

# Thurlestone Parish Council

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 7:30pm**  
**The meeting was conducted via Zoom.**

**Present:** Councillors Jack Rhymes (Chairman), Munn, Marshall, Williams, Mitchelmore, Crowther and Hurrell

**In Attendance:** Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Gilbert, District Councillors Pearce and Long, and 51 members of the public

The Clerk explained how the administration of the meeting would work, given how many people were in attendance, and that the meeting was being recorded.

There was an open forum of 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items which affect the Parish. The following matters were raised:

A resident described the problems with traffic speeding through Thurlestone village. She said that it was frightening how fast people are driving through and is concerned about trying to socially distance at school drop-off times because the traffic situation means people are having to stand so close to the kerb. This was seconded by another resident.

A resident said that he was pleased to see the PC's rebuttal of the Rural Solutions letter about the Bantham Estate and Harbour Office application. This application stated that the Estate cannot use the Boathouse because of flooding and that the upper floor cannot be used for boats because of the weight, which contradicts the new application for restaurant use. Given that the Estate Office application is a major issue for the community with significant implications, would the PC reconsider its support for this application.

The Secretary of the Bantham Sailing Club gave a statement on behalf of the Sailing Club in response to the Boathouse restaurant planning application. She outlined the history of the Club and sailing events over the years and emphasised the community nature of the activities, which include all age groups. She said that members have been notified about the application and allowed to make their own decisions about it. However, concerns have been raised by a number of members about the impact on the tradition of sailing, racing and accessing the water from Bantham Quay which may be significantly compromised by the restaurant proposal. Particular concerns are: overcrowding on the quay and access to it; safety of both members and potential restaurant users, with so much activity happening in so small an area; outside tables, benches and people waiting for their tables could make it very hard for the Sailing Club and the Quay to continue to function in a safe manner; the application is happening very quickly, and before all members have had time to fully digest its implications.

Ten individual residents then stated their objections to the restaurant application and included the following points:

- wanting to preserve the unique character of Bantham; the village already has no shortage of visitors; the size of the car park and queues of stationary traffic in the summer are a problem; the lack of a need for a restaurant there; there is a wide community of people who use the quay and who should be taken into account; the quay is the epitome of peace and quiet; the applicant runs successful restaurants in the area – if their reputation brings as many people to the Boathouse then there are concerns for noise, light pollution, cooking smells, crowds, and the commercialisation of the area.
- parking problems, traffic in the roads leading to Bantham, which can make them impassable in the summer, and which will be exacerbated by this proposal.
- unethical tactics being used by the applicant to get support for this project. She has a large Instagram following and has allegedly been deleting and blocking negative comments and asking people to submit positive comments with the offer of a free dinner.
- the Bantham Estate had previously been redirecting traffic through West Buckland on busy days. West Buckland has a lot of houses with doors opening directly onto the road and the volume of traffic was so bad last summer

that it was not possible to leave the house at times, especially with children; what makes Bantham beautiful and unique in the area is the lack of commercialisation and non-monetisation of the Estate. There are now food vans on the beach and the Quay is the last remaining part where someone is not trying to make money.

- a restaurant with queues of people and deliveries along a narrow pathway would spoil the beauty of the area.
- access, pollution, noise and danger are main concerns; the media campaign seems underhand, inappropriate and disrespectful to the Councils making the decision.
- a restaurant would generate a whole new tide of people and cars trying to get down to the village for evening meals, at times when several hundred people are leaving the beach.
- Health and Safety, the waste and cesspit arrangements and emergency access, which is already difficult or impossible with all the crowds.
- the Estate has an expensive and attractive building to look after and perhaps the Sailing Club could come to an arrangement to use the building for the repair and storage of boats again.
- problems with the limited sewage provision.

*The meeting convened.*

**1.** To receive apologies.

There were no apologies.

**2.** To receive any amendments necessary to Members' Registers of Interests.

Councillors Marshall and Crowther declared a personal interest in Item 5 planning application 0332/21/FUL as members of the Bantham Sailing Club.

Councillor Rhymes declared a pecuniary interest in Item 5 planning application 0408/21/HHO and did not take part in discussion or vote.

