

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY, 17 APRIL 2018, AT 8 PM**

Present: Cllrs John Thorne (in the chair), David Barlow, Gavin Brake, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Rosalind Buxton (clerk) and 17 members of the public

1 Devon Air Ambulance

A volunteer from the Devon Air Ambulance Trust, Simon Card, gave a very interesting talk. In 1986 the teenage son of a woman called Ann Thomas was fatally injured when he was knocked off his bike. Having been told that the sooner a person received medical help, the better their chances of survival, Ann launched an appeal in her son's memory to raise funds for an air ambulance. Six years later, in 1992, Devon's Air Ambulance flew its first mission. It has now flown in excess of 25,000 missions. In 2014 the Charity became completely independent after it was granted an Air Operating Certificate by the Civil Aviation Authority so it is an airline in its own right. It receives no Government funding and each mission costs at least £3,500. As it does not receive Government funding, it is not subject to Government cuts. The huge sum of £6.4m is needed every year to keep the helicopters flying. Working with communities throughout Devon, the Trust has established a network of landing sites which has enabled the helicopters to fly until midnight since 2016. The Trust relies heavily on donations and the commitment of volunteers. All those present were most appreciative of the very important service that the Trust provides. John Thorne thanked Simon for his very interesting and informative talk.

2 Welcome

John Thorne welcomed everyone to the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting for Luppitt.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs David Key (EDDC), Tom Nancarrow, Christine Ryder, Mrs A Fry

4 Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 3 May 2017

It was proposed by Mr Piechowiak, seconded by Brian Pulman and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 3 May 2017, were signed as a correct record of that meeting.

5 Chairman of the Parish Council's Annual Report

We have had 11 Parish Council meetings and one Planning meeting since the last Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2017. All our meetings are open to the public and it would be nice to see more residents attending.

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council, I was elected as Chairman and Gavin Brake was elected as Vice-Chairman and I should like to thank Gavin for chairing meetings in my absence.

There have been 20 planning applications including one seeking planning approval for the construction of a slurry lagoon at Higher Wick that proved very contentious. The Parish Council objected to this application outlining in detail the many concerns it had over the viability of the project, the possibility of an environmental catastrophe and the safety of the structure.

Roger Hicks has continued to work on Luppitt's Neighbourhood Plan and has produced a first consultation draft. A very successful open meeting was held in the Village Hall on 21 March when Roger gave an interesting and informative presentation. Several people expressed a wish to join the Steering Group. It has been agreed to hold a Steering Group meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 2 May. An Agenda will be sent out to existing members of the Steering Group and new members, but anyone is welcome to come along.

Roger is giving another presentation to the Parish Council at 7 pm on Tuesday, 1 May. Any member of the public who would like to attend will be very welcome. Our Parish Council meeting will follow at 8 pm.

The condition of our roads remains a priority. We have been successful in applying for grants totalling £5,190 from the Highway Community Maintenance Enhancement Fund. This has been used towards the following projects: Shelf Lane, Hillend to Sharcombe, Coombeshead to Ringborough Cross and major repairs near Moorlands Lane.

We were granted just over £400 from the Parishes Together Fund which has been used towards the extensive ditch clearing work that has been carried out in the parish. I would like to personally thank Andrew Tucker for all his hard work throughout the parish.

During the recent snowfall, Andrew went out and cleared the roads to make it safer and easier to move throughout the parish. He does this as a resident on a voluntary basis.

Chris Tottle continues to look after the play area at Millrise and we are grateful to him for his efforts.

Our 2 defibrillators are in place – one outside the Village Hall and one outside Lowmans Farm, near Red Doors. They are checked weekly by the clerk.

The precept remained unchanged at £11,000. The Council Tax Discount Grant from EDDC was reduced this year to £106 and will disappear completely next year.

Donations from the precept totalling £645.00 were given as follows:

- TRIP – 2 payments of £55.00 (for 2016/17 and 2017/18)
- British Heart Foundation - £50.00
- Luppitt Children's Christmas Party - £150.00
- East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau - £55.00
- Royal British Legion - £20.00
- Devon Air Ambulance - £100.00
- Luppitt Packet - £160.00

I should like to welcome Christine Ryder as our new Parish Councillor. Christine has a wide business experience that I am sure will be beneficial to the Parish Council.

Christine fills the place left by Derek Hooper who passed away last year. Derek became a Parish Councillor in June 1979 and served as Chairman from May 1985 until May 1999. He was also Chairman from May 2007 until May 2008. He served on the Parish Council for nearly 40 years and his contribution and knowledge are greatly missed.

We welcome a new County Councillor, Iain Chubb, who succeeded Paul Diviani and a new PCSO Darren England who replaced PCSO Phil Anning. Phil resigned in December 2017 and is now part of the Enforcement Department at EDDC.

I should like to thank our District Councillor, David Key, and all the Parish Councillors for their support over the past year. Finally, I should like to give special thanks to Rosalind, our Parish Clerk, for her hard work during the year.

6 Reports

Report from District Councillor

There was no report.

Report from County Councillor

Iain Chubb's report is copied below and was read out by the clerk.

