

ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2025 at the Pavilion, Atherington at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Ms C Norman (Chairman), A Boyce, C Hart, J Kiely and Mrs A Lindsay

In attendance: 5 parishioners, County Councillor P Henderson, Parish Clerk.

114. Matters Raised by the Public

1. parking in the village was still a problem, especially outside the churchyard, where the space was necessary for large lorries to negotiate the corner. Cllr Henderson agreed to speak to Highways again about reinstating the white lines and signage.
2. DCC Highways had been busy in the parish ploughing some of the water tables in preparation for resurfacing.
3. The chairman explained the reasons for requesting sight of insurance details from anyone wishing to park their vehicles overnight at the pavilion on a regular basis. Although such action was regrettable, it may be necessary to lock the gate to prevent unauthorised parking at the pavilion, noting that it was private car park, and not a public one.

115. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr J Andrew.

116. Declarations of Interest

None.

117. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 21 January 2025

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

118. Matters Arising from the last meeting

None.

119. Reports:

1. County Councillor

The report received from Cllr Henderson is attached to these minutes.

2. District Councillor

District Councillor not present – no report received.

120. Community Speedwatch

It was reported that the number of motorists who had been recorded as exceeding the speed limit was far higher than the average for the remainder of Devon.

Cllr Henderson reported that at present he was unable to award a grant for the provision of an interactive sign due to the process being frozen because of the upcoming DCC election. He was hopeful that the money he had ringfenced for Atherington would be available under the new councillor.

At present the Atherington speedwatch group shared the equipment with Umberleigh. The group was hopeful that it would soon be possible for it to have its own equipment, which would mean that they would be able to conduct more sessions. It was the group's aim to operate from six sites in the village.

More volunteers were needed to join the group, especially if they were going to arrange more frequent sessions.

121. Highways

A number of blocked drains had been cleared.

122. Planning Applications

None received.

123. Finance

Payments:

Advanced Moulds Ltd – tables and chairs	£1008.91
Clerk's Salary	£ 100.00
Clerk's Expenses – website hosting	£ 183.30
Clerk's Expenses – Bingo machine for Pavilion	£ 199.00
HMRC	£ 25.00
Mr C Seage – grass & hedge cutting	£ 270.00

The six accounts were approved for payment.

124. Playing Field

Everything had been booked for this year's Summer Fete.

Dog fouling at the playing field had increased recently, including on the grass. The Dog Warden had been informed.

125. Correspondence Received

1. Road Closure 12-14 May 2025. Road from Fishleigh Bridge Cross to Gt Torrington Road for SWW Fire Brigade Works. Noted.
2. NDDC – Notification of Emergency Planning Parish Forum 12 March at Brynsworthy and via Teams. Noted.

126. Items for the next Agenda

None.

127. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday, 18 March 2025.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date

BISHOPS TAWTON ROUNDABOUT

Improvement work at Bishops Tawton Roundabout in Barnstaple is due to begin on Monday 3 March.

The scheme will develop additional lanes at the roundabout to increase capacity. Pedestrian and cycle links between Bishops Tawton and Barnstaple will also be improved and a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing will be installed.

To minimise traffic disruption, a single lane approach to each arm of the roundabout will be maintained from 7am to 7pm. Any work outside these hours may occasionally need manually operated traffic lights.

This project is the latest junction upgrade of the overall £67 million North Devon Link Road improvement project which was backed with £60 million of Department for Transport (DfT) funding.

4.99% INCREASE IN COUNCIL TAX

There will be a 4.99 percent increase in council tax in Devon for the coming financial year.

Devon county councillors agreed an increase of 2.99 percent for general services with an extra two percent for adult social care.

The annual council tax for an average Band D home will rise by £85.59 – or £1.64 a week – to £1,801.26.

There will be increases in spending of 8.2 percent on adult services and 5.5 percent for children's services.

Reductions in other departmental spending and increased income will mean an overall rise of 5.9 percent in the budget with a total spend of over £784.1 million.

Councillors also agreed an extra £4 million to boost highways and repair potholes since the target budget was set last month.

There will be an additional £5 million for children's social care to provide a range of services to allow vulnerable children to be cared for closer to their families and communities.

And there'll be an extra £500,000 to support the work of district councils and homeless organisations which brings Devon County Council's homelessness budget up to £1 million.

The extra cash has come from the new additional council tax being levied on second homes.

The budget was approved by 38 votes with four against and seven abstentions.

Councillors have criticised the Government's decision to end the Rural Services Delivery Grant which helps councils with the extra cost of providing services in rural areas. This had cost Devon over £10 million, he said, with funding switched to more urban areas.

In addition Devon had received the lowest financial settlement of all 21 county councils.

LOCAL BUSINESSES TO BENEFIT

Local businesses are set to benefit from a new four-year agreement for maintenance work on Devon's Public Rights of Way and trails network.

On Friday 14 February Cabinet approved the framework of appointed contractors which will start from 1 April and continue until 2029.

The framework agreement enables the authority to use smaller, local contractors with local knowledge to support any necessary maintenance work on Devon's 5,000km (3,100 miles) of Public Rights of Way, 230km (140 miles) of off-road recreational trails such as the Tarka Trail, and 590km (over 365 miles) of minor road network.

Skilled contractors can be called upon to carry out maintenance and improvement work including vegetation clearance, tree work, path surfacing, drainage improvements, and bridge installation, as well as technical support such as site inspections and applying for permits and permissions.

Around £1.7 million is spent on this maintenance and improvement work every year – highlighting the value of the network to the local economy, environment, people's health and meeting carbon reduction targets.