

# wa **LOXHORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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

## Minutes

Date: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Venue: Loxhore Village Hall

Present: Chris Bryars {Chair}  
Mike Young {Vice Chair and Clerk}  
Carole Delve {Councillor}  
Jane Vanstone {Councillor}  
Suzanne Smith {Councillor}  
Simon Fox  
Nick Broad

Minutes taken by: Mike Young {Clerk}

The Chair opened the meeting at 18:30.

1. Apologies: Councillors Andrea Davis and Malcolm Prowse
2. Declarations of interest: None
3. The Chair welcomed Councillor Suzanne Smith to her first meeting after she had volunteered and had been co-opted to the Parish Council.
4. All councillors who has been present agreed that the minutes of the AGM and the previous meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were a true and accurate record of that spoken and written. The Chair signed accordingly.

5.0	<b><u>Action points from previous meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021</u></b>	
5.1	<p>Additional potential flooding is possible and potential road closure due to erosion of edge of road near Oak Cottage. Clerk to log the problem on the DCC interactive reporting system which AD informed the PC goes straight to the contractor. Post meeting the clerk did this and DCC reference is W191274282. Response received as Highway's officer had visited. No immediate danger but he will seek funds to strengthen the bank. Clerk will monitor. Further erosion has since occurred and all are urged to upgrade the matter on the Devon Highways website using the reference number above. (5 March 2020) CD has emailed DCC Highways as further erosion. (Nov 2020)</p> <p>The boundary wall of Corner cottage, Lower Loxhore has collapsed into the stream. Clerk to write to owner asking that the debris be removed from the stream to prevent potential flooding problems. MY met Mr Richmond who said that the wall had been collapsed for a few years but he would look at it. His more immediate concern is the undercutting of his boundary by the water from the large pipe under the road issuing into</p>	ALL

	<p>the stream at 90 degrees and eroding his bank. He is thinking of using the Gabion baskets to shore up his land and stop the erosion. Chair also wrote and Mr Richmond's reply is attached annex A. Council discussed the matter and it was stated by the highways councillor that some stones had fallen recently adding to the ones already fallen. Clerk to write to Mr. Richmond accordingly with the County guidelines that clearly state that the landowner is responsible for the hedgerow and any water course along the boundary.</p>	Clerk
5.2	<p>(Nov 2020 Para 7.3) P3 report reminder has come. Report due by February 2021. JV will be walking all paths over next few weeks and documenting any problems including an inventory of signs that cannot be read. P3 have offered stick on replacements and JV has indicated she can affix these to the signs. They have also given contact for contractor who can replace the damaged posts by the Methodist chapel, the pathway sign opposite Mr Baiment's house pointing up to Mr M Batson's house and the one on Loxhore Cott road that leads up to Longpot Lane behind the old quarry. (6 May 2021) JV has submitted the report (attached at Annex A). Financial details have not been completed as the subcontractor has not provided his estimate for the repairs. Signposts have now been fixed successfully after one was mounted the wrong way round. JV meeting soon with P3, Highways and possibly a contractor to discuss gullying on many paths and possible concrete at end of Red Lane. CB will ask Mike Matthews if he would consider planting a hedgerow along his/Tom Matthews boundary to help with preventing erosion and spoil coming down Bratton Lane.</p> <p>JV mentioned that she has been made aware of a possible old footpath near the church that might be resurrected. She is waiting for the old maps to be presented and will report back to council. She has also been informed of discourteous bike behaviour on one bridleway where it crosses a farm yard. This will be monitored. (July 2021) DCC have not yet held the meeting above, JV will chase them again re meeting and extra signpost facias as not enough were sent. CB has yet to contact Mike Matthews but will do so. JV has had nothing further on old footpath nor the bikers.</p>	CB JV
5.3	<p>(March 2020 para 7.2) Clerk asked if efforts could be made to find a Parish Clerk again as he is due to take the chair in May and cannot do Chair and Clerk July. (Nov 2020) Efforts continue to find a Parish Clerk. MY will not now be taking chair until May 2021 at the earliest. The potential candidate that the clerk had approached has declined. All to see if they can identify a candidate. (6 May 2021) As CB has kindly offered to remain as chair, MY can continue as clerk but we do need to find someone for this duty. All please continue to canvas a likely candidate, (Does not have to be a parishioner)</p>	ALL
5.4	<p>(May 2021) Councillor Young raised the fact that yet again the Parish has been subjected to a nauseous and noxious stench from the spreading of human waste by Mr Joe Watts, a farmer from Goodleigh who works the fields above Lower Loxhore. (These fields naturally slope down towards Lower Loxhore so any run off affects residents back gardens) The clerk had immediately advised NDDC who responded 2 days later and stated that NDDC Environment is only responsible for smell nuisance complaints and that 2/3 days is not considered a nuisance! They advised we should go direct to the Environment Agency regarding run off and contamination. Mrs Carol White had tried DEFRA who referred her to Trading Standards who then tried to refer her back to DEFRA!!!! The clerk will liaise with the EA in future. Council discussed this practice and felt that in this age of environmental awareness that it should cease. The citizens of Goodleigh are subjected to the same by the same farmer. When the farmer does not follow the strict rules about storage and ploughing in, by the time any agency responds and visits it is too late. Residents have lost ponds full of fish due to run-off contamination. Councillors discussed and unanimously agreed that we should appeal to our County and Local District Councillors as well as our MP to urge that the law be changed to stop the use of human waste in agriculture. Clerk will also inform Goodleigh Parish Clerk of our actions. Post meeting clerk has written to all accordingly. (July 2021) Clerk received a detailed reply from our MP with comments from DEFRA and an</p>	

