

DENBURY & TORBRYAN PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING - HELD AT DENBURY VILLAGE HALL

ON MONDAY 11th April 2016 @ 7.30pm

Present – Cllr T Brownhill, Cllr Mrs E Heaver, Cllr R White, Cllr Mrs P Griffin, Cllr Mrs H Wills, Cllr G Brendon, C Cllr A Dewhurst.

In Attendance – Iso Barnden, 10 members of the Public, Rowena Riley from the Church Conservation Trust.

Apologies for Absence – D Cllr D Smith, Cllr C Stacey, D Cllr Mrs M Colclough, John & Mary Griffin.

Rowena Riley from the Churches Conservation Trust gave a very informative talk on the History of Torbryan Church and Caves. She is in charge of the project at Torbryan which has gained Heritage Lottery Funding and will include events throughout the year and involve the Children at the School.

- 1) **Report of District Cllr M Colclough & Cllr D Smith** -
 - a) D Cllr Mrs M Colclough – A district council election fell on the same day as the general election last may. The result produced a considerable change in the make up of the council. In line with parliamentary success the conservatives won a large majority there being 30 conservatives, 11 lib dems & 5 independents. Nicola Bulbeck remains as chief executive & the chairman has been Independent councillor Mike Hocking. The leader continues to be Jeremy Christophers. There has been a rise in Council Tax agreed at the February budget meeting, the first rise following a five year freeze. The Teignbridge band D council tax for 16/17 is increased by 3.33% or £5 to £155.17 per annum. The revenue budget is £16.7 million & includes an assured 1% annual pay increase from 1st April 2016 where lower than the national living wage increase, an increase in parking income of £142,000 partly to fund a programme of related capital investment over the next three years & rural aid continuing at £40,000 plus the ongoing £25,000 Dartmoor grant fund for Teignbridge villages in the Dartmoor national park. The Capital programme includes increasing jobs & homes through continuing support for housing whilst backing business and encouraging community led planning and infrastructure delivery plan investment contribution to improving education, transport links and sports and open spaces. Teignbridge District Council are allocated just 9% of the Council Tax, with DCC getting 72% Police 10%, Fire 5% & the parish average being 4%. Planning is led by the local plan as adopted last year, an by adopted Neighbourhood Plans. Around 1400 planning applications are dealt with by officers. Some need to be dealt with by the Planning Committee which meets 12 times per year. These include applications involving council land, applications by officers and members and major developments from the development plan. The appeal process used by applicants who are not satisfied with a decision resulted in 76% of appeals being refused. Planning enforcement officers rely on the public notifying them of unauthorised and non complying developments in the district. The council has

purchased the market walk shopping centre in Newton Abbot. Teignbridge believes the purchase will enable it to reinstate in the town as both a retail and tourist destination centre. As a bid to do more for young people in the district the council have ventured into partnership with Exeter City Council towards the radio one big weekend event to take place at Powderham Castle. The updated collection of refuse seems to have settled in well. The old fleet of vehicles have been replaced. The fortnightly garden waste scheme has been adopted satisfactorily. The council continues to be committed to providing affordable housing and employment opportunities for those residing in Teignbridge. As talks on devolution continue to take place I think the next twelve months will prove to be interesting & hopefully beneficial and one that I face optimistically. Whatever the outcome it is important that TDC provide its residents with the best possible services at the best value for money.

2) Report of C Cllr A Dewhirst

The award winning £110m South Devon Highway project is finally coming to an end. The project opened to traffic last December and with the exception of some additional work involving earth moving and landscaping the project is now all but complete. The next major project to affect this District will be the £28.5m scheme to improve the A382 between Newton Abbot and Drumbridges – this should come to Development Management in the early autumn. The project involves straightening the road, two roundabouts at Whitehills and Forches Cross, a pavement and cycle lane, a bridge at Forches Cross and a new link road from the hospital to Forches Cross.

Ofsted, in an unannounced inspection last year of Devon's Children's Services judged them as "Requiring Improvement" – this is actually an improvement on the last inspection which declared them "Inadequate". The Report declared that children who need help and protection services were requiring improvement, Adoption services were rated Good, Care Leavers were rated "Inadequate" – (the Council had lost touch with Care Leavers within a year) and most worryingly of all the Leadership and Management of the Service was declared "Requires Improvement". As part of my work of the People Scrutiny Committee we have set up a Children's Services Standing Committee and I am involved in closely monitoring the whole of the Service with a remit to expect and require the best practice from the whole of the Service. I have been on task groups who have specifically reported on Child Sexual Abuse, Care Leavers and School Exclusions.

