

Ugborough Annual Parish Meeting
Bittaford Community Hall Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Beable (Chairman), Cooper, Fairclough-Kay, Fletcher, Hart, Holway, Hosking, Nelson & Smallridge; DNPA Ranger Ella Briens; Janie Moor; 9 Members of public

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from DNPA Member C Pannell

2. Introduction & Annual Report by Chairman Cllr George Beable

Parish Council elections would be held on the 2nd May, and anyone interested in standing as Parish Councillor was urged to come forward.

The Parish Council had promoted local interests in the preparation of the Dartmoor National Park Local Plan and the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan, supported by the adopted Ugborough Neighbourhood Development Plan. Currently, the Parish Council was negotiating with the DNPA to recognise the settlement of Wrangaton.

The Parish environment had benefitted from Parish Council spending on its Community Lengthsman Scheme, replacement benches, and planting schemes in Bittaford & Ugborough, and local volunteers were thanked for their help. It had also supported DCC and SHDC funding on a new path to improve access to Ugborough Post Office, a defibrillator for Wrangaton phone box and improvements to Ugborough Village Hall. Ugborough Preschool was badly in need of funding to build new premises, and the Parish Council was disappointed that it would not receive S106 funding from housing developments within the Parish.

Highway improvements and flood schemes had been postponed due to lack of DCC funding. To save costs, SHDC would be handing over the public toilets in Ugborough & Bittaford and, following a widespread consultation, the Parish Council had agreed to take them on, despite the additional cost to the community.

Cllr Beable identified the many day-to-day challenges of the Parish Council and thanked the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their enthusiasm and commitment.

3. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11th April 2018, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

4. The vital role of Citizens Advice South Hams in our local community, providing free, independent and impartial advice – Presentation by Janie Moor

Citizens Advice South Hams was a local independent charity, franchised from the National Citizens Advice. It relied on local funding and had a small team of paid staff and 64 volunteers. The key enquiry areas related to welfare benefit and debt issues. Over the last year, there was a 30% increase in debt enquiries and Citizens Advice had achieved £1.2m financial gains within the South Hams. It also provided specialist energy advice, could point people in the right direction eg where there was domestic violence, and campaigned on social policy issues, such as Universal Credit.

The service could be accessed at southhamscab.org.uk/, by phone on 03444 111 444, or by visiting the drop-in centres in Ivybridge, Totnes, Dartmouth & Kingsbridge.

Janie Moor encouraged the Parish to get involved by using the services; volunteering, with 12 weeks training; and fundraising, including 'Raise a Cuppa' 80th Anniversary events.

5. Police Report None

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

SHDC Cllr Holway reported on the £6m investment in local leisure centres; the Joint Local Plan, which was nearing adoption; S106 funding towards transport, education, recreation and open space facilities; £2m investment in disabled facilities; the development of employment units and, hopefully, a supermarket in Ivybridge. During the District Council term of office, 430 affordable houses had been built, with a further 690 in the pipeline.

Priorities included the: New waste contract from April, with more potential for recycling; the 'Only one night out' approach for rough sleepers; lobbying government to close the second homes loophole, which enabled owners to claim the small business rate exemption; and measures to improve air quality in Ivybridge.

If you spot a homeless person, call 01803 861260 or 0800 1513441.

DCC Cllr Hosking reported on the 2.99% increase in precept; 9.4% increase in spending on children services; 2% increase in adult care and health services, with the aim of promoting independence in Devon through support in the home; additional mental health services; the review of foster carer allowances; and the average pupil education payment of £304, which was still below national levels.

It had been confirmed that £80m would be available to reinforce the rail wall at Dawlish; BT had achieved 90% Broadband connections, with a £350 voucher scheme available where speeds were below 2 Mbps; and a reduction of £850k had been achieved over the last 5 years through the use of LED street lights.

The Highway maintenance budget towards potholes and drainage had been set at £18.745m, and road safety improvements to the A3121, including Kitterford Cross, would be rolled out. Drainage works would be undertaken at Parsonage Lane, with those at Lutterburn subject to further investigation and dependant on the outcome of a current planning application. Currently, speed tests were being undertaken in Ugborough to assess the need for a 20mph speed limit.

Cllr Hosking was able, through his Locality Budget, to help Ivybridge Community School, Ugborough preschool, the village hall, environmental planting schemes and replacement benches in the Parish. He had enjoyed his time as Vice Chairman of Devon County Council.

DNP Ranger Ella Briens reported that £20k from the Moor Otter scheme was being used to survey invasive non-native species. Public rights of way were her most significant work, and it was now possible to report problems to paths online.

Recent initiatives included; an erosion map for Ugborough & Harford Moors; litter picking with the Tidy Britain campaign; patrolling with police to solve wildlife crime & offroad vehicles; flood management schemes, including dams and gullies; and a campaign to keep dogs on leads during lambing.

Thanks were extended to the 40 volunteer wardens in the Park, with the Shipley volunteering group undertaking archaeological work on the clay workings. Information on volunteering was available on Facebook, Twitter and online.

7. Reports from local groups

Ugborough Preschool would be applying for planning permission to build on the school site, thanks to local support and Locality funding.

Ugborough Village Hall reported on the many users of the hall over the last year, which had resulted in positive bank balances. Roof repairs had been funded by £10k from the Big Lottery, £20k SHDC Community Reinvestment Projects funding and donations from local groups and individuals. In addition, the village hall had benefitted from emergency rising water mains replacement, internal redecoration, redecoration of the external metal stairs and railings, and the replacement of the first floor window glazing. Thanks were expressed to the committee, hall users and the grant funders.

The Ugborough Village Hall AGM would be held at 8pm on Tuesday 21st May, and all were welcome.

Moorhaven Management expressed thanks for the 'dogs on leads' signs in the village. Vehicles speeding through the village were a problem, and Cllr Hosking would follow up the rumoured plan for double yellow lines along Bittaford Hill.

8. Questions and issues raised by Parishioners

Wrangaton residents expressed concerns about recent parking restrictions. They submitted a petition to Cllr Hosking and emphasised that they should have been consulted about the changes. Cllr Hosking reported on the meeting at Green Lane the previous week and confirmed that the lines were introduced to improve the safety of the junction, although they had been placed 10m further up Green Lane than previously agreed. The visibility splay at Green Lane was adequate.

Residents wanted to be able to park near their homes and requested that the double yellow lines be removed as they were pushing parking further up Green Lane, where it narrowed, causing an obstruction to farm vehicles. They also queried the routing of the cycle way along Green Lane. Cllr Hosking would discuss options with residents – although their suggestion of concave mirrors was not acceptable, due to previous litigation.

Meeting ended 9.05pm