

Ermington Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 7.30 pm

in the

Reading Rooms, Ermington

Present: Cllrs D Onley (Chair), R Owens, I Creese, S Yates
District Councillor T Holway,

Jackie – Speaker from Greener Ugborough

T Drew – Parish Clerk

1 member of the public

WELCOME

The Chair Cllr Onley welcomed everyone and explained the format for the evening and introduced the guest speaker Jackie from Greener Ugborough.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Councillor Dan Thomas and Parish Councillor Dunlop.

PRESENTATION FROM GREENER UGBOROUGH PARISH - WHO WE ARE AND OUR ACTIVITIES

G-UP is a sustainability group with the aim of making our parish a community where it is easy to live sustainably.

It started on a notice board at Ugborough Sustainable Saturdays with a brainstorm of 'sustainability projects' that could be beneficial here.

Regular meetings in Autumn 2019 brought together a diversity of residents to thrash out what exactly 'sustainability' meant, what we could do at a local level to offset the Climate Crisis and support our eco systems, what we should call ourselves and how *G-UP* should be structured.

We chose to be apolitical and to focus on engagement, to be as inclusive as possible.

We hosted a variety of **free public events** *How to Reduce your Carbon Footprint*, a *Parish Wildlife Tour*, *Journeying to Zero Waste*; *Weather and Climate Change*

We launched an ambitious programme - with the support of David Roe - to help 15 households **reduce their carbon footprint by 25%** in 5 years.

We got our hands dirty clearing swathes of the invasive **Himalayan Balsam** and also undertaking **tree planting** – involving Ugborough Primary School pupils to do so.

We drew up a **Mission statement** which helped focus our activities. We moved towards a model where a **steering group** oversaw the activities of sub-groups that focused on particular issues. We were just at the point of structuring ourselves in to sub groups when the pandemic arrived and face to face activities ceased.

We have used email, facebook and the parish website and newsletter to maintain communication and hold on to the momentum we built

Our **Waste and Recycling** strand kept going, with collection **schemes** for: dental waste; writing instruments; stamps; candle wax - and the biggest strand (via Terracycle) for crisp packets, which will eventually produce funds to go specifically towards green initiatives (such as Forest School) in Ugborough Primary. With thanks to the Parish Council there is also now **litter picking equipment** available.

In January, we set up a **Wildlife and Biodiversity group**. This group's projects include:

1. **Restoring public land to wildflower areas** to assist our pollinators. This will involve the monitoring of indicator species at key sites e.g. recording butterfly species and abundance. We are focussing on the Ugborough Burial Ground, a community meadow at Moorhaven, and verges around Seldon's Close near the centre of the village.
2. **Developing an iNaturalist project** to make a Parish species inventory.
3. **Parish habitat mapping**. With support of Joe Ross, who is undertaking an MSC in Environmental Consultancy.
4. Promotion of **national citizen science** biomonitoring initiatives that can help monitor the wildlife in our parish throughout the community.
5. **Tree planting** – working with the school to do so.
6. Overhauling the green area in **Ugborough Play park** to make more of the space alongside the new play equipment.

All of the above focuses on *local skills, taking positive action and shared learning*. They aim to increase *local biodiversity, local pollinator activities and draw down carbon from the atmosphere*, as well as increasing knowledge and engagement among parishioners

We want to do more on **safe active travel**. We have fed in PL:21 Transition Town Initiative's *Ivybridge Street Design Strategy* which aims to positively impact upon many well used routes in and around the Parish.

This is an area where we need to tread a fine line between community and politics, to try and get a better balance between the needs of motorists and those of all other road users. Our focus is on joining up centres of population and transport nodes, for example to make a safe walking route between Ugborough village and the bus stops in Bittaford.

My personal opinion on what has worked well:

- Minimising dependence on one inspirational leader, through steering group, working groups etc
- A WhatsApp wildlife group has been a surprise success, with sightings of otters, owls and hares creating a stir.
- Creating meadows has brought people together and hopefully will inspire others to look differently at 'weeds' in their gardens and verges.
- Connecting to parish council and local sustainability networks eg Sustainable South Hams and PL:21

And important for the future:

- Active travel is really important as it encourages people to notice and love the environment around them, and to meet each other more
- Hedge management to provide more nesting habitats for birds, bats, butterflies and moths. Graham Gilbert has formed a hedge group to work with landowners now, to identify stretches of hedge that could be laid or 'steeped' in the autumn by volunteers.

