

Brendon and Countisbury Parish Council

Minutes of PC Meeting (29)

Held via Zoom on 1st February 2021 at 7.30pm

Public Participation: None.

1. **Councillor's Present:** A Fletcher, S Adams, L Farthing, A Percival, P Young, D Cllr J Patrinos, C Cllr A Davis and RFO L Slade.

Apologies: W Floyd, G Woollacot and PCSO G Cleverdon.

2. **Declaration of interests:** None.

3. **Minutes:** Of the last meeting were agreed, proposed by L Farthing seconded by A Fletcher. All Agreed.

4. **Matters Arising:**

a. The lane to Kipscombe is now open, the gates have been moved allowing access to the parking area.

b. The Cattle Grids on Tippercott and Cross Lane were due for clearing on 13th November, this has not happened and needs reporting on the DCC website again.

c. Brendon Barton pothole had been repaired but the rain has washed it out again and a second hole has now appeared. It has been reported.

d. A blockage in the gully on Cross Lane adjacent to Brendon House is causing water to run down towards the house. A temporary measure is in place to avoid flooding. C Cllr A Davis to investigate.

5. **Resignation of Parish Clerk, Appointment of Locum and New Clerk.**

a. The resignation of the Parish Clerk, Mike Sinden has been received. It is with sadness that the Parish Council thank him for all his hard work on council business for approx. twenty years and wish him well for the future.

b. A Locum, Vanessa Hunt from another parish, has been appointed until a replacement is found.

c. The vacancy has been advertised on the Notice board, Website, DALC Website and with Lynton Council. Closing date is 10th February.

d. Interviews will be conducted by Zoom by the Chair A Fletcher, S Adams and A Percival. A list of questions is to be circulated.

6. **GDPR.**

A reminder that it is necessary to seek approval, in writing, before **any** personal information is passed to third parties.

7. Meetings – Change to Standing Orders.

- a. A proposal to reduce the number of meetings to bi-monthly were agreed and approved at the September Meeting. This will begin in the next financial year 2021/22. Meetings will now be held in May to include the AGM, July, September, November, January and March. Proposed by L Farthing seconded by S Adams. Approved by all.
- b. Standing Orders are to be amended and re-issued.

8. Complaint against Councillor Fletcher.

A complaint has been received and has been forwarded to the Monitoring Officer by the D Cllr. J Patrinos. No response has been received as yet, so no discussion can take place.

9. County / District Councillor's Reports.

D Cllr J Patrinos – The District Council part of the Council Tax will rise by £5 per person. Business Support Grants are available for the 3rd lockdown, if you need or know anyone who needs help please go to the DCC website to claim.

Covid-19 - District Council staff have been lucky so far. The waste and recycling teams are formed into vehicle bubbles so if one of that bubble is in contact with Covid-19 the vehicle is taken off the road, this may be at very short notice. This may cause disruption to services, the advice is to leave your waste or recycling out for 48 hours, if it has not been collected in that time the it is advised to bring it in again until the next scheduled collection day.

The is to be a Public Zoom Meeting on the 26th February 2021 at 7pm by Lyn Climate Action Group. Focusing of Exmoor national parks nature recovery vision. There is to be 2 speakers.

Covid-19 rules are generally being obeyed. The number of cases in the area are coming down.

C Cllr A Davis – the full report is available on the website under **Additional Documents**.

Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council, updated daily.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

Further social care funding. £2.5M for Devon to support staffing levels in care homes. £1.7M for Devon to support testing in care homes.

Mass vaccination programme. 97% of over 80's has been vaccinated and the final 3% are individuals who can't have the vaccination or already have the virus.

Children's Services. There are 825 children in care, and the pressure on Early Help is very high.

Devon Recycling Centres are still open, with restrictions. Advice is to try to postpone projects at home that produce waste that would normally require you to make journeys to recycling centres.

Highway Maintenance is working at full capacity. Traffic is down by 33% on weekdays and 50% on weekends. Over 10,000 tonnes of salt used so far this year (more than the total for last winter). Reminder about reporting a highway problem: telephone: [0345 155 1004](tel:03451551004) or <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Rural transport. Call for Evidence, seeks views and evidence from all those with an interest in rural transport. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-transport-rural-strategy-call-for-evidence> This consultation is part of the [Future of Transport programme](#), which aims to shape transport innovation and secure the UK's position as a leader in the transport sector of the future. The consultation closes on the 16th February.

Finally, if you are a family who are worrying about money and struggling to pay for basic household essentials, please be aware that you can apply for help through funding that is available via the District Council hardship funds, this was the money sent to the District Councils from DCC for any households requiring extra help. There's more about what [financial and food support is available for families in Devon on the website.](#)

10. **Finance:**

- a. Expenses for Mike Sinden of £110.39 is due. Proposed by A Fletcher, seconded by S Adams. All agreed.
- b. The budget report is to be uploaded onto the website with no adjustments. A Fletcher to upload.
- c. The RFO reported the Council's Bank Balance stood at £4700.00 before payment of the above.
- d. The decision to shut down the pay role after Mike Sinden's final payment and P45 has been produced. Confirmation of salary needed. S Adams to confirm. This will then mean that the Grass Cutting will need to be Invoiced and the contract will be put out to tender as per the regulations.

11. **A.O.B:**

- a. Cllr P Young has decided to step down after the last meeting this year in March.
- b. Thanks, given to Mike for his long-standing contribution to the Parish Council. An official letter from the Chair is to be posted on the website under additional documents.

Date of next meetings: 1st March 2021

There being no further business meeting closed at 20.28hrs.