

Ugborough Annual Parish Meeting
Ugborough Village Hall Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 7.30pm
Draft Minutes

Present: Cllrs Beable (Chairman), Fletcher, Hart, Holway, Hosking, Hutcheon, Nelson & Smallridge; DNPA Member C Parnell & Ranger Ella Briens; Maxine Kennedy, Katie Reville; 20 Members of public

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from Merryl Docker & Cllr Fairclough-Kay

2. Introduction & Annual Report by Chairman Cllr George Beable

Improvements to the highways include: Improved drainage and drier roads under the Parish Council's Community Lengthsman Scheme; Planting by local volunteers in Ugborough Square and the heart of Bittaford; Speed sensors along the B3213 to reduce speeds in Bittaford and Wrangaton; the response of Snow Warden Cllr Ed Johns and Emergency Co-ordinator Matt Fairclough-Kay during the winter weather; and plans to improve the A3121 Kitterford Cross junction. Future challenges include improving the B3196 from Kitterford Cross to Loddiswell and effective flood prevention for Lutterburn and Undertown.

Community facilities have been enhanced, with the clamberstack in Bittaford playpark, and the adoption of phone boxes in Bittaford and Wrangaton, with the Bittaford box housing a community library and plans to install a defibrillator in the Wrangaton phone box. Grants have been made for the floodlights at St Peter's Church, to Modbury Caring and CAB. The parish Council has also promoted grants to SHDC and DCC towards repairs to Ugborough Village Hall and the Ugborough Football Club mower.

Once the new developments to the west of the Parish progress, challenges and opportunities will arise which the Neighbourhood Plan will help to meet, and Cllr Beable urged the community to vote in the referendum. Funding constraints on SHDC and DCC will affect the work of the Parish Council, and one of the challenges will be the future provision of public toilets in Ugborough and Bittaford.

Cllr Beable thanked the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their enthusiasm and commitment.

3. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 19th April 2017, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

4. Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm – Presentation by Maxine Kennedy

A dementia friendly community recognises the diversity of individuals and provides an enabling environment in which those with dementia feel valued and understood. The organisation comprises a committee and one employee, is funded by grants and legacies, and feeds into the Four Rivers Dementia Alliance. It works with families and the community; liaises with voluntary agencies, health and social care professionals; runs art & craft, shared reading, community singing and walking sessions, which are open to the whole community; and provides information and promotion through a website, Facebook, information pack and monthly diary.

5. South Dartmoor Community Energy – Presentation by Katie Reville

South Dartmoor Community Energy is a registered community benefit society covering the PL21 & PL7 area, with the aim of funding energy efficiency initiatives within the community to generate income for local good causes. An energy advice service is provided, including talks to community groups, drop-in sessions and home visits.

New renewable schemes are being sought, including an exemplar housing scheme, school projects and large-scale energy storage.

6. Ugborough Neighbourhood Development Plan

At the referendum on the 26 April, the community will decide whether SHDC should use the Neighbourhood Plan to help determine planning applications. Preparation of the Plan started in 2012, with the Parish Council being the 'Responsible Authority' and a Working Group comprising Councillors and residents. The Plan area includes the Parish outside the Dartmoor National Park, and it will run for 15 years to 2032. Five themes were identified: Heritage (Built & Natural Environment), Transport & movement, Housing, Economy and Community well-being. Within these themes, 17 policies were developed, which supported community development.

A number of consultation events have been undertaken, with information on the website. Hard copies of the Plan are available in the church and village hall.

Responses to questions Affordable housing needs had been met in the Plan. Car parking is provided on new housing schemes, but the problem of car-sharing parking in Ugborough Square has not been addressed. Improvements to Ugborough Village Hall facilities were not a priority, with the Pre-school being a separate project. A new shop was not viable because of changing shopping habits, although the village benefited from a mobile fish shop, post office service and Sustainable Saturdays. No housing development sites had been identified, and large developments are not supported.

Residents confirmed that Ugborough was a vibrant community, regenerated with young families.