We hope this has been useful. We are very happy to help set up something similar in Ermington Please find attached a copy of her talk.

The following website address may be of interest to parishioners:

<https://www.ugborough.com/g-up>

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

Cllr Onley thanked Jackie for her very informative and inspiring talk, which gave those present a great deal of food for thought. The Parish Council will no doubt wish to liaise with G-UP when parishioners get involved to develop a similar group and hopefully collaborate over some future projects and activities.

TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2019

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting which took place on 16 April 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

An Annual Parish Meeting did not take place in 2020, due to COVID restrictions.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – CLLR ONLEY

Responding to the Coronavirus pandemic has understandably dominated and changed the work of the Parish Council over the last year. Including the Government (eventually) making temporary arrangements for us to hold our meetings & make decisions on-line, which have now come to an end as we return to face to face meetings.

So I want to start by thanking everyone who have helped & supported the Parish Councillors' undertake our roles and also those who have helped neighbours with essential support and random acts of kindness throughout the pandemic, and all our local volunteers. We can be justly proud, as a community, of how we have supported each other through these difficult times as tolerance, respect and kindness towards each other have prevailed.

The Parish Council provided finance, practical support and information where able to keep everyone safe & informed of new requirements as they changed in response to the challenges presented by the pandemic, including through regular updates on our website, when changes impacted on many aspects of everyday life.

During the year we welcomed two new Parish Councillors: Steve Yates & Robert Owens, who have both already taken over significant Parish Council responsibilities.

We are currently seeking to co-opt further Councillors to fill more vacancies, so if you are eligible and would like to apply please contact Teresa, our Parish Clerk. We are particularly keen to encourage applicants with a more diverse range of backgrounds and ideally IT skills who can help us develop our communications on the various social media platforms.

Finance

The Parish Council have again reduced our part of the Council Tax (known as the Precept), this year by 20%, which follows the 10% reduction last year. This will reduce our financial reserves, which include money obtained from previous fundraising towards purchasing Honey's Field, extending the Reading Rooms & building a new Village Hall.

We hope parishioners able to do so will spend their savings in the shop, The Hub, & cafe, as well as to support other local businesses, groups and good causes.

We have also given grants to the Rotary Club, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Ivybridge Food Bank, Ivybridge Ring & Ride and Modbury Caring to support Ermington residents.

We gave financial support to the Village Fund for the summer hanging baskets and Christmas Lights. I hope these helped brighten difficult times, and wish to thank all those involved in their organising. We were very generous with grants during the pandemic & now need to review our grants policy. We would welcome feedback on whether the Parish Council should continue to give a grant towards the Fireworks as there were several complaints previously from dog owners due to the noise and in light of the Climate Crisis, & there is now new evidence that fireworks contribute to air pollution and spread toxic waste emissions causing climate change & breathing difficulties for asthma sufferers.

Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

We were delighted to announce that the Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site at Ermington Park became operational during the summer. This was jointly funded with Devon Air Ambulance with the Parish Council contributing £2800 from our reserves.

The new floodlight which can be remotely activated from the Helicopter base in an emergency enables the site to be illuminated and the Air Ambulance to land when it would otherwise be too dark.

The playing field provides a large open area for night operations and being both in the village and close to main roads means that quick treatment and evacuation of a casualty is now available to us whenever it is needed. This facility is incredibly important in a large rural parish like ours, where people who fall ill, or are involved in an accident, will benefit from a speedy response by the Air Ambulance. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped, and local residents who have been so supportive of the project.'

It is clearly important everyone is aware to report to the Parish Council anything on site which could be dangerous to the helicopter or prevent it landing.

Reading Rooms

The Reading Rooms have remained shut for the last year due to the Coronavirus restrictions. The Parish Council has obtained a £10,000 grant to make them fit for reopening & are arranging essential works.

In the absence of any other venue in the village currently being able to accommodate our monthly meetings, we clearly need to maintain the Reading Rooms.