	attachment from the Environment agency. Sadly, the gist is that the practice will increase due to government environment targets. The spreading needs to be monitored to ensure compliance with rules which include, only spreading during growing season and not for food crops. Correspondence is attached at Annex B. Council asked Clerk to promulgate the contact numbers for the EA and to urge any parishioner to report breaches of the law with regard to this practice. Post meeting the clerk did this through the Loxhore e-news.	Closed
5.5	(May 2021) The clerk received a request from Poppy and Amalia Challacombe of Horseshoe barn Lower Loxhore for admin support to obtain funding for their project to tidy up, plant apple trees and provide a picnic seat at the orchard at the bottom of the village hall grounds. The clerk agreed to help. The Parish Council needs to be involved as any grant from NDDC or a Councillor has to be paid via the parish Council. On advice from the clerk the young ladies wrote a business plan and following written confirmation from the Village Hall Committee that they fully support the plan this was submitted to Councillors Davis and Prowse. Both are amenable to helping but Councillor Davis cannot, at this time as any funds are frozen due to the election for County Councillors. Councillor Prowse offered two possibilities either his discretionary fund and/or a climate and environment grant from NDDC. This was discussed. It was suggested that the proposed cherry trees do not do well and that an alternative be planned. JV will liaise with the young ladies. It was also tabled that the grant committee can put a management plan caveat on the grant so that the grass, which is currently mowed regularly be allowed to grow around the orchard to improve the natural environment. The recommendation is that the application be made by the clerk to the NDDC climate and environment grant committee. Should the whole amount not be approved Councillor Prowse said he could fund any delta. Clerk applied but the grant application was not approved due to the technicality that the money could not be paid to the non-owner of the land, Therefore, on advice, clerk forwarded all the information to the village hall chair and treasurer for them to apply for the grant. SS confirmed that this has been done.	Closed
6.0	<b><u>Matters arising from meeting dated 6 May 2021</u></b>	
6.1	<p>County Council News. Andrea Davis could not attend but sent the following update:  Peninsula transport- Shaping the future of Transport across the South West I would be very grateful if the Parish Council would consider responding to the consultation, please. it would be good to hear from residents and businesses too so please do share the message.</p> <p>Peninsula Transport is the shadow sub-national transport body (STB), bringing together the five lead transport authorities in the Peninsula (Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay) to work directly with the Department for Transport (DfT) on the strategic transport priorities for the region. Formed in 2018, it is a partnership established to transform transport and boost economic growth for the Peninsula. The work of Peninsula Transport considers the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient road and rail networks to support connectivity to its key markets in the Midlands, the north of England, London and international gateways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Southampton as well as access to our regional airports and ports</li> <li>• Impact of technology and innovation in supporting our urban and rural mobility challenges</li> <li>• Infrastructure investment needed to unlock housing development and create accessible enterprise areas</li> <li>• Take a regional lead in the transition to decarbonisation of the strategic transport network</li> </ul> <p>The first priority for Peninsula Transport is the development of a regional transport strategy, which plans and prioritises strategic infrastructure across the peninsula over the next thirty years. As part of this work, Peninsula Transport has produced a high-level vision document setting out the goals that will ultimately define the overall direction and principles of the full regional transport strategy. The high-level vision will be consulted on throughout the summer into September to ensure that the vision is shared with those across the peninsula and determine if the goals meet the needs of those using the network.</p> <p>Vison and Goals  The key challenge for the Peninsula is to strengthen strategic links to keep pace with the rest of the UK,</p>	Closed