As you know I visit the Atkinson Secure Children's Home on a monthly basis and after a huge amount of lobbying and many reports I am pleased that we have secured a large investment in the grounds of the home, with play equipment, an all-weather running track, additional security fences and improvements to the Forest School. I have received a commitment to improve the staff areas of the home and after lobbying from all involved in the Home we have secured a seven figure commitment from the DfE for major improvements to the buildings. I am however still lobbying for much shorter school holidays – a two week maximum – and far longer term times – these teenagers have almost always been absent from school during their lives and the intensive work done by the school is truly amazing.

The prospectus for the HOTSW Devolution Agreement was submitted to Central Government at the end of February. At Council I described it as a document that has a complete paucity of ambition – if I was the Minister I would ask why SW Councils are not doing this already! I believe it will lead to additional layers of bureaucracy with a combined

Authority and probably a Regional Mayor as well! And being highly parochial there is no mention of Teignbridge at all and nothing for small businesses – the backbone of our South West economy. Sadly although I passionately support the devolution of power down through all levels of government I cannot support this proposal for poor quality jobs, yet more houses, the Hinkley Point Chinese Nuclear power station and a greater concentration of jobs in the Exeter area. We all await the outcome of negotiations with the Minister.

Not to be outdone by the Chancellor's recent "U" turns County Council leader John Hart "U" turned on plans to ask schools to pay for their own lollipop men and women.

The authority had planned to save £250,000 out of the service cost of £350,000 as part of its £26 million budget cuts for 2016/17. This meant that the patrols would go but the administrators who controlled them would stay! However Lib Dems asked how Cllr Hart intended to pay for the service considering his comments that there was "no more money" only thirteen days previously. The answer was simple, just as they have dealt with the £8m+ cost overruns on Children's Services they will take the money from Reserves. You would be shocked if they ran a banana republic in this way!

Finally after two pre-Budget scrutiny meetings, with recommendations to Cabinet about concern at the continuing scale of reductions being imposed on local authorities and its failure to provide Councils with full details of the local government finance settlement in good time, we set a Budget.

So after a four and a half hour debate the Council confirmed that the final tally was a requirement Budget of £335.553m being an increase of £18.422 m on the previous year – this is topped up by Grants of £575.029m. This will be spread over 277,846 Band "D" properties with an average collection rate of 98.13%. This comes down to £1,207.62 per Band D property.

3) Chairmans Report – Cllr Mrs E Heaver

Welcome to the annual parish meeting everyone. I find myself somewhat surprisingly presenting this chairman's report so please forgive me as I am only a beginner! I will be relying on my expert Sharon the parish clerk who I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of all my fellow councillors for her guidance and support throughout the year without which we would all be at a loss!

We have had a busy year at the parish council seeing Chairman Bryan Clatworthy retire after many years service. Again I would like to thank Bryan for all his efforts whilst chair and councillor; we will miss him.

We are now very nearly a full complement of councillors and we welcome new councillors this year; Pauline Griffin, George Brendon from Torbryan and Helen Wills who has returned to the fold. I hope that with renewed enthusiasm we can progress current issues within the parish.

Over the last year we have managed to progress many key issues including planning permission for a new sports pavilion to replace the dilapidated buildings on the playing fields. We have applied for grant funding from both Sport England and Viridor Credits and are also in discussions with South Devon College for them to provide students to help us construct the building. This is an exciting community project which the parish council hopes the village will get behind and support.

Affordable housing has been progressed with Devon Communities Together striving to find a suitable site to meet the current housing demand as well as exploring the potential of self-build plots. We await an update from Sue Southwell the Rural Housing Enabler and hope to have some positive news to report imminently. We were all upset to hear of the winding down of the new parish hall committee and I would like to thank all of those who have put so many hours work into making this happen. The village has also seen the retirement of Alan Wood as our postmaster and we would like to thank him for his many years service to the village. We look forward to the new service being installed at The Union Inn. Although Tom's efforts at the pub have been thwarted by the particularly slow progress of the post office we hope that this gets up and running soon. The shop aspect of this service has started well and is well used by villagers and the parish council hope that villagers will continue to support this vital village resource. Without wanting to steal Rowena's thunder Torbryan saw the successful bid for Heritage Lottery Funding in 2015 to develop some interpretation of the church and the fascinating history of not only the rare rood screens but also the Torbryan caves and the charismatic medieval figure of local man William Petre. The safe return and imminent reinstatement of the damaged rood screens this month is eagerly awaited by Torbryan residents. I would like to thank Rowena for the huge amount of work she has put in to make this happen.