The opening of The Hub, and the transfer of some activities there, provides both a challenge and an opportunity to consider the future use of the Reading Rooms. We are currently consulting on what activities and uses parishioners want the building to be made suitable for, prior to committing any further funds, and welcome all views, see: <https://www.ermingtonparish.com/questionnaire/>

Website

We hope you find our website informative and interesting. I know many have enjoyed the walks as part of their daily exercise during the periods of lockdown over the last year, and used the links on the website to our minutes and other groups & Councils. At the time of writing in the last year it has been accessed over 12,000 times, so please have a look if not done so recently: <http://www.ermingtonparish>, and let us have your comments.

If you would like anything else added or have contributions to make, particularly of your own walks or photographs, please contact our Clerk.

Play Park, new play equipment

We have worked with local children and South Hams District Council & play equipment suppliers to agree new play equipment and much needed improvements to revitalise our play park and make it more exciting for children, which I'm sure will now be enjoyed by children for many years to come. We will also shortly be adding new picnic benches & SHDC will repaint the older equipment.

Planning

New building work and planning applications continue to occupy much of our discussions. Protecting the village Conservation Area, whether from new utility works or poorly designed residential proposals often cause controversy. We do try and represent parishioners, so please continue to make any views known through the SHDC planning portal: <http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/>

Highways

The major road works to the A3121 in our area were delayed by the Coronavirus restrictions & now by the Tour of Britain cycle race which is coming through our Parish in September.

The works include installing new roundabouts at Hollowcombe Cross & Kitterford Cross, and extensive works to Modbury Cross & road junctions between there and the A38 junction at Wrangaton.

The Parish Council were consulted on the designs & gave DCC detailed feedback. We are generally supportive of the improvements which will make some of the most dangerous village road junctions safer (particularly for motorists) and should prevent some motor accidents. However, we believe opportunities have been missed in the designs to make the road safer for all users, particularly pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

The works will continue to cause significant disruption and delays for the foreseeable future. Plans are available from Devon County Council:
<https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/PublicDocs/Transport/EiW2Lz2B7WpLIU5TLDiVKakB9ITZvB16rcvNnZl bKSwsWQ?e=2HZfK5>

We continue to regularly receive complaints regarding overgrown hedges, any over the highway can be reported to DCC :<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

The Parish Council installed new 'Caution, pedestrians in the road' road signs, which we hope will encourage motorists to check their speed more often & be more aware of the close proximity of other road users in our narrow lanes through the village.

Several parishioners have raised the issue of the number of small mammals killed on our roads & we asked DCC to supply new 'hedgehog warning signs'. However, we have been informed we would need to survey small mammal fatality hot spots before spending can be agreed. Evidence of any small mammal fatalities can be reported to DCC via their website:
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Climate Crisis

There is a lot of concern about environmental issues, and we declared a Climate Crisis and are responding where able, some example are:

Hollowcombe Cross Woodland creation

Devon County Council (DCC), have purchased four separate plots of land along the A3121 and around Hollowcombe Cross to plant native broadleaf woodland and wet woodland, willow carr and marshy habitat. The Parish Council submitted requests for these plots to incorporate a wildlife pond to tackle flooding in the area, together with new footpaths and orchard planting, but these were rejected.

Footpaths

The nearest bus stop to the village for the regular No.3 Plymouth to Dartmouth bus service is on the A379 at Flete Gate House and is currently only accessible by pedestrians by walking along the A3121 which is considered too dangerous by many or the river bank footpath which can be wet & regularly floods.

As well as asking for improvements to footpaths as part of the A3121 works, we have reported a number of broken footpath stiles in the Parish which have now been repaired or replaced by gates, please continue to report any footpaths issues to the Parish Council & DCC public rights of way team:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/prow/>

Japanese Knotweed

We have reported several infestations of Japanese Knotweed along Highways and the river bank, and are advised when the area is maintained by DCC and it is affecting road visibility or spreading to private land, it can be treated by a specialist contractor but it would not be treated in any other circumstances or as part of any routine programme. New instances can also be reported to: <http://www.dbrc.org.uk/> and <http://www.plantracker.org.uk/>.

Allotments

We are still seeking land suitable for allotments, but until a site becomes available the project is unable to progress. We would welcome any offers or suggestions from landowners and any updates will be listed on our website & detailed in our minutes.

Tree planting, & hedge planting

We have supported tree planting in the Park, on the School site & in the Churchyard and agreed with the Churchyard Committee to move away from intensive grass cutting the whole Churchyard towards more wildlife friendly approaches to landscape management as advised by the Living Churchyards programme.