reinforcing connectivity and maximising opportunities to boost productivity. Transport is a vital part of everyday life and therefore a transport strategy needs to be bold and ambitious, delivering a transport system that works for people, businesses and the planet.

The vision for the peninsula is: “transforming transport across the peninsula, enabling our society and economy to thrive and our unique and outstanding environment to flourish.”

The vision is underpinned by the following five goals:

- We will improve connections between people, businesses, and places
- We will enhance resilience of the transport network
- We will deliver affordable, zero-emissions transport for everyone
- We will help to improve the health and wellbeing of communities in the peninsula
- We will help the peninsula to be a great place to live and work

The Consultation

The consultation will open week commencing 12th July and will close week ending 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

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

What happens next?

Once the consultation has closed, Peninsula Transport will use the feedback to inform the full strategy. A number of supporting studies are either underway or planned to support the transport strategy and our website will be updated as the programme progresses. We expect to publish our transport strategy in 2022, setting out our proposals for the delivery a transport system that works best for people, businesses and the planet. The consultation is on the website: [www.peninsulatransport.org.uk](http://www.peninsulatransport.org.uk) or you can contact us by emailing [info@peninsulatransport.org.uk](mailto:info@peninsulatransport.org.uk)

Multi-million-pound drive to combat holiday hunger in Devon

More families in Devon are eligible for free school meals for their children than ever before, with numbers soaring during the coronavirus pandemic to the highest levels on record. Around a further 3,300 children became eligible for free school meals between January 2020 and January 2021, rising to a total of approximately 17,000 during the last term, which equates to nearly 16 per cent of all school children across Devon. Over the past year, Devon County Council has invested nearly £3.1 million on providing over 82,000 supermarket vouchers for families who qualify for free school meals so their children don't go hungry over the school holidays. That scheme is operating again over the summer, with vouchers worth £15 per child per week of the summer holiday being sent to families to help them buy food to replace the meals their child would have received at school during term-time. The length of summer holidays differs from school to school so the vouchers are worth £75, £90 or £105 (£15 per child per week) depending on how many weeks each child has off. They can be redeemed in major supermarkets across Devon and arrangements are in place for families who cannot get to a supermarket. If you didn't previously qualify for free school meals but your income has reduced or stopped, the quickest and easiest way for your eligibility to be assessed is through the Devon County Council website and you will get an instant decision.

Alternatively, contact Devon County Council's education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

More information about the free school meals holiday voucher scheme is available on Devon County Council's website.

#BackTheFuture with £40k for climate related projects

Devon County Council has made £40,000 funding available through the #BackTheFuture initiative, which will help individuals, community groups and organisations to make their planet-positive ideas a reality. Residents are encouraged to submit their ideas by Thursday 29 July at 7.00pm, after which, ten successful projects will be chosen to receive specialist support to crowdfund their idea and get a share of the match funding from Devon County Council.

Crowdfunder is a powerful online fundraising tool that allows projects to coordinate activity in one place as well as raise awareness within their local community and even further afield. If you need some inspiration for your crowdfunding idea, a recording of the #BackTheFuture live event is available on YouTube.