## **Item 5.**

0332/21/FUL Change of use from boathouse and occasional hospitality use (sui generis) to a restaurant and café  
Coronation Boathouse Bantham TQ7 3AP

In view of the numbers of people attending the meeting to talk about this it was resolved to move this business to the beginning of the meeting.

Councillor Crowther raised some technical points about the application that she thought should be brought to the Council's attention:

(1) the site plan fails to include all land required for access to the site from the public highway, which is a requirement of planning applications.

(2) the site plan includes land in unknown ownership and the ownership certificate is therefore incorrect. The landowner's details are also incomplete.

(3) the description of the existing use of the property is incorrect. Coronation Boathouse has been used for boat storage (Use Class B8), repairs and boatbuilding ever since it was opened in 1937 and there has been no hospitality use. An electric socket has been used to make hot drinks during the annual sailing regatta, but this does not amount to hospitality use.

She added that there had been no local consultation about the application and queried whether the Duchy of Cornwall, the freehold owner the adjoining Quay and Estuary, had been consulted.

Councillor Williams said that 53 residents had spoken to her, some of whom feared repercussion if they submitted a letter to the SHDC website. 12 of those residents have written a letter to her instead, outlining their objections to the application, and she wondered how these could be taken into consideration anonymously. In terms of business and economy, she agreed that it could be a way to sustain the Boathouse and create jobs but there is enough food

provision in the village already and this could damage existing businesses with an over-supply of services, weakening the local economy. There are no young people in the village to take up the jobs and there is a problem in the area for the sector in terms of staff recruitment. Year-round, quality jobs are unlikely to be met by this development.

Councillor Munn agreed. She was concerned that, although the proposal may create jobs, she was not sure what quality of jobs they would be and how they would be filled. If there are no local staff, then people would need to be brought in. A new restaurant could put the shop, PO, café and pub in jeopardy and she did not think any more food outlets are needed in Bantham. She wondered why the Boathouse could not be used as boat storage again, especially as the Estate is putting in an application for creating new boat storage elsewhere.

Councillor Marshall said that he had been using the Quay for over 70 years. He agreed with the many reasons given so far at the meeting about why this application should be refused. He recognised the need for the Boathouse to be put to use but considered that this proposal would have an adverse impact on the immediate environment and would be unacceptable.

Councillor Mitchelmore said that he had used the Quay since the 1970s. He thought the Sailing Club should approach the Estate with a plan to keep the boats in there and make use of it. He considered that a restaurant presented a danger in terms of fire hazard in an old building and that emergency service access would be compromised.

Councillor Hurrell agreed with all that had been said. He also made the point that there was only one small drain for the building with an overflow into the river.

Councillor Rhymes reiterated what had been said. He thought that the tranquil setting of the Boathouse should remain as it was and that another food outlet in Bantham was not needed. He supported local business and said that we should support what we have already – the shop, café and pub. The traffic was also a significant issue – we can't cope with the quantity that we have already, never mind encouraging more people to come to Bantham. There was also concern about extra boating traffic visiting and no room for them to moor up or access boats.

Councillor Crowther agreed with all that had been said and objected to the application. She said that the NP and the JLP both have firm policies which are relevant to this application. These include:

Dark skies and natural environment: the Design and Access statement says that there would be no discernable change to the appearance of the building in the landscape but it would have internal and external lighting, particularly at night. This would also go against the natural environment policies, which say that the proposal must conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. To the contrary, the tranquillity of the area will be substantially damaged.

Flood risk is not covered by NP planning policies but is a consideration in the JLP.

Refuse management would be a problem. There is a storage compound but it is up on the site of the proposed office building behind the pay booth, so the waste would have to be taken up from the quay, then collected from the compound early in the morning, avoiding peak flows, but disturbing the peace.

There is only one WC facility with one washbasin. The plans show two, which is not explained and there are questions about the adequacy of the existing septic tank shown on the plans. At the moment, people sailing, swimming and walking can use the WC and this proposal will create competing interests. The proposed kitchen extraction and ventilation are unlikely to be sufficient to diffuse kitchen waste smells.

Footpath use and the steep and narrow access must be taken into account.

Traffic and transport is an issue, especially with the night time and early morning traffic that this would create.