The Neighbourhood plan has been quietly ticking along behind the scenes following a well attended community action day last year. There will be a 'call to arms' this month as without additional support we will not be able to take this forward. The neighbourhood plan is a once in a lifetime opportunity under the Governments' localism act for the parish to exert some control and to encourage development in and around the parish. I urge villagers to attend our next meeting on **Monday 16th May at 7.00pm** at the pub.

Parking and speeding issues still plague the village and the PC are committed to listening to views and opinions to try and find ways of easing these problems, We hope that with the recent pothole filling in the hard court car park that parents will again use this safe area of parking rather than in front and around of the school.

Unfortunately it is sad that we do not have anything positive to report on the allotments. Despite concerted efforts by our MP, District and County councillors, the PC as well as the allotment association we have found ourselves up against the proverbial 10ft high block wall that is the MOJ. The PC will continue to support the allotment association in any way we can to try and resolve this frustrating situation.

On a more positive note, it looks as if the problems with the footpaths and roads in Moorland Avenue and Fairview Road are nearing resolution after a successful appeal by TDC. We are keeping everything crossed that remedial works will be carried out within the next few months and would like to thank our TDC councillors Dennis Smith, Mary Colclough and DCC Alistair Dewhirst for all their efforts and support in this matter.

4) **Report Denbury Primary School Head Teacher – Mr Jamie Stone** – no report given.

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

We had a working party on Nov 14th to smarten up the snooker room and ladies toilets, we had planned to do other areas but we had a very disappointing response to our Ad in the Denbury Dairy so limited to what we could achieve with so few.

New PVC doors have been fitted on the main and back entrances as the old wooden ones became increasingly difficult to shut, making it a real security issue, there was a few teething problems, but this has now been resolved.

We have banned smoking in all outside areas due to cigarette ends being a problem, our booking form includes this new ruling and we have increased our rent to £7.50 per hour.

We have dealt with a leaking toilet, sticking back gate, new lighting tubes, heater repairs and blocked gutters. The wall clock had stopped so was given some maintenance.

The outside area has been looking a little untidy at times, recently the tree was pruned and the hedge cut, but it's been difficult to get someone to come and do regular maintenance, we have now instructed Zoe Allen to keep it under control.

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

6) **Denbury New PARISH Hall Committee** – Acting Chairman: Paul Austin – no report given.

7) **Denbury Playing Field Report** – no report given.

8) **Police Report – PCSO Chris Hurden** – No report given.

9) **Invited Speakers from Village Organisations.**

Mr Jim Peck - Denbury Neighbourhood Watch – no report given.

Denbury Allotments – Mr Ian Hocking reported -

Tenancy agreement timeline.

Late 2014 we were invited by the MoJ to apply for a legal agreement to allow the association to use the land for allotments.

January 2015

- Solicitors instructed

February 2015

- draft agreement received from MoJ solicitors

March 2015

- process seems to stall, Martin Coates of MoJ emails to say he will 'unblock' process.
- 24/03/2015 Martin Coates suggest that we should expect imminent hand over.
- 25/04/2015 Martin Coates suggest completion in 2 weeks.
- 27/03/2015 Phase 1 of allotments site fully approved Martin Coates.
- 2/4/2015 Asbestos management plan induction at prison with Andy Ridd.

April 2015

- 2/04/2014 DTAA committee attend Asbestos Management briefing at Channings Wood with Andy Ridd(NOMS)
- 11&12 April, an open weekend was organised for members to inspect their plots. Once plots were reallocated, only one remained vacant

- 16/04/2015 The agreement is sent to the Sealing office, MoJ solicitors suggest agreement would be signed in 15 to 20 days

May 2015

- 25/05/2015, an additional report has been requested by the MoJ because of 'lingering concerns'.

June 2015

- 2/06/2015 Martin Coates due to meet with the civil servant who will sign the agreement
- 16/06/2015 matter referred to local estates management at NOMS.