7. Police Report None

8. Reports from District & County Councillors and Dartmoor National Park Authority

DNP Ranger Ella Briens reported on the work of the Ranger, including rights of way surfaces, signage and sometimes furnishing. The Ranger Code and Love More Life projects aim to change public behaviour, for example, to close gates, not feed animals, not leave litter and walk dogs on leads during the bird nesting and lambing season. Volunteers are welcome and information is available on the website, Facebook and Twitter.

DNP Parish Representative Cathie Pannell reported on current projects within the Park: The Local Plan Review, with a consultation paper due at the end of 2018; Superfast broadband and mobile telephony, with Airband and BT Openreach programmed to achieve 95% of all premises by Summer 2018 and working with Connecting Devon & Somerset to reach the remaining 'Not Spots'; A Task & Finish Group had submitted proposals to Defra on the future of farming after Brexit; A review of the Park Management Plan; Additional funding for peatland restoration and upland flood management; and supporting the Moorland Birds Initiative and Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The National Park Grant has been confirmed up to 2019/20, with an annual increase of 1.72%, amounting to £3.7m in 2018/19. After 2020, no financial commitment has been made, which is a concern.

Parking charges (£1 up to 3 hours, £2 all day) have been introduced into the major car parks. The Moor Otters Art initiative raised £62,500, which is being divided between the Junior and Youth Ranger Service, invasive non-native plant control and erosion repairs.

SHDC Cllr Holway reported on the 334 households who were prevented from becoming homeless over the last year, and the new Homeless Reduction Act to come into force in April will give the District Council new powers and duties to support the homeless. SHDC will resettle 6 families through private landlords under the Syrian vulnerable persons relocation scheme. Universal Credit will be rolled out throughout the District by September.

Sherford proceeds at a pace, and a recent planning approval will reduce the size of some properties, while maintaining high standards. The Joint Local Plan is likely to succeed, subject to a few amendments, and will ease pressure from developers because it will identify a 5 year supply of land across the plan area.

Seamoor Lottery will be giving up to 60% to good causes. Charities and good causes should contact SHDC if they wish to benefit from the initiative. Locality Grants have funded shelving in the phone box and new planters in Bittaford, and the balance of the cost of the Football Club mower. It is hoped to fund new planters for Ugborough, wheelchair access to the church and preliminary work on the proposed pre-school building. Cllr Holway would be pleased to hear of any other projects in the parish needing support.

As a member of the South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership, Cllr Holway asked residents to report suspicious or unusual activity to the police on 101. Fusion Leisure are planning to provide a new swimming pool and general refurbishment at Ivybridge Leisure Centre, and a refurbishment of the Totnes Leisure Centre. The waste collection service is being reviewed to align across the county and achieve savings.

The One Council Proposal, in which SHDC and WDBC would merge, was not successful. The Council also considered it too risky to invest in commercial property in order to create a surplus, although development of affordable housing in the District may be possible.

SHDC is encouraging residents to conduct their business with SHDC online and Locality staff would be visiting Ugborough to show residents how to create an account with SHDC and conduct their business

Responses to Questions Public toilets would remain open in tourist areas, on a 'pay on entry' basis. SHDC looks to Parish Councils to run the remaining public toilets.

DCC Cllr Hosking expressed thanks for his election last May. The 2018/19 DCC Budget had benefitted from: A Business Rates Pilot estimated to raise £16.6m, a Rural Services Delivery Grant increase by £1.5m, additional £300k from the New Homes Bonus Scheme, and £2.1m compensation for Business Rate inflation. Increased spending to meet demand was planned for Children & Adult Services, and for highway maintenance & repair.

Broadband Phase II programme continues, with Gigaclear being awarded the contract to take coverage to 95% of premises. A second round for the voucher scheme would be announced in April. The Government aims to make a minimum 10 Mb/s download speed available to all premises by 2020. Funding had been allocated to resolve mobile phone 'Not Spots'.

School funding had increased by £13m for 2018/19, although average pupil funding continued to be £268 below the national average, and pressure would continue to reduce this deficit. Ofsted rated 91% LA maintained schools Good or Outstanding, which was well above the national average. The Children's Services contract had been awarded to Action for Children, which would be moved to a 'Team around the Family' model.