Heritage: the NP was highly praised for its emphasis on heritage by Historic England, SHDC and DCC. The historic use of the Boathouse and Quay (both non-designated heritage assets) is important – the Regatta goes back to 1908 or earlier.

Coastal Management: The Quay is the only place to launch boats on this end of the estuary in the Parish: there is no overriding need for a café/restaurant in this location.

Storage space: the NP does not support loss of storage space. In the current West Buckland Barn planning application it stated a need for storage space for overwintering boats and the Estate is also consulting about creating a new quay at Lower Aunemouth. The plans for the new Estate Office stated that the Boathouse could not be used as an office because of flooding so it is difficult to understand how it can now be used as a restaurant.

Accessibility: the Quay is very narrow and, if railings were put up in front of the building, they would impede access to the existing wall moorings.

Councillor Williams also reported that the RNLI are increasingly dealing with alcohol related problems on the waterfront and lifeguards have said that ambulances cannot get down the roads in high season which means they are increasingly reliant on the air ambulance.

**A vote was held and it was resolved unanimously to object to this application and comments will be submitted to SHDC based on the discussions held above.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and sharing their views and the business of the meeting returned to the given order. At this point, 16 members of the public left the meeting.

**3.** To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings on Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 and Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021.

It was resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**4.** To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.

The following matters arose:

The repairs to the Cobbled Road in Thurlestone were discussed. Councillor Crowther has checked the ownership of the land in front of the church and it is not registered with the Land Registry.

Councillor Rhymes had spoken to the church and they are happy with the proposal to use the verge at the front of the churchyard wall to create a parking layby, thereby freeing up the roadway for traffic. The Yarmer Estate is prepared to contribute £6,000 to the repair of the cobbled road and councillors were grateful for this.

The timeframe was discussed and it was agreed to get it done before the summer as the road surface is deteriorating and we are likely to have another busy season. The Clerk was asked to contact the chosen contractor and agree a date for the work to commence.

A problem with people parking in the lane alongside the church and blocking access to houses was raised. The Estate has removed the old No Parking signs and this may be the reason why the problem has increased. It was agreed to contact them and ask for 2 new signs to be installed.

## **5. Planning**

- To comment on the following planning applications:

0334/21/VAR Application for variation of condition 2 of planning consent 0504/18/HHO (drawings)

5 Old Rectory Gardens Thurlestone TQ7 3PD

**The Parish Council supported this application.** Councillors considered that the proposed development will not impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties (NP Policy TP1.1); and that its design is appropriate and proportionate to its location within the village and would not out of keeping with the street scene (NP Policy TP1.2). They do, however, ask that the condition imposed by planning consent 2296/19/VAR is carried over to this decision to ensure that the annex shall only be used for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house known as 5 Old Rectory Gardens and shall not form part of a separate unit of accommodation (NP Policy TP7(2ii)).

0408/21/HHO Householder application for new summerhouse, garden shed, replacement rear and side boundary fences and alterations to existing chimney

3 Edwards Close Thurlestone TQ7 3BP

**The Parish Council supported this application.** Councillors considered that the proposed development will not impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties (NP Policy TP1.1); and that the design of the individual features and materials used are appropriate and proportionate to the location, being on the edge of the settlement within the South Devon AONB (NP Policy TP1.2).

- It was noted that the following comments on planning applications were agreed remotely due to cancellation of the February meeting:

0032/21/HHO Householder application for first floor extension over existing ground floor utility room including modifications to the approved planning 55/0803/15/F (replace existing conservatory with extension)

Burwood Eddystone Road Thurlestone TQ7 3LZ

Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECTS to this application. Councillors considered that whilst the first floor extension over the existing ground floor utility room is subordinate in scale and form to the existing dwelling (NP Policy TP7(2i)) and would not impact on neighbouring amenity nor the street scene (NP Policies TP1.1 & TP1.2); they objected to the modifications to approved 55/0803/15/F, consisting of a new glass balustrade system and parapet walls above the consented ground floor extension, to provide a flat roof/balcony accessed from two of the bedrooms. They felt the scale of the flat roof/balcony was too large, being twice the floor area of the extension over the utility room, that it would have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring amenity (noise disturbance and light nuisance), it was not proportionate, appropriate nor in keeping with the street scene (contrary to NP Policies TP1.1 and TP1.2) and that it raises dark skies/external lighting issues (contrary to NP Policies TP1.4 & TP1.5, Policy DEV25 of the JLP and AONB MP Policies Plan P1 & P2).

