

**DENBURY & TORBRYAN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING - HELD AT DENBURY VILLAGE HALL**

**ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 @ 7.30pm**

**Present** – Chairman – Cllr B Clatworthy, Cllr T Brownhill, Cllr C Stacey, Cllr M Ashford, Cllr P Marino, Cllr Mrs E Heaver, Cllr R White, Cllr A Dewhurst, D Cllr Mrs M Colclough.

**In Attendance** – Iso Barnden, Kevin Eales, David Munden, Jim Peck, Mr & Mrs Howells, Mr & Mrs Griffin.

**Apologies for Absence** – D Cllr D Smith, Jamie Stone, Mrs Jean Duggan.

Guest Speakers – David Munden (Abbotskerswell Neighbourhood Plan Chairman), Kevin Eales (Abbotskerswell Parish Council Chairman)

David Munden – Neighbourhood plans came about as part of the localism act and only about 3 or 4 councils in Teignbridge have achieved a plan so far. The key points are that you have to engage the whole community, the Parish Council has to start the process off as they need to pass a resolution that a plan is to be started and to inform the District Council. Once the process begins and are agreed these key points are then required 1) define the area of the Neighbourhood Plan, ie the Parish of Denbury & Torbryan. 2) evidence will then be needed to be gathered about various parts of the community. 3) a group needs to be formed of Parish Councillors, businesses and other interested parties in the community. 4) The Parish then needs to be consulted through things such as the Parish magazine, workshops and questionnaires. 5) once the document is finished it will be a legal document within the local planning framework once it is approved, the plan goes to an independent inspector and then a Parish referendum and once it makes its way through this process it is agreed by the District Council and becomes a legal document.

Kevin Eales – Abbotskerswell Parish Council Chairman – There are many different ways to achieve a Neighbourhood Plan, Abbotskerswell set out with the intention of community engagement to be able to demonstrate this. First a leaflet was sent to the community telling them about the formation of a plan and showing a map with the parish boundary and telling Parishoners about a workshop which was to be held. At the workshop people were encouraged to put post it notes on the plans with their comments to encourage community participation. The Parish magazine is being used each month to prompt people to complete questionnaires. Finances – grants have been obtained from TDC.

Benefits of having a plan are having a closer say on what happens in planning in the Parish. CIL monies from new homes 15% is allowed within a plan but if you do have a plan 25% is given to the Parish for spending on Parish improvements.

- 1) Report of District Cllr M Colclough & Cllr D Smith -
  - a) D Cllr Mrs M Colclough – the structure of the Council has changed a little over the last 12 months with the deflection of two more Cllrs the conservatives have lost their overall majority the make up being as follows – 22 conservatives, 13 independants & 10 liberal democrats & 1 UKIP. Nicola Bulbeck remains as chief executive, the leader Jeremy christphers & the chairman is Anthony ballinger. Staff cuts have continued to take place. The Teignbridge local plan 2013-2033 was formally adopted on 6<sup>th</sup> May last year. Although it was felt necessary of Teignbridge to have a plan to help guide the future of the District, the question was raised as to whether this is the right plan. The voting was 27 for, 4 against with 8 abstentions. The challenge by Abbotskerswell PC that environmental issues were not properly addressed in the plan was dismissed, a decision which may be appealed by the PC. In the meantime the plan continues to control development. Moving on to the budget. This year saw no rise in the TDC portion of the Council Tax with a Band D property being frozen at the current rate of £150 per annum. The summary revenue budget for 2015/16 is £16.8 million includes the following;- significant investment in waste and recycling to collect even more recycling and food waste from homes each week. Continuing the free Sunday parking scheme across the district & no increase in car parking charges for the rest of the time. The 2.2% pay increase for staff. Rural aid at £40,000 with the remaining £15,000 to prime a £25,000 grant fund for Teignbridge Villages in Dartmoor National Park. There will be an

introduction to the opt in green waste subscription from Sept 2015. This controversial chargeable opt in scheme is for a fortnightly garden waste collection. The collection of card, mixed plastics and food waste is on a weekly basis. The black bin with residential waste for landfill will continue to be emptied fortnightly. Bottles will go with cardboard & a sack will be provided for paper including newspapers. The tired fleet of refuse vehicles needs replacing. The council is again committed to providing affordable housing and employment opportunities to those residing in Teignbridge. It is hard to believe that four years have gone by and we are now facing an election which will inevitably bring about changes in the council's decision making body. Whatever the outcome it is important that TDC provides necessary services at the best value for money and I hope that whatever the outcome is on May 7<sup>th</sup> this will continue to be achieved.

b) D Cllr D Smith – not in attendance.

