

Goodleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 July 2023 at 6:30pm at Goodleigh Village Hall

Present: Cllrs S Clarke, R Gulwell and Dr S Ley.

In the absence of the Chairman, the chair was taken by Councillor Clarke.

In Attendance: 15 members of the public, Cllr M Prowse (NDC), Cllr Mrs A Davis (DCC), Parish Clerk.

30. Items from the public

Confirmation was given that Cllr Mrs Davis had responded regarding an extension to the speed limit towards Gunn. Although this should be possible, it was a very slow process. It was noted that the applicant for the proposed dwelling was prepared to pay.

Concern was expressed over surface water from the new development in the village affecting the cottages on the opposite side of the road. Cllr Prowse offered to check with Planning.

It was noted that the Village Hall Committee had received assurances from the developer that they would carry out any necessary repairs to the villager hall access.

Concern was expressed over overgrown vegetation on the verge which was obscuring visibility. Cllr Prowse offered to check on who was responsible for the verge.

31. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Thorne and Mrs J Morris.

32. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 15 June 2023

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

33. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Prowse outlined the current position regarding the development in the village, on which the District Council was keeping a close watch. It had been confirmed that there had been no change to the red line shown on the original plans.

34. Co-option of Parish Councillors

It was noted that there were currently three vacancies on the council. An expression of interest in being co-opted had been received from Mrs Boyle.

Cllr Clarke proposed that Mrs Boyle be co-opted, seconded by Cllr Gulwell, all in agreement.

Cllr Mrs Boyle signed the necessary papers and was welcomed onto the council.

35. Reports

1. District Councillor

Cllr Prowse reported that the Pannier Market would reopen at the end of the month despite the project being behind schedule due to additional work being needed..

Work was starting on the buildings in Boutport Street, which would be used for visual arts.

Work was also starting on converting the old Derby Lace factory into housing.

Work would soon be starting on the demolition of the old leisure centre. The Ilfacombe Water Sports Centre would be opening the following week.

The council had purchased another six houses to use as temporary accommodation.

2. County Councillor

North Devon Link Road

At Borners Bridge a roundabout is operational. A new road layout now in place. Whilst this is not the final design, the roundabout is accessible for the residents of North Molton, whilst Station Road remains as left turn only.

There are new speed restrictions in place for the safety of the workforce and speed cameras are in place it is now 30mph

There are some work under lights all along the Link Road over the next few weeks, this is night time only.

Recycled Bikes available at Recycling Centres.

Fully serviced, reconditioned bikes are on sale at many of Devon's recycling centres from this week.

This week is international Bike Week (5-11 June) and this initiative will reduce waste and offer more people access to cycling.

With some brands of bike as much as 20 per cent more expensive than a year ago, it offers those who want to saddle up a chance to do so at an affordable price.

A specially trained team at SUEZ, who run the recycling centres on Devon County Council's (DCC) behalf, will repair the bikes from their new 'Re-Cycle Hub' at the Brunel Road facility in Newton Abbot.

They will repair old bikes, no longer wanted by Devon residents, and give them a new lease of life.

They will then sell them through the network of reuse shops in Devon's recycling centres. Each bike will be serviced and include a warranty.

Each year an estimated 10,000 bikes come through the recycling centres in Devon as residents outgrow them, break them or get frustrated that they're taking up valuable space in the garage.

£2 Bus fare until October 2023

Bus users will pay no more than £2 for a single journey when boarding the bus anytime until end October 2023. The fare will then be £2.50 from November 2023 to November 2024.

Please try and use the bus, even for a few journeys a month, encourage others to try it out. At only £2 a trip this is substantially cheaper than taking a car into Barnstaple and no car parking charges. I have had the route changed and now the Lynton bus is a 'rail link' bus which is timed to be at the railway station to coincide with train movements.

For more information on the £2 single fares scheme, terms and conditions and exclusions, visit the [Travel Devon website](#).

Road defects (Potholes)

As you'll be aware, an extremely high level of pothole defects across the network, following the cycle of prolonged cold and wet weather we experienced over the winter. To put this in context, around 26,500 potholes have been identified and passed to our contractor, Milestone, since January – this is around 8,000 or 30% more than for the same period last year. January alone saw almost 7,400 potholes identified, the most of any month in over 3 years. Similarly, the inspection team have assessed almost 35,000 reports of potholes from members of the public since January, compared to just over 14,000 last year.

To tackle this backlog, teams across the Devon Highways partnership have worked very closely to enable re-prioritisation of resource so that safety critical defects on our highway network could be identified and repaired as effectively as possible. In order to achieve this some of our works programmes required adjusting, with schemes postponed or re-planned to free up available resource. We also had to make the difficult decision to temporarily cease identification and repair of serviceability (i.e. those that don't meet the intervention requirements of our Highway Safety Policy) highway defects, so that the focus could remain on those defects that represented the biggest risk to users of our network. At times, we have had over 40 pothole repair gangs working across the County, along with repairs and inspections taking place during evenings and at weekends.

I am pleased to report that, the number of potholes currently with Milestone for repair has now stabilised, sitting at around 800 (down from 3000 at its peak in February) and is much more in-line with the sort of volume we'd typically expect for this time of year. On this basis a number of the additionally resourced gangs have now returned to programmed works and we have very recently re-introduced the identification of non-safety defects, as we fully recognise the benefit of acting proactively and repairing these before they worsen and require attention at a later date. In other words fixing non safety defects in the vicinity of reported safety defects.

Aside from traditional pothole repairs, the longer days help a great deal to ensure the dragon patchers are double shifting. There is also an additional 5th vehicle operating in the County this summer.

Please keep reporting any defects you come across.

36. Planning Applications.

None received.

37. Community Speedwatch

The process of Community Speedwatch was explained by Andy Frisby from Devon & Cornwall Police. He stressed that volunteers would be involved in collecting data only, and would not have any direct contact with motorists. Training sessions would be arranged by the police, who would supply full support, especially if any motorist became aggressive.

Sites that could be used would be authorised by the police, and could only be in a 20, 30 or 40 mph speed limit.

There were no set number of session per month, this would be agreed within individual groups.

It was agreed that the next step would be to gather names of those interested in forming a group. Indications from the meeting showed that there was a sufficient number of people willing in being involved.

38. Correspondence Received

None.

39. Surface Water/Drains/Highways

It was noted that the road between the village and Goodleigh Cross had been closed for resurfacing recently, but that no notification had been received or signs erected.

40. Matters from the Chairman

None.

41. Finance

1. Payments

North Devon Homes	£ 7.50	Cheque No. 1003
Clerk’s Salary & Expenses	£67.62	Cheque No. 1004
HMRC	£16.40	Cheque No. 1005

The three accounts were approved for payment.

42. Items for the next Agenda:

Community Speedwatch.

43. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1 August 2023

There being no further business, the chairman declared the meeting closed.

Signed
Chairman

Date