0012/21/HHO Householder application for cladding to three external walls  
Gables End Bantham TQ7 3AW

Thurlestone Parish Council SUPPORTS this application. Councillors considered that this proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties (NP Policy TP1.1); that grey Cedral cladding is appropriate, has been used elsewhere in the village, and will improve the appearance of the property (NP Policy TP1.2); and that there will be no impact on the natural or historic environment (NP Policies TP1.5 & TP1.6).

4268/20/FUL Retrospective application for new pathway to side of Tee No.6  
Thurlestone Golf Club Thurlestone Devon TQ7 3NZ

Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECTS to this application. This pathway has been constructed without planning permission and fails to comply with policies in the Thurlestone Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the JLP and the South Devon AONB Management Plan. There has been no attempt to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the South Devon AONB or to minimise any visual or environmental impact on the coastal landscape (contrary to NP Policies TP1.5 Natural Environment and TP23 – Coastal Management). To the contrary, the colour and texture of the AstroTurf path with timber sides (photographs attached), located in close proximity to and visible from the SW Coast Path, presents an incongruous man-made feature which is unsympathetic and inappropriate in style, scale and character to its coastal location within the South Devon AONB (contrary to NP Policy TP1.2, DEV23, DEV24 & DEV25 of the JLP, Plan/P1 & P2 of the AONB Management Plan). Councillors felt that there were alternative environmentally friendly schemes used at other golf courses (e.g. grass paving grids and earth bank) that would remove the safety hazard and blend into the landscape with little or no impact on the AONB. The drainage pipe discharging onto the footpath should also be removed.

0104/21/VAR Application for removal of condition 8 (light reducing film on rooflights) and variation of conditions 2 (plans) of planning consent 1665/20/HHO  
Higher Furlong Warren Road Thurlestone Devon TQ7 3NT

Thurlestone Parish Council OBJECTS to the removal of condition 8 and variation of condition 2. Condition 8. Councillors considered that condition 8 requiring light-reducing film on the 6 new roof lights allowed under planning permission 1665/20/HHO is necessary and justified (under para 55 of the NPPF) to help limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and the natural environment. Three new dormer windows and a flat roof light were also allowed under 1665/20/HHO and 2 more roof lights are proposed under this application. The property is located in a designated dark skies area and to disregard the cumulative impact of additional fenestration by the removal of this condition would be contrary to NP Policies TP1.4 & 5, JLP Policy DEV25 and AONB Management Plan Policies Plan P1 & P2. The same condition has been imposed and discharged elsewhere in the parish (0433/20/HHO, 0428/20/HHO & 2613/19/HHO) and an application to remove the condition was also recently refused (1280/20/VAR). Condition 2. Councillors considered that condition 2 should not be varied for the following reasons: (i) The proposed 2 new roof lights on the North (rear) elevation to allow more natural light are excessive and unnecessary since each of the two bedrooms concerned already has a dormer window on the front elevation and a roof light on the side elevation. The roof lights in these 2 bedrooms would have an unacceptable impact on the residential amenity of properties to the rear of the building (already impacted by the 2nd floor roof light over the staircase approved under 1665/20/HHO), resulting in significant light pollution from artificial light in a designated dark skies area where proposals must be considered in the context of the existing standard of amenity in the area. Contrary to statements made in the application documents, roof lights are not a “common occurrence” on the Yarmer estate - there are none on the North elevation of properties along Warren Road that can be seen from the property directly behind – and their impact would not be de minimis in terms of neighbouring amenity and the South Devon AONB (contrary to NP Policies TP1.1 & TP1.4, JLP Policy DEV25 and AONB MP Policies Plan P1 and Plan P2). The additional roof lights would also have an unacceptable visual impact in terms of

style, scale and character on the design of this Arts and Crafts building, which is locally distinctive of the Yarmer estate and part of the historic environment (contrary to NP Policies TP1.2 & TP1.6). ii) The proposed 2 new roof lights in the garage to provide natural light to enable the occupiers to use the garage for storage and to clean and repair their surfing equipment would not outweigh the harmful impact of any light pollution (contrary to NP Policy TP1.4, JLP Policy DEV25 and AONB MP Policies Plan P1 and Plan P2).

