

**DENBURY & TORBRYAN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at Denbury Village Hall**  
**Meeting Commenced 7.40pm following AGM**

**Present** – Cllr D Wilson (Chairman), Cllr B Clatworthy (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S Bryan, Cllr T Brownhill, Cllr M Atkinson, D Cllr Mrs M Colclough, C Cllr P Cook.

**In Attendance** – 7 Members of the Public.

**Apologies for Absence** – None received.

1) **Public Time (Limited to 15 Minutes).**

- a) Mr Trevor Jones has been cutting the Village Green and would like to have the contract for this if possible, he has given the Parish Council a verbal quote of an annual contract for this year when he would look after the Green for a full 12 month period. Chairman – Cllr D Wilson confirmed that the Parish Council could not stop TDC from cutting the Green as it might be difficult to reinstate again once they stopped. However the Parish Council would consider paying for the extra cuts if the pub pays ½ as was agreed. This will be discussed later in the meeting.
- b) Mr A Peck – Many thanks to the Parish Council for the previous years efforts. At mayday there were lots of comments about the stones on the Village Green – “for myself the cosmetic effect is not pleasing”. Can only remember 2 accidents involving damage to the Green since I have lived in the Village. If an accident was to occur and someone hit one of the big rocks it could make it more serious. Chairman – Cllr D Wilson – The main reason for the stones on the Green is to stop damage to the Green and to stop people parking on the Green. There has been several incidents recently involving large lorries in South Street which have needed to reverse and turn at the Green and the new stones prevent them driving up onto the Green. We would all be sorry if an accident were to occur at the Green but any vehicle missing the corner and going onto the Green would be going too fast in the first place.
- c) Mrs P Howe – Are the stones going to be sunk into the Green further – Chairman – Cllr D Wilson confirmed that this would happen when a working party can be organised to do it. Mrs Howe also confirmed that the Wall beside the Green belonging to Denbury Manor needs repair and to gain access the undergrowth beside the wall needs to be cut back. Would the Parish Council be in agreement with the cutting back. All Cllrs present were in agreement that this could be done.
- d) Mr A Peck – Garages in Moorland Avenue – Chairman – Cllr D Wilson – The Parish Council has no jurisdiction over these as they are owned by the Prison.

- 2) **Minutes** – The minutes of the Meeting held Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 have been distributed and read. The minutes were proposed by Cllr S Bryan and seconded by Cllr T Brownhill with all in agreement and duly signed by the Chairman – Cllr D Wilson. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 have also been distributed and read – they were proposed by Cllr S Bryan and seconded by Cllr B Clatworthy (Vice-Chairman) and duly signed by Chairman – Cllr D Wilson.

### 3) **Planning Applications Received from TDC.**

- a) Application no 07/01741/FUL – Mr & Mrs Burgoyne – Cornerways, The Green, Denbury – Single storey lean-to extensions and re-location of garage extension – No objections from the Parish Council – proposed by Vice- Chairman – Cllr B Clatworthy and seconded by Cllr M Atkinson with all in agreement.
- b) Application no 07/01578/COU – Mr G N Heath – Yeatt Farm, Denbury – Conversion of barn to dwelling house – No objections from the Parish Council – proposed by Cllr M Atkinson and seconded by Cllr T Brownhill with all in agreement.
- c) Application no 07/01141/FUL – Mr D J & Mrs J E Guppy – 8 Orchard Close, Denbury – Single storey bedroom extension and flat roof utility extension. Cllr S Bryan has declared an interest and left the room. The Parish Council recommend refusal of this application. They have concerns about the flat roof which is to the front of the property and the overlooking and loss of amenity to the property next door. Proposed by Chairman – Cllr D Wilson and seconded by Vice-Chairman – Cllr B Clatworthy with all in agreement.

### **Decisions received from TDC**

- a) Grant of Conditional Planning Permission – Application no 07/00968/FUL – Mr & Mrs Smith – Avalon, North Street, Denbury TQ12 6DJ – Alterations and extension.
- b) Grant of Conditional Planning Permission – Application no 07/00788/COU – Mrs V Pilton – The Barn at The Glebe, Woodland Road, Denbury – Conversion of barn and existing flat to dwelling house.
- c) Refusal of Planning Permission – Application no 07/00337/FUL – Mr & Mrs Matthews – Rowan Barn, North Street, Denbury TQ12 6DJ.

### **Appeals**

- a) Appeal Decision – Sunnymead, Ambrook Road, Torbryan TQ12 5UW – This has been dismissed.

