. Mr John Bowden in attendance

Item 4 Declaration of Interests: None received.

Item 5 Action Points from previous meeting 1 – 3

- Refurbishment of BT Kiosk (AP1)
- Parish Council to write to NDC LPA regarding Eaglescott Airfield (AP2)
- Airband report from Beaford (AP3)

Action points 1 - 3 discharged

Reports from Councillors.

- TAG representative – Councillor Yvonne Isaac nothing to report
- Planning Subcommittee Councillors' Lorna Pincombe, Michael Folland and Tracey Stevens
Planning application Wansley Barton – confirmation all Cllrs were in favour for this application
Planning application Newlands, Roborough for Summer House – After discussion all Cllrs were in favour to this application. Clerk to respond to TDC Consultee Comments. (AP1)
Retrospective Planning Application for ponds on rewilding site – After discussion all Cllrs were in favour for this application. Clerk to respond to TDC Consultee Comments. (AP2)
- Snow Warden Councillor- Councillor Martyn Hookway no report available
- Web Master Councillor – Councillor Chris Hoole nothing to report
- Highways Councillor – Councillor Derrick Challacombe nothing to report
- Village Hall Committee representative – Councillor Tracey Stevens nothing to report
- Defibrillator management – Councillor Michael Folland to check the pads for the defibrillator after it was reported to have been used a week ago. (AP3)

County Councillor Saywell

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As this is my first Parish Council meeting I've attended in Roborough since the May elections I would like to say 'thank you' to Roborough and Torrington Rural for re-electing me as your County Councillor. It is an amazing privilege to represent communities like Roborough at County Hall and I will do all that I can to repay that trust, work hard for everyone, and represent everyone however they so voted.

Cabinet Position

Since the Election, the Leader of the Council, Cllr John Hart, has asked me to join the Cabinet at DCC. I will be taking over the portfolio previously held by Barry Parsons, former County Councillor for Holsworthy Rural, and will cover 'Organisational Development, Workforce and Digital Transformation'.

It is a very interesting and wide ranging brief, covering all aspects of the Council's work. Nevertheless, my local constituency work will remain a priority and I will continue to fight hard for Torrington Rural.

Coronavirus

Infections have been rising across Devon at Torridge, but there has been a clear vaccine effect with new infections coming predominantly from younger people, and those older people who have tested positive developing mild or no symptoms at all. Hospitalisations and deaths remain thankfully low.

- Stats – As of 20th July the DCC area of Devon now up to 28,862 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.
- Since the 15th July that is a weekly increase of 2904 infections.
- By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 143 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon was 442 in the last 7 days, West Devon 109 cases in the last 7 days.
- The bulk of the Devon wide increase comes from Exeter, Teignbridge, East Devon and the South Hams.

My advice to people would be to continue to remain cautious, but also not to panic. I will continue to follow Covid precautions as and when it is appropriate, and will continue to take lateral flow tests

The removal of legal Covid restrictions will be good news for our local businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector. Others I know may feel more uneasy. The people of Torrington Rural have shown great fortitude and common sense throughout this pandemic, I believe they will continue to do so in the coming months and that thanks to their behaviour and a high vaccine uptake, we will keep local Covid infections low.

Above all the key message remains, **get your jab when you are called up!**

Second Dose appointments have been brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. I have brought my second dose forward to July and would urge anyone else in similar circumstances to do the same.

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing

Rapid Lateral Flow tests can be ordered off the Government website or collected from **DCC Mobile Community Testing Vans**. The Mobile Service is currently in Torrington **Tuesdays 1.30pm to 5pm** and **Thursdays 9am to 12.30pm** and **Saturday, 1.30pm to 5.00pm**

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Full times and availability of mobile testing sites can be found online here

- <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/rapid-testing-devon/rapid-lateral-flow-tests-site-locations-and-opening-times/>

Remember, lateral flow tests are only for people who DON'T have symptoms and are designed to pick up cases which are asymptomatic. If you have any symptoms book a PCR Test through the Government website.

More information can be found online at devon.cc/testing

COVID Vaccinations

The rollout of the vaccine in Devon and in Torrington Rural continues to go well.

I sent a briefing note from the NHS to the Parish Councils earlier this week but the main points for vaccine rollout:

- **All adults aged 18 and over** on 1st July are eligible to book their vaccination.
- **Second doses brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. Anyone under 40 is being urged to bring forward their second vaccine dose to 8 weeks after their first.**
- **888,142 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose up to 16th July, while 694,844 second doses have been given.**
- **9/10 adults have received their first dose and 7/10 adults have received a second dose.**
- **Latest estimate is 90% of people aged over 50 in Devon have received both doses. 68.5% of 18-24 year olds in Devon have received a first dose, rising to 70.8% for 25-29 year olds. For 30-34 year olds it rises to 84.3%.**

Local Highways Matters

Patching and resurfacing works on the B3217 have now been completed. I have been contacted by a resident regarding possible damage by vehicles driving through the village and not following the official road closure notice and I have asked the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to investigate.