Litterpicking

As the Great British Spring Clean has had to be cancelled now for two years running, we were very pleased to be able to support Sarah West & the team of litter picking volunteers with a grant for equipment. Our thanks to all who have helped collect the mountain of detritus from our hedgerows & SHDC for arranging the collections.

Flooding

During wet weather flooding continues to affect many areas of the Parish. Parishioners are asked to report any flooding or Highways issues both to the Parish Council, and Devon County Council: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Much more about these & other projects is available on our website.

As ever, please do speak to any Councillor with any Parish issues, or join our Open Forums at each meeting, or contact us via our website, email, or post.

Finally, I want to say thank you to several people, who have provided specific help over this last year:

Tom Holway our District Councillor & Richard Hosking our outgoing County Councillor have provided regular reports, advice and support with issues raised at Parish Council meetings. We welcome Dan Thomas as our new Devon County Councillor & look forward to working with him.

Belinda Allis who keeps the garden area around the war memorial in good order.

Ro Hughes for advice to the Parish Council as Tree Warden and on all matters environmental.

Josie Allis who looks after the village defibrillator for us.

Adam Hart-Davis who edits the Parish Magazine & the Team of volunteers who deliver the magazines throughout the village. If you do not get a printed copy, the latest edition is now available on the Parish Council website.

None of the above could be achieved without the dedication and support of all Parish Councillors and Teresa Drew, the Clerk to the Council. Thank you all.

Denis Onley
Chair

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ELECTED DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS

Unfortunately County Councillor Dan Thomas was not able to attend, but emailed the following report:

Dear Ermington Parish Councillors,

As you will have gathered, I was fortunate enough to be elected your County Councillor earlier this month. You will appreciate that with Devon CC's AGM coming this Thursday, I have very little to report to you at this stage. Committee and Outside Body positions will be confirmed at that stage, so I will report back in person at your June Council meeting next week.

I am, however, proceeding with one item which has been brought to me by former Cllr Claire Cross. I met with Claire last week in Ermington and walked the course outside the lower section of Ermington School. We discussed the possibility of low level school flashing lights and the repainting of the signage on the road. I have committed to pursuing this with Nick Colton when he returns to work (he has been on leave).

I have been a District Councillor for a couple of years and a Parish Councillor for around 10 years - the last 4 as Chairman in Yealmpton, so I hope I am reasonably well aware of what a County Councillor ought to be doing to support his or her parishes. Please do feel free to email me at any point between meetings if you need any help or support.

I very much look forward to working with you over the next 4 years.

Dan

*Cllr Dan Thomas
South Brent & Yealmpton Division
daniel.thomas@devon.gov.uk
07917 877706*

ANNUAL REPORT FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY

The council was finely balanced with an overall majority of only one following the 2019 election. In recognition of this, the Leader of the Opposition was invited to join the Council's Executive.

The Joint Local Plan with Plymouth and West Devon was adopted in March 2019 and it meant that together the Councils could demonstrate a Five Year Land Supply which gave them more control over developers offering random sites.

The Council declared a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency and resolved to work with Devon county Council and neighbouring authorities towards achieving net zero carbon by 2050.

The Council remains a member of the South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership and works with health, housing and blue light services to reduce crime and help victims. Please report any suspicious goings on at properties in your neighbourhood if you think drugs, abuse or other crime is involved.

The refurbishment of Ivybridge Leisure Centre is now complete and recent consultation has shown support for the proposed provision of an Aldi supermarket in Ivybridge.

We continue to be plagued by Fly Tipping and urge residents to use proper licenced carriers to dispose of rubbish and not unlicensed rogues. Please report any fly tipping you find.

The contracts have been let for the construction of the new Health Centre for Dartmouth.

The Council earmarked almost £500,000 for improvements to play equipment in the district.

Major Council meetings have been made available live on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

The Council resolved to support the Local Electricity Bill.

The Council continues to produce a balanced budget.

2020/21

The **COVID 19 Pandemic** was really in evidence by the start of 2020/21 and thanks to the systems improvements made in the T18 project it was possible for Council staff and members to work from home. The Council website was improved, hotlines were provided to assist residents needing help and a support fund was set up to assist community groups who have done a fantastic job helping the vulnerable in our communities. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their unstinting work.