## 2) Report of C Cllr A Dewhirst

In setting out its programmes for its capital and revenue budgets for highway maintenance, the County Council's Cabinet last week gave a commitment to make further representations on the funding shortfall to the incoming government.

The Council is receiving £42.3 million from the Department for Transport for its capital budget 2015/16 to deal with planned structural maintenance on Devon's 8,000 miles of roads, which is the biggest highway network in the country.

Devon County Council needs to invest around £62 million a year on road surfaces alone to keep them in their current overall condition. Unclassified roads account for more than 50% of Devon's highway network but a quarter of these roads need immediate significant work. However, the current shortfall means the council cannot carry out this work.

The Cabinet agreed a revenue budget of £28.255 million, to fund reactive work such as pothole repairs, winter gritting and snow clearance and routine maintenance such as cleaning highway drainage systems, gully emptying and streetlight repairs.

This is a net reduction of £852,000 on last year's budget. Savings are being made in a number of areas including reductions in grass cutting, with only visibility areas including junctions and the inside of bends being cut; weed spraying and the treatment of noxious/injurious weeds is being stopped, and instead Community Payback volunteers will be used to hand pull weeds in heavily infested areas.

More than £6.5 million will be set aside for safety defect/pothole repairs, and more than £900,000 for patching local roads. A further £2.9 million will be spent on gully emptying and ditch cleaning, with £460,000 allocated for maintaining highway drainage.

The remainder of the report was extemporised

- Extra-ordinary Council Meeting
- Farm Wise
- Two Hard Hitting Reports on Educational Outcomes of Children in Care and those on Free School Meal and Child Sexual Exploitation.

## 3) Chairmans Report – Cllr B Clatworthy

There passes another year, and at the moment we have had a full complement of Parish Councillors, it is nice that once again we have someone from Torbryan. During the past year we have had several planning issues and most have been resolved, we are still awaiting the outcome of the road and kerbstones in Fairview Road and Moorland Avenue. It was very sad news to hear that our Cricket Club has now ceased to operate from our Playing Field, we have had some interest from Ipplepen Cricket Club who has approached us regarding using the facilities, we are awaiting final negotiations. Whilst on the subject of the Playing Field our football teams are pulling out due lack of support and not having enough members, but they have found another Club willing to take on the ground with the same agreement as Denbury Athletic. Also we will have new play equipment in the children's play area, this is being fitted week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> April and will take about a week, the play area will be closed during this period, and

this has been funded by the S1 06 monies, from the new builds in West Street. Another item I would like to see resolved soon is the Allotments, it would be great to have the gardeners back on their plots that they all worked so hard on before being taken away by the Prison Authorities', the Parish Council will assist in any way we can. New signs will eventually go up on all roads entering Denbury, our first one went up in February near the Playing Field in East Street, and we hope to be ordering a new one for the village green. Finally many thanks to all my fellow Councillors, Sharon our Parish Clerk, our County and District Councillors who regularly attend, and Iso Barndon, who takes notes for our Denbury Diary.

#### 4) Report Denbury Primary School Head Teacher – Mr Jamie Stone

I would like to offer my apologies for not being able to attend the meeting tonight and to read this report in person.

At the time of writing the current role for the school is 134 and we continue to be a popular choice for parents. We are, once again, nearly at capacity but this number of children allows the school to retain its independence due to a healthy budget and pupil numbers are at a level that makes it sustainable for the future.