Roads

There is a further four and a half million pounds is to be spent on tackling the potholes on Devon's roads. This is on top of the money already given by the government to Devon county council from the Pothole Action Fund earlier this year; this £4.4 million is for pothole and storm damage repairs to the county's roads. During the recent bad weather the resources were stretched to the limit for gritters and snow ploughs, however the majority of main roads were kept open and the clear up was reasonably quick.

Health

Devon County Councillors have voted to stop plans to change the way the health care service in Devon is being run. Proposals by NEW Devon CCG and DCC would have seen an integrated health and care system implemented from April 1. It would see commissioners and NHS providers working closely with GPs and councils who agree to take shared responsibility for how they operate their collective resources for the benefit of local populations.

Broadband

The CDS programme is the largest of its kind in England. It is supported with funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the EU's European Regional Development Fund, the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership and local authorities, including Devon County Council, across the region.

Since the start of the partnership between local authorities in Devon and Somerset, the Government and BT in 2013, a quarter of a million miles of optical fibre has been laid, enough to circle the Earth ten times

CDS connects some of the hardest to reach communities in England, where the commercial market will not provide the infrastructure. CDS does this by awarding public subsidised contracts to companies through competitive tender to build the infrastructure needed, such as fibre cables or wireless masts. CDS is only able to invest where suppliers have no declared and credible plans to invest their own resources to extend their networks.

CDS does not fund actual internet services available via the web, that is a role for commercial Internet Service Providers or ISPs.

Summary for Devon County Council

Figures in parentheses include Exeter

Total premises: 341,500 (402,400)

i.e. the number of homes or businesses in the area

- CDS superfast achieved: 143,100 (144,600) premises
- CDS superfast planned: 37,600 (38,500) premises
- Commercial superfast provided: 135,800 (193,300) premises
- Commercial planned: 4100 (4100) premises
- Total delivered or planned: 316,800 (376,000) premises
- Remaining: 24,600 (26,300) premises

I recently attended a tour of the Exeter waste to energy plant at Marsh Barton, I asked many searching questions to the lead officer at DCC about waste disposal and charges at the local recycling centres; the tour was very enlightening and I can report that East Devon is the top performer in recycling in Devon and when we collect the green waste later in the year the figures will rise considerably.

Report from Village Hall Committee

Brian Pulman said they have had another successful year. It is important to encourage as many local people as possible to come and support the events that are arranged. The slide outside the Village Hall has been removed. It was not safe and had come to the end of its life. The area has been re-seeded. The defibrillator has been positioned outside the Village Hall. There had been a small fire in the electricity box that had not only affected the electricity supply but had also caused a water leak in the kitchen. Repairs were made in very difficult conditions. The smart meter had been the cause of the problem and there is still an issue with the electricity provider, E.on. Brian passed on his thanks to Steve Berry for his help and support in dealing with E.on.

Report from Commoners

Gavin Brake gave the following report.

Our 10-year Higher Level Stewardship agreement covering Hense Moor Common ended in November 2017. Over its 10-year life, this agreement provided funding to improve and fence the Hense Moor SSSI. Natural England regard the HLS agreement as a success, and, looking ahead, we are now hoping to be one of the very first areas to enter into a new 10-year Countryside Stewardship agreement which is anticipated to commence very shortly. The new agreement will cover Hense Moor and Hartridge, but not Luppitt Common, which doesn't score enough points to be worth including. Luppitt Common will therefore remain outside of any agreements for now. The new Countryside Stewardship agreement is expected to be for 10 years. The obligations under the new agreement remain demanding and in many respects are similar to, or greater than, the requirements under HLS. We will need to improve areas of rough grassland, manage the areas of lowland heath, continue to clear and manage bracken, gorse and scrub, and continue to graze effectively with cattle. In addition, we have new obligations concerning woodland areas and a management plan has been agreed with the Forestry Commission.

Regarding the Ramblers' claims for new public footpaths to be added to the Definitive Map, the Trustees have been generally neutral on this process, given that the Commons are already Open Access Land under the Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000). Regarding Gigaclear and Wayleaves, the Trustees are aiming to be helpful and constructive, but insist that all proper procedures are followed regarding buried cables.

Report from Police

There was no report.

7 Questions

- A parishioner mentioned that there had been tipping lorries in the village over the last couple of days. He was assured that the work had finished and the landowner had ensured that only one lorry had travelled on the road at a time. John Thorne thanked the landowner for his co-operation and care.
- A member of the public asked whether there was a fire alarm in the Village Hall taking into account the recent fire in the electricity box. Brian Pulman undertook to raise the matter with the Village Hall committee.
- There was a general discussion about the work being carried out throughout the parish by Gigaclear. There is concern about the cable not being laid deeply enough in the ditches. The Parish Council has passed on its worries to Highways who have the same concerns. John Thorne was careful to stress that the provision of fast and reliable Broadband is a definite asset for the village but the work that is being carried out may result in added problems in the future. Some landowners present discussed their experience with Gigaclear and wayleaves over their land.

There were no further questions. John Thorne thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.