November 2015

- Chair of Parish Council receives an email response to an email written in October regarding the allotments. The email states that the MoJ will not be proceeding with the tenancy.
- Dennis Smith(TCC Councillor) meets with Anne Marie Morris and discusses the situation.
- Alistair Dewhurst has made repeated attempts since 27/11/2016 to contact the Prison Governor

December 2015

- Alistair Dewhurst contacts author of email from MoJ to Chair of Parish Council and is referred to a second officer at the MoJ.
- Second MoJ officer rings Alistair D. MoJ officer unaware of who at MoJ has been involved or the events of this case. MoJ officer agrees to contact Martin Coates to discuss events. He has promised to feedback to AD by 11/12/2016
- Association representatives attend PC meeting 7/12/2016 and speak in public time to a supportive PC. PC has the Allotments as an item on their agenda.
- Anne-Marie Morris MP writes to MoJ and The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice, regarding the situation.
- Alistair Dewhurst contacts MoJ requesting correspondence relating to the Allotments under the FOIA

January 2016

- Anne- Marie Morris MP receives a letters from The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice and Andrew Selous MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice. Both letters state that the decision not to grant the tenancy was final.

March 2016

- Anne-Marie Morris MP begins to pursue compensation on behalf of the association.

As of the date of this meeting no official communication regarding the withdrawal of the tenancy agreement has been received directly by officers of the Association from the MoJ. The Association is grateful for the continued support and hard work of Councillor Alistair Dewhirst, Anne- Marie Morris MP and Denbury and Torbryan Parish Council. It is the committee's hope that the Association will continue to exist whilst land is sought for allotments.

Chairman of the May Fayre Committee – No report given.

Mrs Jean Duggan – Denbury Archive Group –

We reported on the 2015 Exhibition last year but we had a follow -up Open Evening in the Church Cottage in May. This was well attended and we had a great deal of interest in the archival material we had displayed. Many people were really fascinated to see the tithe map of 1835. 5 new villagers wished to get involved.

The Devon Rural Archive showed interest in knowing more about our archival resources and hopefully could be a future home for some of our material. We have sent them a comprehensive list.

Meanwhile we are still organising and recording our resources into our own storage boxes.

Mrs M Griffin – Denbury Gardening Club –

I have great pleasure in presenting our Denbury Gardening Club's sixteenth Annual Report. The weather for us gardeners has been very confusing this year with more records broken – the warmest December and the wettest April. The roses were exceptionally good in 2015 but the blooming of Spring flowers has been haphazard. However we are hoping for a colourful display at our Spring Show in April.

A priority this evening is to thank you, our members, for your commitment and loyalty to our Gardening Club. We do value your ideas of ways to improve the club and your positive feedback. We thank you for your many contributions including your support for the raffle and plant stall. We give a special thanks, once again, to Nigel Walters who has generously donated and planted the Village hanging baskets on the Cistern. They make a vibrant display of colour in the centre of our village and we thank John Griffin and Lesley Childs for maintaining them.

My next priority is to thank members of the Committee who have worked so hard throughout the year to maintain our successful club. Jan Harris, our Vice Chair, gives support whenever it is needed and she also manages the intricacies of the Christmas Social menu; Sandra Hyland is our long standing assiduous treasurer; Lesley Childs has taken on the role of programme secretary with enthusiasm; Mary Bishop leads publicity with her Diary entries and colourful posters; Liz Mills runs the raffle and brightens our social occasions with her floral arrangements; Freda Badger and Sue Thomas manage refreshments with extras on special occasions; Mavis Gooding is a founder member. She contacts the judges for our Spring Show and oversees the management of the Spring Show. We want each of them to know how much we value their contributions.

Two changes are proposed for the Committee this year. I am standing down from the Chair for six months whilst I undertake a horticultural course at Rosemoor. Jan Harris will take on the role of Chair with Lesley Childs and Mary Bishop to support her in this. Secondly, as I

have previously highlighted there are two vacancies on the Committee. We are pleased that Monica and Derek Triggol have put their names forward for nomination to the Committee.

Once again we have a sound financial statement as Sandra, our treasurer, will confirm later. However the cost of speakers is increasing and the fee for the hire of the hall has increased. It is with regret that we have raised our membership fee to £10. That is the bad news. The good news is that refreshments will now be complementary. Once again we thank Alan Lambert for his generosity in auditing our accounts.

Our Christmas Social raffle raised £70 and this year everyone on the Committee agreed that this should go towards the restoration of the Denbury Church bells.

Our programme for 2015/2016 has been enjoyable and varied. A highlight was our grand Summer Social with three lovely gardens to wander through followed by supper in the courtyard, all spearheaded by Liz Mills, Sue Thomas and Mary Bishop.