Return to the Office at DCC

Despite the removal of legal Covid restrictions the majority of DCC's workforce will, for the time being, continue to work from home. The enforcement of isolating contacts of people who have tested positive makes office working problematic... e.g. you would not want a whole team of social workers forced into self-isolation if one of them tests positive in the workplace and their colleagues are 'pinged'. However, staff who need to use or work in an Office will continue to be allowed to do so, though Covid measures will for the time being remain in place.

In the long term the Council is looking at flexible or 'agile' working arrangements though work on this is ongoing and is unlikely to be finalised until later in the autumn.

DCC Bids for Community Renewal Funding

A programme of bids totalling more than £12.2 million has been submitted by Devon County Council to a new Government funding scheme which aims to support communities and businesses to recover after the Coronavirus pandemic.

Devon's bid is made up 16 projects from across the county which have the potential to generate around 620 jobs, support the creation of 400 new businesses, and help 3,000 people to retrain.

Torrige activity accounts for £3million of the £12million bid, including bids for the biosphere, agriculture, and upskilling young people and self employed workers. I recently met with Torrige District Council's Economic Regeneration Manager Chris Fuller and stressed to him that if these bids

are successful that I would like to see funding drawn down into our area, and not focused exclusively on the larger towns.

District Councillor Lock

It was reported key officers of TDC have been affected by Covid -19 and are self-isolating

District Councillor Clarke – No report available

Item 6 BT Kiosk refurbishment –

The Clerk reported the special paint has been delivered, brambles have been cut back, earth behind the kiosk has been removed and there is protection for the defibrillator in situ.

The Chairman wished to thank Des Isaac, Ken Rose and the Clerk for clearing the earth.

It was discussed whether the decorator would oil the bench and coat the notice board when he comes to decorate the BT Kiosk. All councillors were in favour and the Clerk would contact the decorator (AP4)

Item 7 Financial Report (Clerk) and Bank Account

Nat West Current Account	£5652.98
Nat West Reserve Account	£ 380.42
NS&I	£1738.12
	<u>£7771.52</u>

Item 8 Eaglescott Airfield –

Cllr Rosemary Lock wished to notify that she had corresponded to NDDC in support of local residents since our last meeting.

Planning application 72741 at Eaglescott Airfield for a Covid pod was discussed and the future use of the extension to be used for parties etc. affecting local amenities. It was agreed that the PC would not object to this application.

NDDC has issued a 14 page report concluding their investigation into Eaglescott Airfield. Cllr Hoole reported there was a lot of information which is inaccurate and a meeting is to be held next week to discuss further with interested parties. Cllr Lock gave her apologies due to other commitments. The LPA have been invited to the meeting. Furthermore, Cllr Hoole believes the LPA are eager to put it through their complaint's procedure and to his knowledge no interested party had made a complaint to the LPA

District Cllr lock had communicated with Mrs Jo Teasdale, who is SPOC (single point contact for NDDC) and insists residents continue to send all information and comments to her and not to Planning Officers

Item 9 Community Fibre Broadband

It was discussed that there were no further updates on Community Fibre Broadband and it was put to the PC whether to progress further on this matter. All Councillors voted this matter is concluded.

The Chairman raised the matter of Airband Broadband which provides another solution to broadband speeds to residents that have sight of the mast and it would be up to individuals to apply for a survey by the provider.

Item 10 Correspondence –

Debt collection letter received from Pastdue Credit Solutions for School Lane, Surbiton Surrey for the sum of £139.53. The Clerk has notified the Company that this is not owed to them and await their response by 18th August 2021

Correspondence received from David Mason to County Councillor Andrew Saywell regarding recent roadworks and the use of Roborough Village during these works and damaged that had occurred. County Councillor Andrew Saywell advised that if problems like this occur during roadworks or closures to notify Highways immediately so that any action can be taken quickly.

Item 11 Cheques for signature

Cheques signed since last Parish Council Meeting:

Community First Insurance	£208.67	503
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Cheques for signature at the meeting:

Karen Wass (Paint for BT Kiosk)	£110.53	504
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Item 12 Any Other Business

The Clerk reported The New Inn is currently closed due to Covid

Cllr Tracey Stevens has been asked whether the PC could provide Dog Bins within the Parish. It was discussed and agreed that owners should pick up after their dogs and take it home. There is a cost involved to provide and empty dog bins and hesitant that owners who do not pick up after their dogs would ever use them.

Councillors expressed concern about the dangerous state of the A377 between Kingford Hill and UMBERLEIGH.

Date of next meeting

15th September 2021

Meeting Closed

8.45 p.m.