

Ugborough Annual Parish Meeting
Ugborough Village Hall Wednesday 19th April 2017 at 7.30pm
Draft Minutes

Present: Cllrs Beable (Chairman), Cooper, Hart, Holway, Hosking, Johns, Nelson & Smallridge; DNPA Member C Parnell; 7 Members of public

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Fletcher & Hutcheon

2. Introduction & Annual Report by Chairman Cllr George Beable

In addition to the Parish Council routine of planning applications, highway repairs, burial ground & playground maintenance, and financial administration, of prominence over the last year have been:

- The Neighbourhood Development Plan – progress has slowed while the Working Group negotiates with SHDC planners before the Plan may proceed to independent examination. Alongside the Plan, the Parish was producing an Ugborough Parish Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan, which would be presented at the Meeting
- The travellers at Hillhead. The Parish Council has maintained pressure on SHDC to take enforcement action against landowner DCC to evict them. The need for formal traveller sites was a major stumbling block, and the Parish Council has highlighted the failure to identify traveller sites in the Joint Local Plan consultation
- New facilities in Bittaford, including a defibrillator at Moorhaven, new bus shelter and replacement retaining wall. Over the next few months, the redundant phone box will be turned into a community library and a Clamber Stack erected in the playground. Volunteers were thanked for planting up the tubs and borders.
- The Community Lengthsman service continued to be effective, and the Parish Council had budgeted a further £1000 towards the scheme. In addition, helpful volunteers were equipped to respond to local flooding.
- To save money, DCC & SHDC were devolving services down to the Parish Council. In addition, the public toilets were no longer open during the winter.
- Traffic levels and speeds through Bittaford & Wrangaton were likely to get worse as new development to the east of Ivybridge was proceeding without any improvement to the infrastructure network within the parish. The Parish Council was joining with neighbouring parishes to share a mobile flashing speed sign to bring speeds down.

Over the next year, the Parish Council will continue to reflect and respond to the needs of its community, to make the Parish a safe, happy and attractive place to live and work.

Thanks were extended to the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their support and hard work over the year.

3. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 20th May 2016, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

4. Community First Responders – Presentation by Ian Stone The Ivybridge First Responders covered a 3 mile radius around Ivybridge and had already clocked up 300 hours in 2017. The volunteers provided help in life-threatening situations where the ambulance may not immediately be available. Cardiac arrest was the most common emergency, and First Responders carried a defibrillator, which stopped the heart in order to restart it – a demonstration was given. The First Responders could be followed on Facebook.

5. Ugborough Parish Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan was presented by Cllr Hart The aim of the Plan was to prioritise projects, target existing funding & resources, and identify future projects & requirements arising from increased housing development. Development of the Plan has been promoted by SHDC to attract contributions from new housing developments in the Parish. Priorities include a football/cricket pitch at Moorhaven Village; shelter & security at the football field at Hillhead Cross; and additional play equipment at Ugborough village playground. Feedback was requested on the projects identified and their priority,

6. Police Report None.

7. Reports from District & County Councillors and DNP Member

DCC Cllr Hosking highlighted the County Council elections on the 4 May. The number of Councillors was reducing to 60, and the new South Brent & Yealmpton Division would comprise 12 Parishes, including Ugborough.

The DCC budget had been affected by the £23m reduction in central government support grant, and only statutory services were now provided. Some relief had been provided by £15.5m funding in 2017/18, with additional funding in subsequent years, towards the ‘Living well at home’ initiative, which combined NHS and social services care.

Phase II roll-out of Broadband had been awarded to Gigaclear, and other schemes, such as Airband and satellite systems were available. The £500 voucher scheme may be renewed.

DCC remained responsible for 2/3 of schools, 93% of which were assessed as Good or Outstanding. Funding was still £290 below the national average, and DCC was lobbying Parliament against this inequitable arrangement. DCC care homes had now closed, with the service being provided by the private sector; Libraries had been transferred to a community owned social enterprise, which could attract extra funding; the improved Ivybridge waste recycling centre reopened in March; and Skanska had taken on highways maintenance, providing a 7% maintenance saving. Parish Councils were thanked for their help in maintaining the roads.