We continually promote the use of the car park to parents and the vast majority do use it on a regular basis. Having repaired the pot holes a year ago, they are now starting to show signs of re-appearing and the school will endeavour to again put a working party together to solve this issue during the summer months. Complaints from our neighbours regarding parents parking have significantly reduced this year and I take this as a sign that we are winning this ongoing battle, but I will continue to monitor this closely as I am fully aware that this issue is never resolved.

I recently attended a meeting with members of the planning department at TDC to discuss the Teignbridge Local Plan. Whilst at this meeting it was explained to me how the Community Infrastructure Levy would be implemented and also how Parish councils could ensure that their communities fully benefitted from this by ensuring they have a neighbourhood plan in place. I was very pleased to hear that Denbury Parish Council had expressed an interest in this and, whilst not formally starting the process, they have begun discussions. The governors of the school have asked if they could be kept informed of how this develops.

Our PTA have again organised events that the whole community attend. The feedback from the public regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> annual fireworks display was overwhelmingly positive and it continues to go from strength to strength. This year's event will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

The children were delighted to be asked to support the parish council's campaign in highlighting the anti-social behaviour of a minority of dog owners. The two children who won the prize for the best poster were thrilled with their token and I would like to pass on my thanks on their behalf.

We were also pleased to be involved in providing information to help with the renovation of the park area. The children are very excited by this and can't wait to see the final results.

We recently received a letter informing us that the late Richard Stinton, a resident of Denbury for many years, had bequeathed to the children a significant sum of money that will be used to benefit the school and ensure we enhance further the high quality education they currently receive.

I would like to finish by reiterating that the staff and children always welcome any opportunity to become involved with the local community. The children are always enthusiastic about any opportunities they are given that involve the village and surrounding areas.

#### 5)Denbury Village Hall Management Committee – Clare Head.

Running costs and bookings for the hall remain much the same.

We have now replaced the curtains with new vertical blinds; the May Fair Committee has kindly given a contribution towards this. A working party was put together in June to tackle the ivy and undergrowth around the hall and although this was advertised in the dairy we had a very limited response but the few we had worked hard and did a good job. We had a much better response with a working party to repaint the main hall in November and will try and get a similar event organized to smarten up other areas in the hall. The water heater and wall heater in the kitchen, have been replaced, funding from Dennis Smith covered the majority of the cost which was much appreciated.

We had very successful villages in action event, The ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha on March 8<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed and made a profit of around £200, we are hoping to attend an evening held by Villages in action later this month and book more acts.

Thank you to the Parish Council for providing assistance with the insurance premium

#### 6)Denbury New **PARISH** Hall Committee – Acting Chairman: Paul Austin –

The after the previous two years which saw significant changes to the through the completion of the drainage and Multicourt there had been little activity whilst we were awaiting the outcome of the Parish Plan.

The Plan has now been issued and it does include a number of questions relevant to the New Hall project which will assist in future public consultation.

The key donation this year was from the May Fayre, for which we are very grateful, and the New Hall funds now stands at around £3,500 which is a useful starting point but obviously further significant funding will be required to complete the project.

The current climate makes it difficult to raise substantial amounts from government funds or national charities and potential building costs will need to be borne in mind when considering the design. However, this will require a significant level of consultation with the Village, the Trustees and other interested parties.

What is required now is time from individuals who can commit to this project. I have been Acting Chairman, fulfilling essential tasks, for several years following the departure of a number of Committee Members but I have always been unable to commit the time that a project like this deserves. We have tried to recruit new blood into the Team via adverts in the Diary and word of mouth but this has not been successful so far.

8) Denbury Playing Field Report – Newton Town will take over the lease on the field for next season, the new play equipment is shortly to be installed using the S106 monies, plans are being submitted for new buildings on site.

9) Police Report – PCSO Chris Hurden – No report given.

#### 10) Invited Speakers from Village Organisations.

Mr Jim Peck - Denbury Neighbourhood Watch – nothing to report, a very quiet year.

Mr Jim Peck - Allotments – these are again open for use, many thanks to Cllr A Dewhirst and the Parish Council for their support in getting them re-opened.

