

Ugborough Annual Parish Meeting
Ugborough Village Hall Saturday 16th May 2015 at 2pm
Draft Minutes

Present: Cllrs Beable, Fletcher, Hosking, Hutcheon, Johns & Nelson

Guests: Ian Smith **Public:** 18

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Holway & Smallridge, Vici Hemming & the police

2. Introduction & Annual Report by Chairman Cllr George Beable

Over the year, the Parish Council has been kept busy with both new and long running issues and opportunities, including:

- The Neighbourhood Development Plan, which had reached the Interim Plan stage
- The reduction in DCC & SHDC spending, with the Parish Council picking up the tab for some local services
- Renewable energy planning applications for wind turbines and solar farms
- The closure of Wrangaton post office and search for an alternative service
- WWI centenary commemorations, with the creation of the community herb garden
- Donkey Lane, where the Parish Council granted an easement and has applied to establish legal ownership
- TAP grants from DCC & SHDC, which have funded the successful e-seniors courses and work by the community lengthsman, with plans to fund a defibrillator
- Speeding through Bittaford & Wrangaton, which could become more of a problem when the new housing developments east of Ivybridge are completed. The Parish Council has pressed for improved access from Ivybridge to the A38, traffic calming measures, and the promotion of a Community Speedwatch team.

Membership of the Parish Council had changed following the election, with 3 unfilled seats. Thanks were extended to past and current Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work and support.

3. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 7th May 2014, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

4. Ugborough Neighbourhood Development Plan – Interim Report

Ian Smith, Ugborough Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group, outlined the progress so far.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan area was established in February 2013, and includes about 300 homes located within Ugborough Parish, outside the Dartmoor National Park and mainly south of the A38.

Development of the Plan has been based around a number of Themes: Character & heritage of settlements; Balance, shape, connectivity & reducing through traffic; Maintaining an inclusive, cohesive, diverse and vibrant community; Destination for visitors & tourists; Supporting small rural businesses; Provide new homes in line with evidence based need; and Healthy Lifestyle.

This Thematic approach is currently being reviewed, with the help of Phil Baker (SHDC), to identify possible sites for development.

The affordable housing needs survey is being completed. A public consultation is planned for August/September, with the plan being submitted to SHDC in October, and to the Independent Examiner in November, and the referendum planned by January 2016

Questions from the public

Queried the ability to make policies without identifying sites or having the support of a current SHDC housing needs survey. Ian Smith responded that policies needed to be formulated within a shorter timescale and would be based on the Parish housing needs survey

5. Police Report None. Concern was expressed at the lack of contact

6. Reports from District & County Councillors

SHDC Cllr Tom Holway had submitted a report outlining the T18 programme, which aimed to transform services and reduce costs by 2018. It was expected that the grant from central government would be reduced from over £2m to nil by 2020 and, in order to maintain services, SHDC was introducing new systems which would generate savings of £2.5m. Over 100 staff members would be lost, but front line services would be maintained.

There would be no increase in SHDC Council Tax in 2015-16, car parking charges had remained frozen for 5 years, and the South Hams had one of the highest recycling rates in Devon. SHDC received awards over the last year from the Federation of Small Businesses for the supporting businesses affected by the winter storms and, with West Devon, received a Gold Award for 'Delivering through Efficiency', and a Silver Award for 'Council of the Year'.

Boundary changes had resulted in an 'Ermington & Ugborough' District Ward, with just one ward member. Thanks were extended to Lindsay Ward, who was previously the joint ward member of the former Erme Valley ward, particularly in relation to her work towards Dementia Friendly Parishes.

DCC Cllr Hosking reported on the £46m reduction in rate support grant for 2015/16, which had necessitated a 1.99% increase in DCC Council Tax. To reduce expenses, DCC had rationalised services, including: Care homes, with a saving of £10m/pa; the Youth Service, which was being rationalised into 8 hubs, with increased community and voluntary involvement; library services, which would move towards more community-based centres; and highways, which was running on half its budget, although additional funding of £30m had been made available for pot holes.

Community Self Help highway schemes had been introduced and Ugborough's uptake was exemplary, with Cllr Johns as snow warden, and George Fletcher's flood prevention.

The Care Act required the integration of NHS and Social Services, with each person affected having a care plan, and the latest Ofsted report had noted an improvement in DCC's Children services.

Questions from the public

The possibility of devolving administration & services to DCC. Cllr Hosking responded that DCC would take advantage of any opportunities, but negotiations were at an early stage.

7. Reports from local groups Ugborough Village Hall Committee had recently held their AGM, in which it was decided to increase hire charges. The hall had a successful year, with bookings throughout the day, and weekend bookings including Sustainable Saturdays. The hall was built 45 years ago and a feasibility study had looked at opportunities for a substantial refurbishment, with the possibility of a second storey, which would be subject to public consultation. The Committee were thanked for their hard work behind the scenes.

8. Questions and issues raised by Parishioners

- Complaints were received about the clearance of rubbish at the bus stop. The Clerk had already reported the fly tipping, and would request confirmation of the road-sweeping service in the square and collection from the waste bins. Fly tipping on the Ridge Road would also be reported.
- Progress in relation to the travellers on the Ridge Road was requested. DCC Cllr Hosking reported that DCC was involved in encouraging residents to move to a more suitable location, and would review the situation after 12 months. Complaints were received on the adverse effect on local businesses. Those attending football sessions now had to park closer to Ludbrook, causing damage to the grass verges.

Meeting ended 3pm