Funding available to help Devon's communities reconnect, rebuild and recover Community-led facilities and activities, like many things, were quickly suspended during the onset of the national coronavirus lockdown. As the country begins to return to some degree of normality, Devon County Council is keen to help local communities get back to doing the things they love safely and confidently, so we have created a special fund to support them. The Reconnect Rebuild Recover Community Fund will provide grant funding of up to £1,000 for smaller projects and between £1,000 and £3,000 for larger projects that help local people to reconnect, rebuild and recover their community-led facilities and/or social activities.

It will support community-led initiatives that:

- encourage a range of people to participate in activities that

	<p>improve their physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide safe community-led transportation links and services which encourage and help people to re-connect and re-socialise safely within their communities</li> <li>• encourage people to develop skills and learning through volunteering their time, knowledge and expertise to help and support the facilities and/or social activity and the people using them</li> </ul> <p>You can find out more, including how to apply, on the Devon County Council website.  Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council  The link below may be of interest to residents with the situation changing and many interested in what is happening locally this link is a useful starting point for questions and the current situation in Devon.  The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.  <a href="https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/">https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/</a></p> <p>Reminder about reporting a highway problem:  <a href="https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/">https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/</a>  telephone: 0345 155 1004</p>	
6.2	<p><b>District Council News. Councillor Prowse could not attend but sent the following update:</b>  Just by way of an update on some of the projects I am heading up as the Lead Member for Economic Regeneration &amp; Strategic Planning, the team are delivering a huge package of initiatives to help revitalise the economy of North Devon. The total value of these projects is some £35m providing jobs and facilities for the community.</p> <p><b>7 Brethren – Barnstaple</b>  The new Leisure Centre is now well on its way alongside the existing Tennis Centre – a partnership between North Devon Council and our private provider Parkwood Leisure, who acting as the main contractor. The £15m build is on time and within budget – a remarkable position with a backdrop of the pandemic.  A planning application has just been lodged for the old Leisure Centre site and 7 Brethren for 180 residential units including some retirement homes and a good proportion of affordable housing for local folk. North Devon Council has secured £2m funding help from the Government via Homes England to deliver a quality riverside development.</p> <p><b>Future High Streets Fund</b>  Preparatory work is now well advanced on the plans to re-vamp the Pannier Market, redevelop the derelict properties on Boutport Street and fully pedestrianize Cross Street and Butchers Row. The total project is worth £11m and the Council have now completed the purchase of the building and ‘hoarding frontage’ to allow a new access to Bear Street Car Park. There will be a new access off Alexandra Road to the Bear Street/Queen Street car parks, utilising the £6.5m government grant.</p> <p><b>Watersports Centre – Ilfracombe</b>  Work is now well underway on the new Centre at Larkstone. When complete the venue will bring all the water-based clubs together, act as a nautical training centre and an exciting new visitor attraction in what was the quiet corner of the harbour. This will underpin what has been a good summer so far for the tourism industry and Ilfracombe in particular.</p> <p><b>New North Devon &amp; Torridge Local Plan</b>  The process has started to update the Local Plan. We are struggling to meet ridiculous central government targets – there has been a lot about the problems we face in the local media. Nevertheless, there seems to be a new planning regime on the way and we must be ready to get the balance right between development and the stunning local environment. I have the job of chairing a joint group of North Devon and Torridge Councillors to complete the task by the end of 2023.</p> <p><b>Finances</b>  The end of the financial year (April 2021) saw North Devon Council with a budget surplus of £500,000 a remarkable achievement in such a difficult year. Wisely, the Council is looking to keep 350k in a Covid contingency (I’m sure we haven’t seen the end of “special measures” and pressure for the local authorities to intervene. Another 118k is to go into an economic development reserve to encourage jobs and regeneration and 50k into an Environment Initiatives Fund; this will be welcomed by our new ‘Climate Emergency’ officer, she is jointly employed by us and Torridge and comes with a wealth of experience working within government and for the Environment Agency.</p>	Closed
7.0	<b>Finance</b>	
7.1	Treasurers Report 01-04-21 to 05-07-21	Year to Date FY to 31 Mar 2021