0227/20/FUL READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) Erection of new Estate & Harbour office  
The Bantham Estate, Bantham Estate Yard Bantham

Further to our original comments in support of this application, Councillors welcomed the measures that have been taken to address concerns raised by the Natural Environment officer and South Devon AONB Unit, including: reducing the amount of glazing, increasing the amount of natural stone on the North and West elevations, using sedum on the upper flat roof part of the building and creating a Devon bank along the Southern boundary of the site.

The Thurlestone Golf Club revised application will be discussed later in the month once councillors have had a chance to look at it thoroughly.

6. To note the reports from District and County Councillors and to ask any questions arising.

County Councillor Rufus Gilbert gave the following updates:

1. Climate change: DCC is a founding and principle partner of the Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) initiative and has signed the Devon Climate Declaration which commits to working collaboratively with partners, which is now starting to be done via a consultation draft interim Devon Carbon Plan.
  2. £1.3M extra has been allocated for 21/22 budget with £600,000.00 for pot holes and drainage plus £100,000.00 for work on maintenance of street furniture and a further £600,000.00 to top up the £1.5 M given to District Councils emergency fund last summer.
  3. So far this fiscal year, DCC has used 50% more salt on the highways network totalling 15000 tons. Devon Highways budget is £28M which is about £100,000.00/day to maintain the 12,966km of roads.
- Councillor Gilbert hoped everyone was enjoying the newly surfaced road through the village and said he was grateful for all the positive messages from residents. The section by the Hotel wall, which has not yet been done, will be included at some point. It was acknowledged that the new surface may be contributing to speeding in the village and he suggested that the PC could request traffic calming measures, which he would support. Bantham could also be included in this. 20mph is not yet an enforceable speed but there is an ongoing policy review on 20mph speed limits at the moment and a pilot scheme in a village near Newton Abbott which might change this.
- On a separate issue, we are still waiting to find out if the white hatching is going back on the road outside the school.

District Councillor Mark Long

The additional Localities Officers will be working from Easter onwards, 7 days a week from April to September. They will be out and about all through the day looking for issues and reporting them as necessary.

Business Grants – if there are any businesses which have not applied for grants please do so.

The new recycling scheme will increase the level of recycling. Letters about the new service will be going to the principal residences of second home owners to make them aware. Localities Officers will also look out for new containers that have not been taken into the house and will contact owners as needed.

District Councillor Judy Pearce

SHDC has passed its budget with an increase to households of £5 per year.

There are some big decisions to make about the leisure centres, which probably won't be able to open until June and even then might be better to remain closed rather than try to operate under social distancing. Government has not been very forthcoming with help on this one.

Council Members have been given new laptops as the old, smaller devices are not good enough for remote meetings. The old ones have been donated to schools, along with some extra funding to purchase more.

Covid compliance officers are still out and about and dealing with businesses, using enforcement on businesses which continue to ignore advice.

Second homes should not be used until April 12<sup>th</sup> and residents are encouraged to report to the Police anyone breaking this rule.

Police "Covid" cars have been visiting car parks such as Bantham and Bigbury. They check number plates and issue fines to people who have travelled beyond a reasonable distance to be there.

Elections *will* take place in May and residents are strongly advised to get a postal vote set up now if they do not want to attend the Polling Centre.

## 7. Island View Play Area

To receive an update about the legal process to register ownership of the land and to discuss the repair of the fence. Councillor Rhymes explained that there was a lot of work involved, which is why the costs of a full repair were so high. It was agreed that essential repairs only should be carried out at this stage and the Chairman will ask the person who had provided the lower of the three quotes to proceed, but for a revised sum.

Councillor Crowther has spoken to Beers solicitors. She will prepare a Statement of Truth, on behalf of Councillor Marshall and/or Councillor Rhymes who were on the Parish Council at the time the District Council agreed to lease the land to the Parish Council, and present it to the solicitors when ready. Registration is taking 10 months on average so it is important to get this underway.