The Council has supported Leisure Centres so that they will be ready to open when restrictions are lifted and has earmarked funds to support the recovery of tourism and other businesses.

Council staff from all departments have been helping to administer government grants to help businesses survive the problems caused by the pandemic and must be commended for their hard work processing and making payments.

Consultations have been carried out and policies reviewed for Car Parking and Licensing.

The new Super-recycling scheme has been introduced, not without its problems. The Pandemic delayed the introduction of the scheme by six months due to the availability of the new vehicles and the use of agency staff due to absence caused by Covid disrupted continuity and local knowledge at a critical time. However, we should be able to recycle more of our waste and put less to landfill and incineration.

The Council has installed some Electric Vehicle charging points at Follaton House and in the Ivybridge car park and will be working with WPD the Distribution Network Operator to plan the roll out of more charging points across the district.

The council has produced and adopted a draft Climate Change and Biodiversity strategy and will be making available additional Locality grants of £3,000 for each Councillor to support schemes in their ward. There will be further support available for larger local schemes, probably on a match funding basis.

Grants are being introduced to help residents with improving the heating and insulation of their homes.

The Council resolved to adopt the Healthy Homes principles and to lobby government in support of the Healthy Homes Bill

Councillors have been provided with slightly larger laptop computers and the old ones donated to local schools for students that needed them for remote learning.

The Council has provided accommodation for a Vaccination Centre at Follaton House to reduce the distances some of our residents were having to travel for a jab.

There will be a consultation on the introduction of a trial scheme to allow self-contained motor homes to stay on certain Council car parks for up to two days with no return for two days.

We all look forward to a return to 'normal' although it is likely to be different to the old 'normal' with at least some meetings being virtual.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Tom Holway,

South Hams District Councillor for Ermington and Ugborough Ward.

EMAILED ANNUAL REPORT FROM PREVIOUS ELECTED DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD HOSKING

1. VIRTUAL MEETINGS

2020/21 will be remembered as the time of Coronavirus. The virus has prematurely ended many lives, disrupted the economy and our ways of life.

May I congratulate you all on your acceptance of and adaptation to the new circumstances and technology that has made Virtual Meetings a part of Council and everyday life.

2. PRINCE PHILIP, THE DUKE OF ENDINBURGH

I note with sadness the recent death of HRH the Prince Philip at the age of 99, and thoughts are with HRH the Queen & the Royal Family. The Duke's lasting legacy for the South West will be the Ten Tours expedition, part of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards challenge.

3. CORONAVIRUS

The Team Devon Local Outbreak Management Board has met throughout the last year to monitor, help to fund, provide guidance and intervene where necessary in the fight against Coronavirus, including overseeing the setting up of the Nightingale Hospital.

The UK development, procurement and delivery of vaccines has been a success story. As I write, over two thirds of the adult population in Devon have received at least their first vaccination, and the 40 and over age range are now invited to book their first jab.

The number of cases has fallen and the latest available data to the week ended 28th April show just 117 cases in Devon, AND for the first time, since the second spike, no deaths in the week ending 4th May.

The availability of testing is increasing with the objective of identifying (if possible), those who carry the virus without symptoms.

We are all looking forward to taking the 4 steps to freedom as they progress through the early summer.

The Government responded to the crisis with financial support for the economy, and in Devon we endeavoured to make funds available where needed to avoid hardship.

There is an ongoing need for vigilance as the holiday season makes a slightly cool debut this bank holiday weekend. Good to enjoy the atmosphere of a favourite pub on Friday, however it looked more like an Everest Base Camp than a place of entertainment.

4. THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

One of the truly heartening stories of Coronavirus is the spontaneous creation of support networks by volunteers throughout the Division and Devon. Many congratulations and thanks to you all. You have made such a difference to the lives of so many people shielding, isolating and struggling.

5. BUDGET

The approximate budget headlines this year are;

- a) Devon County Council have presented another balanced budget for the 2021/22 financial year.
- b) The overall expenditure is £578.5 million, an increase of 6.6%.
- c) Within the budget there are increases of;
 - (i) £12 million for mainly increased demand for Education Health and Care plans in Children's Services;
 - (ii) £22 million for Adult Care & Health Services; and
 - (iii) 7.5% for Corporate Services;
- d) There remains a deficit of some £50 million on our balance sheet for the overspend on the High Needs Block over the last 2 years. We await Government instruction on how this is to be financed;
- e) We have increased the DCC element of the Council Tax precept by the maximum permitted 4.99%.