	Bank balance 01.04.20	7,139.09	6,833.52	
	<b>INCOME</b>			
	N.D.D.C. - Precept	425.00	850.00	
	HMRC - VAT refund	50.66	124.61	
	Devon C.C. - P3 Partnership	0.00	240.00	
	Devon C.C. - Grant for insurance	0.00	177.00	
	N.D.D.C. - Community Support Group	<u>0.00</u>	<u>495.00</u>	
		<u>475.66</u>	<u>1,886.61</u>	
		7,614.75	8,720.13	
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
	DALC subscription	49.00	52.00	
	Clerk's expenses	0.00	300.56	
	Insurance	0.00	172.41	
	Repairs to Village Phonebox	0.00	0.00	
	Village Hall - Maintenance grant	0.00	104.00	
	P.C.C. - Burial ground grant	0.00	200.00	
	Loxhore Village Broadband CIC	0.00	250.00	
	Barnstaple Records Office	0.00	50.00	
	Citizens Advice	0.00	50.00	
	Highway Maintenance Fund	25.83	0.00	
	P3 Footpath maintenance	250.00	200.00	
	Community Support Group	0.00	132.40	
	Sundry Expenses	0.00	21.98	
	Vat Paid	<u>62.16</u>	<u>47.69</u>	
		<u>386.99</u>	<u>1,581.04</u>	
		<u>7,227.76</u>	<u>7,139.09</u>	
	<b>Allocated:</b>			
	P3 money	1,075.71	1,075.71	
	Transparency Code Funding	438.36	438.36	
	Parish maintenance fund	509.00	509.00	
	Highway maintenance fund	2,812.38	2,812.38	
	Loxhore Cmmunity Support Group	362.60	0.00	
	Loxhore Broadband CIC	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
		5,198.05	4,835.45	
	<b>Non Ring-fenced Funds</b>	<u>2,029.71</u>	<u>1,748.13</u>	
	Parish Council Funds	<u>7,227.76</u>	<u>6,583.58</u>	
	Balance per Bank Account	<u>£7,227.76</u>	<u>£6,583.58</u>	
	VAT recoverable - year to 31 Mar 2022		<u>£62.16</u>	Closed
8.0	<b><u>Chair's Business</u></b>			
8.1	Devon CPRE have canvassed Councils for support following a very successful campaign to highlight the vast acreage that is currently proposed in Devon for solar farms. They			

	can provide assistance regarding planning applications and the impact on the countryside. Membership costs £60.00 per annum. Councillors discussed whether we should join and support CPRE and unanimously agreed to join and support them. Clerk to give RFO details so that application and payment can be made.	Clerk CB
8.2	Some recent very good work by Chris Comer and Jim Barr on pothole repairs and strimming verges has been conducted. Council agreed that a gift in recognition of this voluntary work be made and asked CD to arrange a suitable bottle for each.	CD
8.3	Our MP has written offering to meet with Parish Council to understand local needs. This is because she has not been able to hold her normal surgeries through the pandemic. Council decided that there is no need for a meeting at this time.	Closed
8.4	Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum celebrations are planned for 2 – 5 June 2022 (public holiday long weekend) and the lighting of beacons, big lunch, tree planting are the 3 main national events being planned. Council expressed a desire to support such activities but they would have to be led by the village hall committee as they own the hall and field. Clerk to write to Hall committee offering Parish Council support for any activities for the parish.	Clerk
9.0	<b><u>Planning Applications 73621 and 73622 at Coombe Farm, Loxhore</u></b>	
	Councillors had all studied the planning application on the NDDC portal. Discussion was opened and Mr Simon Fox was invited to speak. He stated he was there to answer any questions but made 3 points; Desire is to provide accommodation for subsequent generations of the family so they can live in Loxhore, Will be built with local material to keep the character and will remove the galvanised barn materials. He also highlighted that the barns were originally dwellings. Council unanimously agreed it was an excellent proposal and asked the clerk to respond to the applications with wholehearted support.	Closed
10.0	<b><u>Next meeting</u></b> The Chair closed the meeting at 19:35, thanking everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2 September 2021.	Closed

Minutes approved by Chair..... Date .....