

# LOXHORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

[www.loxhore.org.uk](http://www.loxhore.org.uk)

## Minutes

Date: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Venue: Loxhore Village Hall

Present: Mike Matthews {Chairman}  
David Smith {Vice Chairman}  
Carole Delve {Councillor}  
Julie Moir {Councillor}  
Syd Delve {Treasurer}  
Mike Bowden {Parishioner}  
Ray Comer {Parishioner}  
Murray Sharpe {Planning Applicant}  
Dani Sharpe {Planning Applicant}

Minuted by: Priscilla Gellatly {Acting Clerk}

The Chairman opened the meeting at 18:00, welcoming all those present.

1. Apologies: There were apologies from Andrea Davis.
2. Declarations of interest: There were none.
3. All councillors present agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were a true and accurate record of that spoken and the Chairman signed accordingly.

4.0	<b><u>Action points from previous meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018</u></b>	
4.1	4.1 Local Needs Survey (see also 16 <sup>th</sup> November §4.0) There was no update because the Rural Alliance is still awaiting a decision on the Lottery funding. See also §7.2.	Open
4.2	4.4 Planning Application 64005 Primrose Cottage, Loxhore (see also 16 <sup>th</sup> November §5.4) MP was not present to give an update so this item remains open.	Open



- Devon residents received £161 per person less Government funding than their urban counterparts.
- Public Health, Devon got £35 per person compared with a national average of £57.
- If Devon received average funding under those three headings, there would be an additional £211 million available for services.
- When it comes to capital funding for transport infrastructure, the South West is the second lowest funded in the country and for every £100 spent in the South East, the South West region receives £7.50

But, for 2017/18, the county council would still be spending £477 million on services. There would be an increase of £13 million in the budget for adult care and health and £6.5 million extra for children's services to reflect increased demand.

There would also be a one-off sum of £6.5 million made available for highways, drainage and patching.

The Council has decided to accept the Government's offer of an increase of two per cent in council tax to help fund adult social care and health on top of the 2.99 per cent for general services.

With reduced Government support and increased demand and cost pressures on adult social care and health and children's services, we need the certainty of income to protect services as caring for the elderly and disabled together with children, are our highest priorities.

Against this background, there will be an increase this year of 4.99 per cent which will provide £18 million of additional funding.

This represents an increase of £63.27 on a Band D property or £1.22 a week, making it £1,331.19.

Longevity, which is very welcome, creates a whole set of new problems to deal with and the Government needs to make more resources available. It is no good the Government reducing support on one hand and expecting local government to raise the additional funds locally on the other.

### **Safety defects**

The unfortunate normal spiking of potholes after Christmas has again happened this year, with just over 7700 dealt with in January. The number of gangs has equally been increased to deal with the increase in numbers.

*A reminder of how to report a highway problem.....*

*<https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>*

*Phone 0345 155 1004 or 0845 155 1004*

### **Major waste contract in North Devon and Torridge awarded to Suez**

Devon County Council (DCC) has awarded a long-term contract to process residual waste collected from households in North Devon and Torridge to SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK.

The ten-year contract will run from February 2019 to February 2029 and is worth approximately £60million with an option to extend for a further five years.

It includes the development of a new waste transfer station at Brynsworthy. Work on the new facility will start this year and once completed will manage more than 40,000 tonnes of residual household waste annually for processing. The new facility will also manage a further 3500 tonnes of residual waste collected from six county council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) every year.