6. SOCIAL CARE

With the ambition of improving the integration of services we are taking the Babcock contract for children's services in house from 2022.

Devon is promoting an Early Help strategy in an attempt to tackle issues at source and wrap help around families to reduce the demand for Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) at a later stage. The increased number of EHCPs has put significant pressure on our budget for the last two years.

7. INFRASTRUCTURE

a) BROADBAND

Connecting Devon & Somerset has recently awarded a new contract to Airband to complete fibre to the premises connections for the 90 to 95% sector of properties that do not as yet have Superfast Broadband in the period 2021 to 2024. Maps showing planned connections across the Division are due to be published soon.

For those business premises not included in the Airband stage of the rollout do have a look at the Government Gigabit voucher scheme which can be helpful particularly for groups of premises.

b) MOBILE

Businesses in Not Spots please see the Connecting Devon and Somerset initiative; <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/the-cds-mobile-booster-voucher-scheme-guide/> which plans to benefit 1,250 premises with a voucher for a mobile signal booster.

c) RAILWAY

In the South Brent & Yealmpton Division we have made an application for a feasibility study to reinstate an active station in South Brent.

As part of the national Restore your Railway Scheme a daily railway service has been promised for the Okehampton to Exeter line.

d) ROADS

Devon County Council had a budget of £102m for roads in the last financial year, more than has ever been spent before.

In the Division we have benefited from Safer Road Funding for improvements to the A3121 from Hollowcombe Cross, past Ermington to Wrangaton. This will include two new roundabouts at the junction of the A379/A3121 and the B3196/A3121 at Kitterford Cross.

8. THE INTERIM DEVON CARBON PLAN

A report on the responses to an extensive consultation are now being compiled, and we are expecting this to be published in the summer of 2021. Devon County Council remain committed to achieving net zero carbon status.

Within the County Council we continue to reduce our Carbon Footprint. As part of our strategy the conversion of streetlighting to LED should be completed in about 18 months.

9. THE ECONOMY

Devon County Council have purchased the former Flybe Training Academy and are turning it into a high-tech Future Skills Centre specialising in digital, engineering, construction and clean growth. The Centre will cater for learners of all ages, skills, and qualifications and prepare them for the economy of the future.

At County Hall we are developing online support for business start-ups, the self-employed, innovation and growth.

10. EDUCATION

This has been a challenging year for schools and we congratulate teachers who have delivered lessons online and parents who have found themselves adapting to a second career in front of a virtual blackboard. We hope their endeavour and the catch-up programme now unfolding will ensure that our children's education will not suffer.

The gradual drift to Academy status continues in Devon schools, and we remain committed to ensuring that maintained schools receive the very best support we can offer. Per pupil funding has now increased to £4,000 per primary school pupil and £5,000 per secondary school pupil. Whilst we have moved up the rankings slightly in terms of average funding we are still towards the lower end of the table. Lobbying will continue to ensure that the full costs of rurality are taken into account.

AND LOCALLY:

11. SAFER ROAD FUND SCHEME

Options B & C at Erme Bridge and the connection of Town Hill to the Bridle Path are budget dependent and this will not be known until the two roundabouts in the scheme are completed.

12. MODBURY/HOLLOWCOMBE CROSS

Anticipated completion is early September 2021 in time for the Tour of Britain race.

13. KITTAFFORD CROSS

Archaeological and ecology surveys are required before these works can be scheduled. Commencement and completion dates unknown at this time.

14. COUNTY COUNCIL AND POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

A reminder that the above elections take place from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. on Thursday 6th May.

Special provisions will be in place at polling booths to ensure social distancing including sanitising gel for use before and after voting. Voters are requested to wear masks and to take their own pencil with them this year. Masks and pencils will be available for those who forget.

QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Cllr Onley asked if crisp packets could be recycled – Jackie replied that people are being asked to fold and store crisp packets at present, as a scheme is being drawn up for recycling them.

The meeting finished at 8.45 pm.

Signed: *Cllr Denis Onley*
(Chair)

Date: 25 May 2022