### 4) **Matters Arising**

- a) Denbury Garage Site – Chairman – Cllr D Wilson confirmed that a working party meeting is to be arranged with Mick Roberts Planning Consultant – this will be Monday 21<sup>st</sup> or Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.
- b) Parish Plans – Cllr M Atkinson reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> step towards this would be to have an open Parish Meeting to establish a Committee and the way forward – suggestion of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 07 and a flyer to go into the Denbury Diary to advertise this. The Clerk to check the date and confirm and ask Mr Steve Matson at TDC if he is able to attend.
- c) Post Office – DCC have written to the Parish Council to confirm that a new sign to show where the Post Office is situated would be £100. Proposed by Cllr S Bryan and seconded by Cllr B Clatworthy with all in agreement that the Parish Council pay for the new sign.
- d) Replacement of Village Green Stones – This matter had been covered in Public Time, however the Chairman – Cllr D Wilson commented that he was not pleased to see a piece in the Denbury Diary regards the stones with no name on it. A reply piece will appear in the next Diary.
- e) Wrenwell – Pine Trees – TDC – Mr Doug Pratt has written and confirmed that he will not agree to putting a TPO on the Trees – The letter was read out by Chairman – Cllr D Wilson.

- f) Football Club – Chairman – Cllr D Wilson confirmed that all the printed material from the web-site had been distributed and read by Cllrs – No further action on this matter – proposed by Cllr S Bryan and seconded by Cllr T Brownhill with all in agreement.
- g) Village Green Grass Cutting – Cllr S Bryan commented that TDC need to carry on with their Grass Cutting on the Green. Trevor Jones is making a very good job of the cutting and should also be allowed to keep it cut in between the other TDC cuts. The Pub have agreed to pay ½ his annual bill of £650 per year and have asked the PC to pay the other ½ ie: £325 each. Cllr M Atkinson commented that the Green looks good but the Parish Council are spending Public Money twice if TDC are still also cutting the Green. Cllr B Clatworthy suggested a Car Boot sale to raise the money. This could be done and then the money donated to the Parish Council for the purpose of paying the Grass Cutting Bill. Cllr T Brownhill proposed that Trevor Jones and TDC cut the Grass for a year on trial and see what public feeling is and then look at this again in December before the contract is renewed for another year – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr M Atkinson. The Clerk will write to Trevor Jones with a copy to the Pub.
- h) Paintballing – Nothing has been heard from TDC since the last letter – Another letter to be written to them asking about when the new carpark is going to be done. The road has recently been flooded right across as drainage is inadequate in the area of the current entrance and the sign that has appeared is still in situ. How is the evidence going to be collected to monitor the wildlife on site. Copy to D Cllr M Colclough.
- i) Annual Flyer/Newsletter – Chairman – Cllr D Wilson confirmed that this will be finished this month.

#### 5) Correspondence.

- a) Letter from Denbury PCC – Churchyard Maintenance Grant – Proposed by Cllr B Clatworthy and seconded by Cllr S Bryan that the same grant of £250 be given again.
- b) Letter from Denbury Flower & Produce Show – Cistern Insurance for Hanging Baskets – The Clerk has written to the insurers to ask if its OK to have the baskets up in the Cistern.
- c) Letter from Age Concern Devon – Annual Membership 07/08.
- d) Copy Letter from BT to TDC – Phonebox in Torbryan to be cashless.
- e) DCC – Minerals and Waste Development Framework Consultation Document (comments by the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007) – This was placed into the envelope for Cllrs perusal.
- f) Letter from Mr T R Howe – Denbury Manor – Another letter has been received which was read to Cllrs by the Chairman – Cllr D Wilson. A brief reply to be written but no further action on any of the points raised as the Parish Council have already replied in their previous letters.
- g) Letter from City of Exeter – Unitary Status – Placed in the envelope for Cllrs perusal.
- h) DAPC – Election of County Committee 2007-2011 – Given to Cllr T Brownhill.
- i) CVS – Community Action Roadshows – Cllrs to make a note of the date – 12<sup>th</sup> June at Abbotskerswell Village Hall.
- j) Letter from Teignbridge Rural Aid – This outlined this years changes to Rural Aid – Small Grants have now ended in favour of major capital schemes.
- k) Letter from Denbury May Fayre – The Parish Council were not successful in their application for a grant for the Grass Cutting.

#### **Matters not requiring discussion placed in the envelope to be circulated (3 Envelopes).**

#### 6) Main Agenda.

- a) Report from County Cllr P L Cook – reported as follows: - **Submission by Exeter City Council for Unitary Status** - At the end of October 2006 the Government invited councils in England to make proposals for future unitary structures or to pioneer, as pathfinders, new two tier models. The County Council believes that the best interests of the people of Devon, including the residents of Exeter, will be best served by retaining the current two tier structure, building on the many good examples of joint working between the County Council, District, Town and Parish Councils in Devon to achieve improved local government services.