	<p>Once the transfer station is operational in 2019 the residual waste will be processed at the Severnside Energy Recovery Centre near Bristol.</p> <p>SUEZ is currently contracted to operate 18 of DCC's HWRCs and two of its waste transfer stations.</p> <p>We are pleased to be working with SUEZ to deliver a new waste transfer station in the North Devon and Torridge area which will enable waste that is currently landfilled to be bulked up and processed to produce energy. This will mean that from February 2019 all but a small fraction of Devon's household waste that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted will have been diverted away from landfill and used to generate energy for the national grid.</p> <p><b>Killacleave Recycling Centre in Ilfracombe upgrade</b></p> <p>Out will be the concrete cobbles, and in will be extensive resurfacing of smooth concrete container areas, tarmac surfacing and associated drainage works.</p> <p>Large concrete pads around the outside of the space will mark the new locations for the bins – changing the layout from a gyratory circle around the central row of bins, to a new more spacious and leisurely route that optimises manoeuvrability.</p> <p>But the site's not large enough for the work to happen while the recycling centre's open. There is not enough space and it wouldn't be safe. So for as minimum a period as possible, the Council is curtailing the site's opening hours to weekends only, with the improvement works being carried out throughout the week while it's closed.</p> <p><i>The work will begin on Monday 19 February, and the site is expected to fully reopen on Friday 6 April. It will operate normal opening hours at the weekends, but because space is an issue, it'll be a basic service for general non-recyclable waste, metal, cardboard and wood and garden waste only.</i></p> <p>All other waste, such as batteries, plastics, oil, electrical equipment, fridges, TVs, glass, fluorescent tubes, gas bottles, paper, soil/rubble, textiles, tyres, and such like, will have to be disposed of in other ways, either via the kerbside recycling collections (see <a href="http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-goes-in-your-binorbag/">http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-goes-in-your-binorbag/</a> for what can be accepted), or taken to Barnstaple's Seven Brethren Recycling Centre, or Maclins Quarry Recycling Centre in South Molton.</p> <p>End of AD's report.</p> <p>MP was not present so there was no NDC news.</p>	Closed						
5.3	<p>Clerk's Expenses</p> <p>Clerk's expenses for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="225 1496 1077 1608"> <tr> <td>Broadband 01.01.18 – 31.03.18 (receipt provided)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second class stamp – precept acceptance form 5<sup>th</sup> Jan</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 0.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£36.56</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>These expenses were agreed and a cheque for £36.56 was given to the Clerk.</p>	Broadband 01.01.18 – 31.03.18 (receipt provided)	£36.00	Second class stamp – precept acceptance form 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	£ 0.56	<b>Total</b>	<b>£36.56</b>	Closed
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<b>Total</b>	<b>£36.56</b>							
5.4	<p>Parish Paths Partnership</p> <p>CB was not present but had submitted the following P3 report:</p> <p>Simon Houghton from Devon County Parish Paths Partnership has been out this morning (30/01/18) to look at a few issues with the footpaths. We looked at the following:</p> <p>Long Pot Lane from Bales Farm up to Cott Hill – whilst there was some water damage, the track is not too bad so Simon concluded other than looking at the state of some of the signs there was nothing practical that could be done to improve the lane. I gather that Simon had received a report about potholes but was not too concerned.</p>							

The path from Corner Cottage to Hammonds in Lower Loxhore. Despite the fact that this path is rarely used Simon was keen to get it viable again. He is proposing repairing or replacing the outer gate at Corner Cottage and making sure the fencing is adequate. He would prefer to completely removing the inner gate which is rusted through. He then proposed putting two sleepers across the stream with a handrail to provide a bridge with suitably long (1m) pegs to hold it in place. Finally a new sign is needed at the start of the path at Hammonds. This work is of less urgency than other matters, so I have suggested that this be looked at again later in the year.

We also looked at the sign from the Methodist Chapel towards Hammonds which is getting loose. It is close to a water main so Simon suggested relocating it to the ground beside the phone box where it would be more visible.

There is a gate post leading out from Coombe into the woods which is rotted leaving the gate in a dangerous state which he will arrange to replace.

We walked up the track from Lower Loxhore to Roborough. The path has been badly scoured out above the barns. There is no real solution to stop further erosion as there is nowhere else for the water to go, but Simon plans on getting a mini-digger in to drag material back up the lane and smooth it out again.

The final 2 items are more contentious.

We followed Red Lane from Roborough to the lane to Loxhore Mill below Peter & Kim Seggons barns. This part of the track is again very rutted with very deep mud at the bottom. Again Simon suggest using the digger to try to smooth the path as much as possible and get rid of the mud and see what can be done to divert the water pooling at the bottom of the lane. We were also concerned by the water running off from the barns which is clearly very brown so is being contaminated presumably from runoff from the animals in the barns.

