

# DEAN PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Meeting Held on**

**Monday 5th June 2023 at 7.00 pm.** in the Village Hall in Dean Prior

**Present – Cllrs Bailey ( Chair ) Chew Rutley and Thorn  
Dist Cllr Pannell ( left after Planning )**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

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

### **SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cllr Guy Pannell has been appointed as Chairman of the Council for 2023/24, with Cllr Bernard Taylor being his Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Julian Brazil has been appointed as Leader of the Council for the four-year term from 2023/24 to 2026/27 and he has made the following appointments to the Executive:

- Cllr Dan Thomas (Deputy Leader, with specific responsibility for Planning; Corporate Performance Oversight; Organisational; and Community Development);
- Cllr John McKay (Lead Executive Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity);
- Cllr John Birch (Lead Executive Member for Economic Development; Commercial Strategy; and Governance);
- Cllr Denise O’Callaghan (Lead Executive Member for Housing; Environmental Health; and Licensing);
- Cllr Victor Abbott (Lead Executive Member for Community Services; Operations and Leisure);
- Cllr Jacqi Hodgson (Lead Executive Member for Waste and Community Composting (working with the Leader)); and
- Cllr Nicky Hopwood (Lead Executive Member for Customer Service; Improvement; IT; and Digital Services (working with the Deputy Leader

### **DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Thomas previously referred to significant problems with Children’s Services at DCC. Here are the key points from the latest OFSTED inspection

Monitoring visit to Devon children’s services

This letter summarises the findings of the monitoring visit to Devon children’s services on 18 and 19 April 2023. This was the fifth monitoring visit since the local authority was

judged inadequate in January 2020. His Majesty's Inspectors for this visit were Steve Lowe and Sarah Canto.

Areas covered by the visit Inspectors reviewed the progress made in the quality and impact of services for children in care, with a particular focus on the following areas of concern identified at the last inspection:

- Permanence planning for children.
- The quality and timeliness of life-story work.
- The assessment of children looked after placed with parents.
- Strategic oversight and grip on areas for improvement and oversight by senior leaders, including case audits and supervision.

This visit was carried out in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. Headline findings The quality of social work practice across Devon remains inconsistent. Most children in care experience delays in securing permanent homes. This is for a variety of reasons but is mostly due to social workers lacking the confidence, professional curiosity and guidance required to understand children's needs and plan for their futures. Weak management oversight through supervision, insufficient challenge by independent reviewing officers, gaps in recording and poor care planning are often the root cause of these delays. Quality assurance through auditing still lacks sufficient impact in driving improvements in practice and has required a significant restart.

### **23/06/01 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Cllr Chew nominated Cllr Bailey - a vote was taken - with all in agreement . Cllr Bailey took the Chair

The Vice Chairman - Cllr Thorn was nominated - all in agreement

### **23/06/02 Co-option to fill vacant two seats**

Neil Rutley expressed an interest in joining the Council and after giving a short presentation , it was **RESOLVED** that he fill one vacant seat

Cllr Rutley completed his form of Acceptance of Office and having been reminded of his obligation to complete a Register of Interests form within 28 days , he joined the Council

Peter Smerdon ( absent ) also expressed an interest in joining - fulfilling the necessary criteria

It was **RESOLVED** that he fill the remaining seat and **RESOLVED** that the Council accept his Acceptance of Office at the following meeting

**23/06/03 Apologies for absence** - Peter Smerdon ( work commitments ) & C.Cllr Thomas

### **23/06/04 Approval of Minutes**

To consider , amend as agreed by the Council ( if required ) & approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting & Annual Parish Meeting both held on 28th March - **APPROVED**

**23/06/05- Declarations of Interest** None from Cllrs                      Dispensation requests - None

### **23/06/06 - Parish Council admin**

Confirmation of Meeting dates/venue - Village Hall. 3/7. 4/9. 6/11 8/1/24 4/3/24

To confirm existing signatories for Bank account and agree if any additional req'd  
 To confirm individual responsibility for

- |                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) Snow warden                | Cllr Chew                        |
| b) Personnel matters          | Cllr Bailey                      |
| c) Parish Paths               | not required                     |
| d) Emergency planning         | To be considered at a later date |
| e) PC reps for Village Hall   | Cllrs Rutley / Thorn & Bailey    |
| f) Noticeboards & Bus shelter | Cllr Chew                        |
| g) Defibrillator              | Cllr Bailey                      |
| h) Website                    | Cllr Rutley                      |

The following documents / procedures and Policies were **RE- ADOPTED**

- a) Standing Orders
- b) Financial regulations
- c) Complaints Policy
- d) Publication scheme
- e) Public participation Policy
- f) Privacy Policy
- g) Data Protection Policy

### 23/06/07 Clerks Report

The Clerk advised that Cllr Peter Smerdon and Cllr Mike Jeffery had been selected as Parish representatives to sit on DNPA

After discussion, it was **AGREED** that Cllr Chew continue to pursue the Contractors selected to repair the Bus shelter

Cllr Bailey also updated the Council on the status of the defibrillator and commented that new Pads/leads were required

The Clerk suggested that a sum be budgeted each year to cater for the inevitable replacement of the defibrillator within the next few years

### 23/06/08 Planning

0177/23 <b>NO OBJECTION</b>	Full Planning Permission	Well Park Farm, Dean Prior, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0LY	Construction of Agricultural Building for Storage of Feed, Bedding, Fertiliser and Machinery
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### 23/06/09 – Finance

#### a) Approval of cheques APPROVED

Zurich ins	Ins renewal	£241.00
DALC	Membership renewal	£86.58
J Bailey	reimburse defib battery	£215.99
Dean Prior PCC.	S137 - Churchyard grass	£200.00
Hawthorns	Internal Audit	£70.00

K Gilbert	Expenses / stat 3 months	£153.00
K Gilbert	reimburse 1/3 share scanner	£145.80

**b) To consider the Internal Auditors report - NOTED**

**c) To consider & approve the Parish Council Accounts y/e 31/3/23 /exemption form**

The Clerk presented the Accounts for Dean Prior Parish Council for the year ending 31/3/23

The Clerk also presented the Exemption from Audit form

Both were **APPROVED** by all - SHOW OF HANDS

IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE ACCOUNTS AS ADOPTED AND SIGN THE EXEMPTION FORM

**d) To consider/ agree Annual statement of Governance y/e 31/3/23**

The Clerk read out the statement of Governance

APPROVED by all - SHOW OF HANDS

IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**e) To consider & approve Statements on Annual return y/e 31/3/23**

The Clerk presented the Annual Return - previously circulated

APPROVED by all - SHOW OF HANDS

IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE RETURN

**23/06/09a Highway matters**

The Council expressed an interest in achieving a 20mph zone in the Parish

The Clerk explained that 6 areas in Devon had just been selected for a trial from 57 applications but that future consultations / call for potential zones would take place in due course . The Clerk was asked to make suitable enquiries

**23/06/10 - Correspondence** - correspondence had been emailed during the month.

**23/06/11 Councillors business for next agenda.** 20MPH zones / Emergency planning

**23/06/12. Date/time of next meeting 3rd July 2023**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.45 pm