In January Exeter City Council put in a bid for Unitary status to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), while the County Council and District Councils submitted an outline of how two tier local government in Devon could be improved with the proviso that a more detailed programme for this would be finalised by July. The government document stated that all proposals to create new unitary authorities had to satisfy five criteria, including

- (i) to be affordable with costs being offset by savings within five years ;
- (ii) supported by a broad cross-section of partners and stakeholders ;
- (iii) deliver value for money and equity on public services.

The DCLG put forward a three stage process. Stage 1 from January to March involved an assessment by the Government of the proposals against the criteria set. Stage 2 will be a wide Government consultation with partners and stakeholders in the areas affected over a period of 12 weeks. Stage 3 will entail an assessment of each proposal to take account of the outcome of the stakeholder consultation and development of the business case before a decision is made by the end of July. **Outcome of the invitation process** Of the 26 bids for unitary status, 16 were selected for Stage 2 in a Government announcement on March 27<sup>th</sup> and Exeter was included in the 16. **Action taken by the County Council in relation to the Exeter Unitary bid** Officers have scrutinised the business case prepared by the City Council and this has given rise to grave concerns. Even though the County Council is currently responsible for the provision of the vast majority of local government services in Exeter, it is not allowed to make any formal representation. Never-the-less, officers have sought to communicate their concerns to ministers and officials of the DCLG and other key Government departments.

**(i) Affordability**

The City Council's financial case relies on a number of optimistic assumptions. Were any one of these assumptions to be mistaken, financial position of both the City Council and the County Council would be seriously compromised. An assessment of the City Council's case has been carried out based on experience of past restructuring and estimates by other local authorities in Stage 1 of the process. The conclusion is that an under-estimate of the transitional costs and an over-estimate of the potential savings for both the City and County Councils have been made. The Government is clear that there can be no rise in Council Tax as a result of the changes so the financial implications of any errors will take the form of service cuts and/or running reserves down to imprudent levels. The City Council has estimated transitional costs at £6.5 million in contrast to County Council estimates of about £20 million. The implications for Devon's citizens of allowing flawed proposals to proceed to implementation without a full and thorough financial assessment would be devastating whether in Exeter or the residual area of Devon.

**(ii) Supported by a broad cross section of partners and stakeholders**

The City claims the support of six of the other seven district councils but this is not confirmed by the statement that the leaders of these six councils understand the rationale for the unitary case which is far short of indication of support. In addition a number of key stakeholders are opposed to the proposal including three of the four countywide public service providers. Furthermore a survey by IPSOS/MORI of Exeter residents falls a long way short of an emphatic endorsement of the bid. The County Council believes that the Exeter submission fails to meet the test of a broad cross section of support.

**(iii) Deliver value for money and equity in public services**

The City Council employed consultants to develop proposals in their business case. However virtually all the service developments proposed are already underway and will have been implemented by 2009 irrespective of the unitary status. The submission does not address the significant capacity problems that will face the city council. It also highlights a plethora of joint arrangements or commissioned services that will be required due to a lack of capacity inherent in a small district based unitary. Their negotiation, coordination and management will add a significant additional cost. Finally the submission fails to recognise the fragmentation and duplication of partnership and other delivery arrangements that will result. There will also be a loss of coterminosity with the recently established Devon Primary Care Trust. All of this will increase costs for key partners with no benefit for local people. The County Council believes the submission fails to meet the test of value for money in service delivery.

**Conclusions**

The financial consequences for both Exeter and the remaining area of Devon should unitary status be granted will be serious. The decision of the Government to approve the Exeter bid for Stage 2 consideration is a surprising one in view of the serious flaws associated with the estimates on costs.

The County Council proposes to write to all of Devon's town and parish councils drawing their attention to the DCLG consultation and to continue, in line with the DCLG's instructions, to make partners, stakeholders and the public aware of the opportunity to make their views known.