Chairman of the May Fayre Committee – No report given.

Mrs Jean Duggan – Denbury Archive Group – After a few quiet years, we met twice last year and organised our storage facilities. We had a donation from last year's May Fair which we are using to buy strong plastic storage boxes. We found we needed these as we all have accumulated considerable archives which we are storing at home. This year in March, we held a very successful exhibition. Everyone who attended, enjoyed looking through our collections of photographs of Denbury people. Included in the displays were a biography of Lettice Curtis, a daughter of Denbury who died last year and is now interred in Denbury graveyard.

A time-line of the history of the manor and a pictorial display of Denbury W.I. was also enjoyed.

DVDs of past events in Denbury excited a lot of attention and resulted in plenty of people-spotting .

3 excellent competitions held people's interest and gave much amusement.

This was our 8th exhibition and we feel glad that Denbury people understand some of what is held in our archive.

Mrs M Griffin – Denbury Gardening Club –

I have great pleasure in presenting our Denbury Gardening Club fifteenth annual report.

After the sunniest winter on record our Spring temperatures have been disappointingly below average. We wondered if we would have blooms for the show but in the last few days "Spring has sprung" and we have our colourful display.

You, our members, are the heart of our club and my first task is to thank you for your loyalty and encouraging feedback. We are pleased that our membership has increased this year and we have 49 members. We thank you for your contributions to the running of the club. Importantly you enhance the raffle with donations of cakes, plants and gifts. A special thanks to Nigel Walters who generously donated and created the Village hanging baskets which gave so much pleasure throughout the summer. Thank you to John Griffin and those who watered and maintained the hanging baskets and the Village Hall troughs.

The committee members have worked extremely hard this year and my thanks go to them. Thank you to; Jan Harris, our Vice Chair, who organises the staging of the Spring Show and who gives valuable support whenever it is needed not least in acting as a sounding

board for ideas; to Sandra Hyland, our long standing and utterly reliable Treasurer; to Mary Bishop who leads our publicity with her excellent posters and Denbury Diary entries; to Liz Mills who successfully manages our raffle and who brightens our social occasions with her skilful flower arrangements; to Freda Badger and Sue Thomas who are in charge of refreshments (Hot Cross Buns and Sandra's Easter biscuits today!); to Lesley Childs who is taking on the role of Minute Secretary and Programme Secretary. Lastly, a special thanks to Mavis Gooding, a founder member, for all her support, including her management of the Spring Show judging.

As Sandra Hyland, our Treasurer, will endorse we are pleased to have a sound financial basis. The cost of speakers has increased and with travel expenses our remuneration to a speaker can exceed £100. We do all we can to minimise these expenditures. I liaise with other gardening clubs to find appropriate speakers and we have found innovative ways of reducing these expenses, for example Gardeners' Question Time and evenings led by members.

It has become tradition we donate our Christmas Social raffle proceeds to charity. This year we raised £70 for the Families and Children Charity. We thank Alan Lambert for his generosity in auditing our accounts once again.

The programme for the past year has been varied, informative and interesting. At our vibrant Spring Show Don Cockman, our judge, reported that our exhibits were of a high standard. Your feedback suggests you enjoyed our two social occasions; one in the summer in Sandra and Michael's beautiful garden, before the thunder clouds appeared, and at Christmas in the Village Hall when the committee produced a fantastic, lavish meal while the French Horns, led by Mike Pill, played festive music. We shared the experiences of members with Paul Bishop's slides trekking in the Himalayas and Michael Hyland's development of his kitchen garden. We undertook two trips, one to Rosemoor and a second to the exquisite summer gardens at Coleton Fishacre. Two further highlights were John Ridsen's talk on the History of Greenway and our Gardeners' Question Time with Don Cockman, our expert, Derek Triggol, Mary Griffin and John Griffin as Chair.

Each of our aims for 2014-2015 have been achieved. We have increased our membership numbers. We have liaised with the WI to provide a wall mounted screen for the Village Hall and we have maintained attractive planting for the Cistern hanging baskets and the Village Hall planters. Well done to everyone who supported these initiatives.