## 8. To receive updates about general Parish matters, including:

- Councillor Williams has spoken to a lot of people about traffic issues in the villages, especially in Bantham and West Buckland. They have shared many ideas with her, such as: better communication with businesses; traffic one-way systems; and signs advising people how to drive along the lanes. She likes the idea of signs but putting them up is difficult and time consuming. Another idea is to clear the passing bays in the Bantham lane of mud and debris which blocks them and makes them less accessible. Councillor Rhymes asked Highways to help with this. Councillor Williams is also happy to write some press releases about the issues and get some media attention nearer to high season, which councillors supported.
- Councillor Munn asked about having a Parish Lengthsman to help with tasks like clearing up debris on paths and roads. It was also agreed that there is a need for someone to carry out general jobs around the parish such as checking on the public toilets once a week, cleaning signposts and etc. It was therefore felt that these are two distinct roles. Councillor Marshall agreed to look into it with the aim of drafting an advert for the next issue of Village Voice.
- Councillor Hurrell reported that a large quantity of spoil has been tipped on land beside the West Buckland Barn and this is blocking the drainage. He said that the road now floods regularly, which never used to be the case. It was agreed that this is an enforcement issue as the dumped arisings can be seen from far away and are spoiling the appearance of the area as well.
- The Thurlestone public toilets will open on 1<sup>st</sup> March. SHDC has not yet given us the keys – this will be arranged. Councillor Rhymes will ask our grass cutting contractor if he could include the area around the toilets in an occasional cut to keep it tidy.
- The Clerk attended the meeting of the Avon estuary Forum Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February which was about how to regulate the extensive use of the river area. The overall decision was to contact all the local users and companies to ask them to be aware of the pressure on the area and to work together to ensure that it is used safely and respectfully.
- Road closures: DCC intends to carry out repairs to the road between West Buckland and Clanacombe House at some point between March and October. 7 days' notice will be given nearer the time. This was noted. The works should only take 3 days when they happen.
- A resident would like to create a garden around the telephone box and this was approved by the Council. Councillor Munn suggested that it would be nice if it were wildflowers and things that were good for pollinators rather than conventional bedding plants. District Councillor Pearce said she would be happy to contribute funds from her Locality budget.
- Community Housing – an update is expected in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March, which should be positive.
- The Friends of Thurlestone Church have agreed to pay for another 2 new windows at £9,000 each and will put £20,000 towards roof repairs on the tower.

- Councillor Crowther asked if councillors would be interested in registering the memorial green in the name of the parish and all were in favour. This will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

## 9. Accounts

- To note the bank account balance of £24,799.83 to date 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. This was noted.
- To approve the following payments:

Helen Nathanson	Parish Clerk – January and February	£766.08
	Printing	£6.98
	Zoom Pro-licence – December & January	£14.40
	First Class Stamps	£9.12
Sue Crowther	NP Expenses & Land Registry Searches	£121.20
Sian Williams	Nick Walker Printing – Wildlife leaflets	£79.00
Paul Martin	Repairs to footpath post	£10.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£1006.78</b>

The payments were approved as above.

## 10. To note the following items of local interest:

- **Census Day** is on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. It is vital that everyone takes part and more information can be found at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk).
- **2021 Elections** will take place on Thursday 6 May 2021 for the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner elections, the Devon County Council elections and other by-elections. There are a number of ways to have your say in the elections in May - you can vote in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote. If you would like to vote by post, now is the time to register using the [Electoral Commission website](#)
- **Remote Meetings** The legislation permitting councils to meet remotely will come to an end on 6 May 2021. As it currently stands, all council meetings held on, or after the 7 May, must therefore return to a face-to-face format. DALC has issued guidance about this but we are advised to await further information.

District Councillor Pearce indicated that Government is planning a six-month extension to this rule.

- **South Hams Localities programme**  
The Council has approved the creation of four new seasonal jobs within its Localities Team, to reflect the increased number of visitors to the area in the spring and summer months. The new officers will be working throughout the South Hams, building on the success of last summer, where staff worked at weekends to help protect the local environment and help keep people safe during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

These were noted.

## 11. To note the date of the next Council Meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm. NB This is not the first Monday of the month because that is the Easter Bank Holiday.

This was noted and the meeting ended at 9.31pm.

Councillor Rhymes  
Chairman