The Sustainability Transformation Plan for integrated care by the NHS and Local Authorities continues to evolve. Libraries Unlimited has expanded to 52 libraries in Devon. The Ivybridge waste recycling centre had been in operation for over a year, providing an improved service.

Skanska operate the Highways Term Maintenance Contract and are trialling new working systems. Central Government funding of £2.5m had been made available to reinstate the A379 along the Slapton line.

Improvements are planned for the A3121, and it is hoped that more funding may be available to enable a roundabout at Kittaford Corss. Cllr Hosking continues to lobby for an eastern junction to the A38 at Ivybridge, and improvements to pinch points on the B3396 Wrangaton to Loddiswell road.

Thanks were extended for the help provided by Parish Councils through the Road Warden, Snow Warden and Parish Lengthsman schemes, and in particular to Snow Warden Ed Johns and Emergency Planner Matt Fairclough-Kay for their magnificent efforts during the recent wintry weather. Cllr Hosking had volunteered for the Winter Service Task Force Group, where he had highlighted the need to grit primary school bus routes and arrange insurance for volunteer road wardens.

The strategy of providing information and training on fire prevention had resulted in the reduction of fires attended, and Cllr Hosking offered to facilitate a presentation to Parish Councils by the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority. The new DCC Website Services made it easier to access services and report problems. Invest in Devon and Locality Budgets of £10,000 each are available for local projects.

9. Reports from local groups

Ugborough Preschool reported that the preferred site for the new building would be the lower playground, as the former pool site had proved too expensive. A supplier had been selected, who would provide a design and apply for planning permission. The estimated cost was £160k, and funding applications would be submitted once planning permission had been obtained, with construction planned for summer 2019. Local volunteers with expertise were welcome.

The History Group reported that the Heritage Appraisal, available on ugborough.com, has been expanded to include the area of the Parish on Dartmoor. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of most months.

Ugborough Village Hall has enjoyed a wide range of users over the last year, both groups and individuals, and the Hall showed a small surplus income. Low value repairs had been carried out, including repainting the toilets and kitchen areas, and replacing some fire extinguishers. This year, it is intended to reroof the Hall due to leaks through time-limited underfelt. Grants have been awarded of £10k from the Big Lottery and £20k from the SHDC Community Reinvestment Projects Fund, together with donations from individuals and groups. The defibrillator on the front of the Village Hall receives weekly and monthly checks, which are reported to the Parish Council and South Western Ambulance Service Accreditation Scheme.

Thanks were expressed to the Committee and those who use the Hall. The AGM would be held on the 8 May.

St Peter's Church Bells had been taken to Loughborough, where the first 3 bells had been recast, with the next 5 bells in May. The bells should be returned at the end of July and will be on display during the Flower Festival. Thanks were extended for the community support, including DCC Locality funding. Photos are displayed on www.ugborough.com

10. Questions and issues raised by Parishioners

1. Complaints were received on inconsiderate school traffic at picking-up time, with car parking on the pavement and grass verge potentially blocking the roads to emergency vehicles. School representatives responded that a weekly flyer was issued to parents asking them to park in the Square and walk up to the school. School buses are supposed to arrive at the last minute, but in reality, are waiting from 2pm. DCC Cllr Hosking responded that the School Transport Plan was obviously not working and would discuss the matter with Nick Colton. The Clerk would write to the School about the problem.

2. At the entrance to Seldons Close, tree routes were breaking up the pavement. It was confirmed that the land was owned by Devon & Cornwall Housing/Liberty and both Cllrs Holway and Hosking had advised them of the problem.

3. A 20mph speed limit was requested for Fore St and Lutterburn St. DCC Cllr Hosking advised that a National Report on 20mph zones was still awaited and, because of the delay, DCC was developing its own policy. A 20mph speed limit may require traffic calming, and enforcement was a problem.

4. The owner of the former Post Office outlined delays from the Post Office in processing his request to relocate the post box to the left of its current position. The Clerk would contact the Post Office about progress.

Meeting ended 10.10pm