Questions from the public:

- Maintenance of Leigh Lane – If low category, maintenance was unlikely. Conversion to a footpath was unlikely as the procedure was expensive.
- The ridge road would be improved using emergency pothole funding
- Central government funding would be used to improve Kitterford Cross. A roundabout was proposed.

SHDC Cllr Tom Holway reported on the Plymouth & SW Devon Joint Local Plan, with 26,000 homes planned over the next 20 years. Over 20,000 of the homes would be in Plymouth, 4,500 in major towns, 1,000 in small towns and 700 in sustainable villages – which relieved housing pressure on villages. Neighbourhood Development Plans would inform the Joint Local Plan.

The Local Authority Controlled Council would not proceed; Planning systems & communication had improved and feedback was invited; Flytipping continued to be a problem, with 753 incidents in the last 12 months and 159 abandoned vehicles. Twenty-four fixed penalty issues had been issued and 1 prosecution. Reports on offences were requested; The recycling rate was 55%, with only 1 in 1000 bins missed; The Locality Officer service included presentations in schools and provided the friendly face of the District Council; and the SHDC website provided an easy way to pay bills and access services.

Cllr Holway held a small amount of Locality funding for local projects.

DNP Member Cathie Parnell introduced the Moor Otters Public Arts Initiative: 100 painted otters would be displayed from May to encourage visitors to visit Dartmoor businesses. The otters would then be auctioned online.

Ella Brien, DNP Ranger outlined her work, including maintaining rights of way; working in ‘honeypot’ areas; renewing signage across Wrangaton golf course and improving the permissive path; and renewing styles on FP1. She was assisted by volunteers, who assessed local footpaths.

Ella introduced a leaflet for landowners on ‘Looking after public rights of way’ and the latest ‘Enjoy Dartmoor’ magazine, which provided useful contact details; The ‘Paws on Dartmoor’ campaign, keeping dogs on leads to protect livestock and ground nesting birds; and the #2 Minute Litter Pick provided A-frame boards at visitor sites to encourage the public to pick up litter. Parking charges may be introduced where DNPA resurfaced its car parks.

8. Reports from local groups

Ugborough Preschool opened from 8-6 five days a week, with a roll of 26 and a further 31 primary school children attending the Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs. Staffing included 6 trained staff and two teenagers helped Afterschool Club. The Preschool was ready to provide the 30 hours childcare supported by the Government.

The current accommodation in the village hall was not ideal for the preschool or afterschool clubs, as there was no outside space, storage was time-consuming and the rental costly. It was hoped to build a new facility with adjacent indoor/outdoor space in the school grounds, and funding was being sought.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Negotiations with SHDC aimed to align the Neighbourhood Plan with the Plymouth & SW Devon Joint Local Plan, and adjustments had already been made in response to feedback. Once the Plan had been submitted to the Inspector, a local referendum would be held. An advantage of the delays was that the Neighbourhood Plan may be adopted after the Joint Local Plan, giving it greater weight.

Ugborough Village Hall The hall hosted a wide range of users, and made a surplus of £3075 over the last year. Grants of £2300 had funded repairs and improvements. The kitchen window had been replaced and free wifi provided. Funding was being sought to replace roof coverings, underlay and rotten fascias etc. The AGM would be held on 9 May, and thanks were extended to the Committee, volunteers, funders and users.

Moorhaven Management reported that the bus shelter now housed the defibrillator and information centre. The playground was available for general use, and funding was being sought to replace equipment. Problems at Moorhaven included dog fouling and speeding vehicles, particularly couriers. The driveway was being improved.

Ugborough Ladies Lunch Club had recently been established, with events every two months.

9. Questions and issues raised by Parishioners None

Meeting ended 9.30pm