Our aims for this year will be to sustain our membership numbers, to continue to maintain the hanging baskets, Village Hall planters and troughs and to set up an email network to provide better communication for our members.

In conclusion, as I always say, the Gardening Club is for you, our members, and we always value your views about how the your gardening club should be run. On behalf of the committee I wish you all a good gardening year

Mr John Griffin – Chairman Trustees – Firstly I believe the Charity has been operated in accordance with the constitution, terms of reference and the Charity Commission's rules. Secondly thanks to the members of the three working committees for their hard work and commitment over the past year. During the year we received the results of the Parish Plan survey which gave some indication of villagers' thoughts and requirements for a New Parish Hall (NPH). Our problem is that whilst villagers may have opinions there appears to be a continuing lull in obtaining people to commit to the hard work in bringing these requirements to fruition. The Trustees have attempted to raise interest, firstly in trying to find a Chair for the NPH committee, even advertising in the Denbury Diary, but with no take up so far - we shall continue to try. Paul has looked after the position for over two years but is not able to take on the post and I am grateful to him for maintaining the position on a temporary basis and as ever to Reg Burningham for his continued commitment. Additionally we need people to join as NPH committee members to develop new plans and raise funds. Whilst we have had offers of assistance on specific matters not enough have come forward to join the NPH committee on a permanent basis. Without such committee members and a Chair it would seem difficult to make substantial progress at present on the NPH front. Thankfully the other activities of the Trust are doing well. The present Village Hall is functioning well despite the age of the building. Clare and her committee keep the building and fittings well up to standard and also provide us with some well supported community activities. The Trust, through Nick Lesley, approached the Church Commissioners, who own the present Village Hall site, to explore the possibility of extending the lease but they would not commit to any discussion at this stage - the present lease has some 14 years to run. Perhaps as the 14 years role by the village will realise that they cannot take the village hall for granted and people will rally round. The Multicourt continues to be a valuable village asset and is well used by the School and the community. My thanks to Nick Roberts and his team for all the past very hard work and their continuing management of the Multicourt activities. Thanks are due once again to Keith Wakeham who kindly audits the annual financial reports of the three committees, to Martin Ashford for grass cutting the NPH site and finally to my fellow Trustees for their help and support.

Dr Sally Roberts - The Devils continue to train every Tuesday on Denbury multicourt. We have a good turnout usually around 14 girls for the juniors (yr7-9). Adult training is a more variable turnout but we have managed to continue in Teignbridge netball league division one. It is somewhat disappointing to me that only about 5 of the 30 or so club members actually comes from Denbury. However the players are enthusiastic and we hope to go from strength to strength with our younger girls coming through.

Nick Roberts – Chairman Multicourt Committee – It has been another successful year for the multicourt. Usage figures have exceeded the Sport England target. The tennis coaching is proving popular and the committee are mindful to make sure that there is time available for both coaching and use by the parishioners. In the summer a youth netball team hired the court and this was a good use of the facility in the holiday period. We have kept key rental at a very low £10 per year to attract as many people as possible to use the court and we would be keen for anyone interested in Tennis to sign up.

Jane Gibson - Chairman Flower & Produce Show – no report given.

Judy Foster Turner – Denbury Pre-School – 2014 has been a busy one for Denbury Pre-School! A record number of children made the transition to school in September and for a

while numbers were worrying low. However I am pleased to report that we are now back up to 19.

Fund raising is vital to our continued success as funding alone does not cover our costs. A dedicated team of parents and ex-parents work hard to put on a variety of events. This committee is completely voluntary and we could not run without their continued support. So to Claire Watson our current Chair and her team we thank you all!

We believe that next year will be the Pre-schools 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and so are currently planning some kind of celebratory event! If anyone has any old photos or stories we would love to see/hear them.

Rodney Cleave – Parish Snow Warden – Nothing to report.

11)**Annual Report to all Parishioners** - This to now go out again this year in May 2015 in the form of the Annual Parish Minutes.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17pm