Another important event was our coach trip to the Lost Gardens of Heligan. We were fascinated by the history of the garden and were delighted with the layout and skilful planting in the grounds. I especially remember the wild flower meadow ablaze with corn marigolds, corn flowers and corn poppies.

We enjoyed talks from some excellent speakers including “World War 1 : From Agriculture to War” with Mick Sutherland Cook and the practical advice from Katherine Crouch on “New tricks for Old Gardeners” - we said, “Not so much of the old thank you!”

In the past year we have met our aims to maintain our membership numbers, to tend the Cistern hanging baskets and the Village Hall troughs and planters. We have made good use of our Village Hall screen. For the next year one thing we aim to achieve is an email network to provide better communication for our members.

The Gardening Club is for you, our members. Do keep us on our toes by continuing to give us your views and ideas.

Finally on behalf of the Committee I wish you all a good gardening year – **Mary Griffin, Chair.**

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 working committees for their hard work and commitment over the past year.

It is my sad duty to report that we have not been able to generate interest in the planning, fund raising and future construction of a new parish hall. The Trustees have therefore come to the conclusion that rather than limp along with a barely active NPH Committee, excepting of course Paul Austin's commitment to the maintenance and upkeep of the site, the development of the New Hall should be put aside until new interest can be generated within the Parish. We were conscious of the fact that the Church is actively raising funds for the bells in which many of us are involved and that the Parish Council is raising grants to

construct a pavilion on the playing fields. At a recent meeting the Trustees agreed the following policy in the circumstances:

“In view of the various projects being undertaken in the Village, e.g. new church bells, playing fields pavilion, it has been decided to put the NPH project on the back burner for the time being. This will be until such time as there is positive and active support from the village for the construction and funding for a new hall.

In the meantime responsibility for the maintenance of the NPH site will rest with the Multicourt Committee with the support of the School who are the main users.”

Thus the NPH Committee will be discontinued although the Trustees will continue to review the situation and revive the work when it is judged interest can be regenerated. We will also continue to attempt to have dialogue with our present Hall landlords, the Church Commissioners' representatives, with the objective of extending the present Village Hall lease which has some 12 years left.

On a brighter note our present Village Hall interior, in my opinion , has never looked so good thanks to Chair Clare Head and her committee encouraging many of us to get stuck into decorating parties – its surprising what we can achieve on a Saturday morning!

Similarly the Multicourt goes from strength to strength thanks to the hard work of Nick Roberts and his committee. Tony Lentern did some sterling work tidying up the NPH site earlier in the year and we have asked him to continue with this work as needed. We also hope the school will assist in funding a better surface on the car park and the approach. They are the biggest users of the site which they have had for free for some considerable time. Without this facility there would be chaos outside the School at start and finish times

With the demise of the WI Penny Stinton could no longer be a Trustee representing that organisation, she therefore decided to step down. I would like to express my thanks to her for her help, good counsel and advice to me in some awkward situations over the years, her local government experience and general good sense was invaluable.

Thanks also to Keith Wakeham for kindly auditing our accounts again this year.

On a personal note, I have been associated with the Trust and NPH activities for many years and Chair for 5 years . I think that it needs someone different to progress the Trust's activities, particularly in respect of a NPH, I have therefore decided not to put my name forward this year as Chair but am happy to continue as a trustee if you will have me.

Many thanks for the support many of you have given me over the past years.

Dr Sally Roberts - Ladies Netball Team – no report given.

Nick Roberts – Chairman Multicourt Committee – No report given.

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

Judy Foster Turner – Denbury Pre-School –

Pre School runs every morning from the Village Hall. We are a staff team of three and a parent committee team of many more! We are registered to provide care and education for

20 twenty children per day. At Pre school we follow the standards laid down in the Early Years Foundation stage to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. As early year providers we aim to guide the development of children's capabilities to ensure that they are ready for school transition and to benefit from the opportunities that lie ahead of them. Ofsted has rated us good in all areas of provision.

Currently we have 18 children on our books, which does put us in the red for the year. Without the continued support and hard work of our amazing team of parents actively fundraising Pre school would not survive. So a huge thank you to you all, past and present and thank you also to all the villagers who come out and support our events!

Rodney Cleave – Parish Snow Warden – Nothing to report, a very mild year with no snow.

11)Annual Report to all Parishioners - This to now go out again this year in May 2016 in the form of the Annual Parish Minutes in the Denbury Diary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm