

DEAN PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on MONDAY 7th February 2022 at 7.00pm. in the Village Hall in Dean Prior

Present – Cllrs Chew , Thorn , Bailey (Chair) Rutley and Wetherall
Dist Cllr Guy Pannell and Cathie Pannell DNPA , Dist Cllr Peter Smerdon & C Cllr Dan Thomas
Clerk - Karen Gilbert

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

Full reports available from the Clerk - all reports circulated to Councillors in advance

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL - Cllr Guy Pannell

Following prolonged campaigning by this Council and others the Government has announced it's planning to remove a loophole that offers tax breaks to second home owners who make use of it to claim their properties are being used as holiday lets. As it stands, people who own second homes in England can avoid paying council tax and access small business rates relief by simply declaring an intention to let the property out to holidaymakers.

The change will see second homeowners forced to pay council tax if they cannot show they are genuinely renting out their properties on a commercial basis. This new measure will apply to second home owners who let their properties for less than 70 days a year. Those who let their homes above the threshold will still pay nothing. It is reckoned that second home owners in the South Hams who have registered for business rates (meaning in effect they pay nothing) have received £20million in Covid grants.

Council tax

Discussions around the 2022/23 SHDC budget are taking place, with Members receiving briefings from Lisa Buckle, our Finance Officer. As usual, a selection of proposals came forward which will be voted on at the Full Council Budget meeting on 10th February. The proposals include a recommendation to increase Council Tax by £5 a year for Band D properties – equivalent to 10p a week. The Government has factored in this increase – the maximum allowed without a referendum – into funding presumptions for the coming year.. A LibDem recommendation that £322,000 extra be allocated to the Climate Change Action Plan will also be debated and is likely to receive approval.

Cllr Wetherall commented that a Parishioner had complained that dog poo was being deposited in her residential bin . Cllr Smerdon agreed to contact the localities Officer at SHDC to attempt to secure a bin for the Parish

DNPA

DNP Parish updates , consultation on bylaws and funding were all discussed
Cathie also advised that the DNP has also approved the use of Body cameras by the Rangers following antisocial behaviour last year . It was **NOTED** that the Rangers must follow GDPR protocol and advise you if you are being filmed

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Daniel Thomas

Cllr Thomas briefly explained that much of Devon's County work concentrated on the Budget for 2022/2023 . The County Council had announced a new Plan highlighting the priorities to improve the health , incomes and opportunities for our residents

Further detail can be found here www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan

22/02/01 Apologies for absence -None

22/02/02 Approval of Minutes

To consider , amend as agreed by the Council (if required) & approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th December 2021 - **APPROVED**

22/02/03- Declarations of Interest None from Cllrs **Dispensation requests** - None

22/02/04 Clerks Report -

The Clerk confirmed that the sum of £800 had been received toward the Bus shelter works through grants from Devon County and South Hams - for which the Council thanked them . The work was planned to commence at the end of March 2022

22/02/05 Planning - Nothing to consider

22/02/06 - Finance

a) Approval of cheque - APPROVED

Karen Gilbert - expenses/ home allowance/admin/mileage/ Balance of wages.
for 12/21 and 01/22 £195.30

The Clerk advised she had not implemented online banking , as the preferred option - Unity Bank - seemed to be currently experiencing administrative difficulties - **to be revisited after year end**

22/02/07 Highway matters

a). Graffiti under A38

The Clerk was asked to contact National Highways to report along with the graffiti on Drybridge
ACTION ; CLERK TO REPORT A38 ISSUES TO NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

b) Path along A38

Cllr Bailey reported that the top part of the Footpath near the Church had been reinstated
ACTION : CLLR BAILEY TO CHECK LOWER SECTION

Cllr Rutley reported that a sign regarding **Bulls in field - Keep out** had been placed alongside a Footpath sign

ACTION ; CLERK TO REPORT TO RANGERS

22/02/08 - PC admin - It was **NOTED** that the main noticeboard had fallen . It was **AGREED** that a new noticeboard was required . Cllrs Thomas and Smerdon/Pannell offered to contribute towards this purchase - for which the Councillors thanked them

ACTION ; CLERK TO SOURCE BOARD AND ALSO APPLY TO DCC/SHDC FOR GRANTS

22/02/09- Correspondence - correspondence had been emailed during the month.

22/02/10 Councillors business for next agenda DOG BIN / NOTICEBOARD AND JUBILEE

22/02/11- Date/time of next meeting Monday 7th March 2022 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.40pm