- b) Report from District Cllr M Colclough – Chairman – Cllr D Wilson commented that it was nice to see Mary re-elected. Mary gave thanks to everyone who had voted for her. Nothing much to report at the moment the TDC AGM is tomorrow. The Local development Framework is currently up in the air and I will be able to report more at the next meeting. Cllr T Brownhill reported on some rubbish bins which were left uncollected at Wrenwell which he has been in touch with TDC about and also a Caravan at Wrenwell situated on the Caravan site.
- c) Playing Field Management Committee Report – Chairman - Cllr B Clatworthy had nothing to report – no meeting had been held.
  - d) Village Hall Management Committee Report – Cllr T Brownhill reported that the hall had a spring clean and thanks will go into the Denbury Diary. Chairman – Cllr D Wilson commented that the Grass and Hedges around the outside of the Hall need cutting. The Insurance for the New Village Hall Carpark is being looked into. Window frames need attention. Stage curtains are stained and need attention. Snooker Table lighting and Table Tennis Lighting not safe. A deposit scheme for users of the hall is being considered.
  - e) New Village Hall Steering Group – Report by Cllr S Bryan – A Public meeting will be called when new plans are ready. A site hut is now in situ and work on the road in has started. Chairman – Cllr D Wilson confirmed that he had spoken to TDC about the site hut and if works stop it must be removed or Planning Permission sought for it. The plans for the new hall have been circulated to Cllrs and any comments will be replayed back to the New Hall Committee by the Chairman.
  - f) Association of Local Councils – Next meeting 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007 – Chairman – Cllr D Wilson and Cllr T Brownhill to attend.
  - g) Footpath Reports – Cllr S Bryan had nothing to report regards maintenance but Doughy Lane has lots of dogmess.
  - h) Reports from Parish Councillors – Nothing to report.
  - i) Highway Matters, Road Maintenance & Parish Lengthsman Items – Cllr S Bryan reported that he met Mr M Camp-Richards on site. They discussed the Orchard Close/Shute Lane junction and this is not within their criteria the area breaking up is within the private road when the plan was looked at. The Potholes have been addressed and the flooding at the bottom of Shute Lane noted, it was flooded again yesterday in this area. The flooding by the school was noted again and also the flooding at Fairfield Farm.
  - j) Emergency Plan – Chairman – Cllr D Wilson is in possession of this and is currently updating.
  - k) Dog Fouling (Extra Bin) – to be carried forward to the next PC meeting.
  - l) Greenhill Lane – to be carried forward to the next PC meeting.
  - m) White Paper Talk (Steve Matson TDC).
  - n) Parish Councillor Vacancy – This will now be advertised – letters of thanks to go to all the outgoing Cllrs who did not stand for re-election.
  - o) Parish Council Meeting in Torbryan – Maybe the July meeting to enable it to be well advertised, the Clerk to find out if the Pub have available space, it has been confirmed that its OK to use the Pub if nowhere else is available
  - p) New Code of Conduct to be adopted – Carried forward to the next meeting – the new code has to be adopted by October 2007.
  - q) Noticeboards – Cllr M Atkinson has confirmed that he will be the new Noticeboard Officer.

## 7) **Cheques for Signature.**

Cheque no 525 = £25.00 – West Teignbridge Ring and Ride (PC Donation).

Cheque no 526 = £1,053.06 – Allianz Cornhill (Annual Insurance Policy).

The above cheques proposed by Cllr T Brownhill and seconded by Cllr S Bryan.

Current Bank Balance – Parish Council – April 2007 = £4,123.05

Current Bank Balance – Playing Field - April 2007 = £410.99

8) **Any Items to go onto next Parish Council meeting Agenda.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm

Next Meeting Denbury Village Hall – Parish Council Meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 @ 7.30pm.

**ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAS SPECIAL NEEDS AND REQUIRES A COPY OF THESE MINUTES SENT TO THEM – PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK – 01364 644109.**

**DENBURY & TORBRYAN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**AGM**

**Held at Denbury Village Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 @ 7.30pm**

**Present** – Cllr S Bryan, Cllr T Brownhill, Cllr D Wilson, Cllr M Atkinson, Cllr B Clatworthy, D Cllr M Colclough.

**In Attendance** – 7 Members of the Public.

**Apologies for Absence** – C Cllr P Cook.

- 1) **Election of Chairman** – Cllr D Wilson - proposed by Cllr S Bryan and seconded by Cllr B Clatworthy with all in agreement.
- 2) **Election of Vice-Chairman** – Cllr B Clatworthy – proposed by Cllr S Bryan and seconded by Cllr D Wilson with all in agreement.
- 3) **Election of members to be Representatives on other Committees.**
  - a) **Village Hall Management Committee** – Cllr T Brownhill.
  - b) **Playing Field Management Committee Chairman** – Cllr B Clatworthy to remain as Chairman.  
**Parish Council Representative on the Playing Field Committee** – Cllr S Bryan.
  - c) **Teignbridge Association of Local Councils** – Cllr D Wilson and Cllr T Brownhill.
  - d) **Parish Emergency Plan Officer** – Cllr D Wilson.
  - e) **Footpaths Officer** – Cllr S Bryan.
  - f) **New Village Hall Committee** – Cllr S Bryan.
  - g) **Parish Plan Group** – Chairman – Cllr M Atkinson, this Committee also needs another representative to be found when the Parish Council has full membership.

**The above were proposed on block by Cllr B Clatworthy and seconded by Cllr T Brownhill with all in agreement.**

- 4) **Election of Villagers onto Playing Field Committee** – One new member – Mr Andy Deacon.
- 5) **Financial Statement, Adoption of Accounts from 2006/2007**– The accounts have been distributed and read – proposed by Cllr S Bryan and seconded by Cllr T Brownhill with all in agreement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm.