

# ***Goodleigh Parish Council***

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23 May 2023 at 6.50 pm at Goodleigh Village Hall

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

**In Attendance:** 8 members of the public, Cllr M Prowse (NDC), Parish Clerk.

Prior to the start of the meeting, councillors completed their Statement of Interests, and signed their Consent to being a Parish Councillor.

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Cllr Seaford, the outgoing Chairman opened the meeting by inviting nominations for Chairman.

Cllr Thorne was unanimously elected, after confirming his willingness to stand.

**Vice Chairman**

Cllr Clarke expressed willingness to continue as Vice Chairman, and was unanimously elected.

Cllr Seaford was thanked for the ten years that he had represented residents of Goodleigh as a parish councillor.

**2. Items from the public**

None.

**3. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs A Davis (DCC)

**4. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 4 April 2023**

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

**5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There had been no progress made in volunteers coming forward to help maintain the play area.

**6. Reports not received at the Annual Parish Meeting**

**1. County Councillor**

**£2 Bus fare until October 2023**

Welcome and unexpected news;

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 310 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](#).

**Additional Funds for roads**

Devon will receive an extra £9.4m announced in the recent budget to fund highway maintenance. The majority of this will be used on the minor road network. I will know more about allocations in the next weeks.

The County's share of the £200m announced is the largest amongst County and unitary authorities.

This winters weather has had a significant impact on Devons 8000 miles of road network, this additional funding will contribute to the extensive maintenance and repair programme across Devon. The cold weather in November and December followed by the wettest March for 40 years basically hit the road infrastructure in the country very hard.

*This is welcome news however put this into some context; to get the highway network in Devon from 'Red' to 'Amber' it would cost £180m. Virtually the entire allocation for the country just in Devon alone, I do not know what the answer is to this as clearly we do not have this sort of sum available from the national coffers.*

*I have put forward some sites in the Parish for patching money when it is available and there is capacity in the workforce to do the work, this will be once the safety defects on the network are back to a manageable level and teams can go back to their usual tasks.*

### **North Devon Link Road**

The work continues and is on time, Borners Bridge junction (North Molton junction) is progressing well, this is a complicated area with a huge increase in levels required to put in the roundabout, which is a lozenge shape. Permits around working in the watercourse, the transatlantic cable and a medium pressure gas main all add to the complexities, the junction scheduled to be operational for turns in June. There will still be work to do there but vehicles will be able to use the junction as intended.

West Buckland overbridge is progressing well and Landkey roundabout is functional now. The scheme is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

### **Tarka Trail**

Some of you who have been on the Parish Council for some time will know that when I was elected first 18 years ago I wanted to get the ‘missing link’ completed on the Tarka Trail completed.

Last week DCC were awarded £800k which is by far the largest amount we have ever received for the Tarka trail missing link. This will complete the section from Willingcott to Foxhunters and there is money to develop the next stage towards Knowle.

I am really pleased that finally we will see some significant length completed. It pays to be tenacious and patient, look at every funding opportunity and never give up!

### **Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;**

**[Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](#) 0345 155 1004**

Live chat is available on the Highways website Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm (4 pm on Fridays). To report a problem with road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs and public rights of way

## **7. Planning**

### **1. Applications:**

76982 Prior notification by telecommunications code system operator for upgrade of an existing base station consisting of the removal of the headframe from the existing 15m monopole and installation of a new, wider headframe comprising 3 no antennas and 2 no dishes together with the relocation of an existing dish and installation of 1 no cabinet and ancillary development thereto. Land at Stables Northleigh Hill Goodleigh

It was agreed to recommend approval

77068 Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 64973 (The erection of 17 dwellings, junior playing pitch, public open space, footway links to the village hall and Coombe Farm County Wildlife Site, 20 community use car parking, and associated drainage and landscaping infrastructure (Amended plans)) to allow amended plans at Meadow Drive Goodleigh Devon

The developer had submitted an application to amend the s106 agreement by removing the affordable homes element.

Cllr Prowse reported that he had called in the application to be considered by planning committee. It was noted that the village had supported the application due to the inclusion of affordable homes.

Cllr Prowse stated that he would check the original and current plan to ensure that no change had been made.

It was considered that the wording of application 77068 did not make it clear what the variation was. It was thought that the wording should be amended, and the application readvertised.

It was agreed that the application should be strongly recommended for refusal, and that the site area should remain the same, with the car park and play area clearly defined.

Cllr Prowse reported that the planning enforcement officer, accompanied by the police, had visited Honey Hill. The matter would now be going back to court due to the non compliance of the previous order.

It was agreed to send s letter to North Devon Planning and the Highways Dept at Devon County Council pointing out that the approval of planning application was likely to result in a serious road accident due to the poor visibility of the entrance owing to a bend and dip in the road. As the application had been approved, it was vital that the 30mph speed limit was extended past the proposed entrance.

**8. Correspondence**

None.

**9. Surface Water/Drains/Highways**

Large potholes were reported just above Chelfham bridge.  
Numerous potholes were also reported at Combe Close, towards the school.  
A blocked drain was reported in Longland Close.

**10. Community Speedwatch**

To date only one person had volunteered to be part of the Communitie Speedwatch group. It was noted that a minimum of 5 were required.

**11. Matters from the Chairman**

Cllr Thorne proposed that Mrs Morris be co-opted as parish councillor. This was unanimously agreed. Having completed the relevant forms, Cllr Mrs Norris took her place on the council.

The Chairman had made arrangements for the grass in the playing field to be cut, following a request from the school.

**12. Finance**

**1. Adoption of Accounts**

Cllr Thorne proposed that the accounts be adopted. Seconded by Cllr Dr Ley. All in agreement.

**2. Completion of Annual Audit Return**

1. It was unanimously agreed that the Certificate of Exemption should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
2. The Annual Governance Statement was completed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
3. The Accounting Statement was agreed, and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**3. Receipt:** NDC – 50% Precept            £2200.00

**4. Payments**

NDC -dog bins	£117.00
Clerk’s Salary & Expenses	£ 72.02
HMRC	£ 16.40

The three accounts were approved for payment.

**13. Items for the next Agenda:**

Co-option of Parish Councillors; Development at Meadow Drive; Extension of Speed Limit; Community Speedwatch.

**14. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 6 June 2023

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

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....