The final issue was the path leading across the fields from the lane to Hill towards Loxhore Mill. Where the path enters the wood, water is channelled off the field straight down the footpath causing serious erosion. Phil Delve has repaired this on a number of occasions but is anxious to come to some more permanent solution. It would be quite possible to divert the water to continue into the next field and continue down the hill. Both fields are owned by Peter & Kim and we would need their agreement.

Following comments from councillors pointing out that the Seggons have previously been contacted about the run-off onto Red Lane, we need to agree the best way to approach them.

In terms of cost, I am hopeful that the gate at Coombe can be repaired within the funds we currently hold under the P3 budget. Simon estimates that the cost of grading the paths will be around £500 and the work on the footpath from Hill to Loxhore Mill to divert the water will be £200. I have a grant application for further funds which I will submit to Ros Davies tomorrow (02/03/18) if agreed.

End of CB's report.

The report was discussed by the Parish Councillors.

Regarding the effluent from Hillsborough House, MM recalled that this was originally dealt with many years ago, when Keith Luckhurst was Clerk (i.e. prior to November 2005). At this time the Environment Agency contacted Kim and Peter Seggons with the result that walls were built, the yard was cleared and the problem was solved. However, things have deteriorated and again there is runoff from the dung heaps down onto the

	<p>footpath. The Parish Council has no statutory powers to deal with this and it would have to be taken on either by Simon Houghton or the Environment Agency.</p> <p>JM reported that there are heaps of possibly unsterilised sewage in Joe Watts' field up Bratton Lane. The smell (similar to the smell of dead animals) is getting stronger – Mike Bowden has also smelt it in Halsey Lake. Some years ago the same thing happened and eventually Jeremy Mann and the Environment Agency dealt with it. Ray Comer said that if this type of sewage is put onto a field it must be ploughed in within 24 hours. This has clearly not happened. JM was asked to take some photos and to contact Jeremy Mann to report this environmental nuisance. PG will refer back to the course of events last time.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>JM</p>
6.0	<p><b>Treasurer's report</b></p> <p>The Treasurer did not give a written report but said that he had received £168 from NDC for the TAP funding. He had written two cheques: £36.56 for Clerk's expenses (see §5.3) and £150 for Jim Barr to cover his Lengthsman work. However Jim Barr had refused to accept the payment because he is now using tools owned by the PC rather than his own tools and he no longer wants to be paid for his time. The Parish Council reluctantly accepted his request and expressed its great gratitude for this generous gesture, which benefits the whole community.</p>	Closed
7.0	<b>Chairman's Business</b>	
7.1	<p>Road Warden Agreement</p> <p>DS had received an email from Lucy Barrow (Highway Services Manager, DCC) on 19<sup>th</sup> February stating that, as previously advised, pothole repairs should not be undertaken unless there is a signed road warden agreement in place. She had checked their files and couldn't find a copy of a signed agreement but noted that Loxhore PC has already undertaken pothole repairs. A valid Road Warden Agreement requires that someone has undergone Chapter 8 training. After some discussion it was agreed that in order to avoid any insurance claims in the event of an accident occurring whilst parishioners are filling potholes or carrying out other work on the roads, the RWA should be entered into. JM will put a piece in the Loxhore Lines asking if anyone in the village would like to undertake the training.</p>	JM
7.2	<p>Local Housing Needs Survey</p> <p>Aurienna Dunbrook (Corporate and Community Services Officer) had sent an email to all Rural Alliance members at the beginning of February with details of a draft survey that has been created to collate information on local housing needs. Parish Councillors were asked to view the draft at <a href="https://surveyMonkey.co.uk/r/Q3BJL8Y">surveyMonkey.co.uk/r/Q3BJL8Y</a> and to address any comments to Frank Benbow (Bratton Fleming) by email at <a href="mailto:f.benbow@btinternet.com">f.benbow@btinternet.com</a>.</p> <p>When the final version has been published it will be circulated via Loxhore Lines to all parishioners for them to complete. See also §4.1.</p>	Open
8.0	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>The Chairman closed the meeting at 19:09, thanking everyone for attending. The AGM and the next normal meeting will be held on the amended date of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 18:00 in the Village Hall.</p>	Closed

Minutes approved by Chairman..... Date .....