

Minutes of the Annual Broadwoodwidge Parish meeting,

Tuesday 29th May 2019, 7pm

Those in attendance: Cllr James (Chairman), Cllr Warden (Vice - Chairman), Cllrs Perkin, Stratton, Crocombe, Wonnacott. Cllr Watson, Cllr Roger Croad, Cllr Phillip Hackett, Clerk.

Members of the public present: 7

5008. Welcome

Councillor James, Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

5009. Speaker Cllr Roger Croad, Devon County Councillor; Cabinet Member for Communities, Public Health, Transportation and the Environment.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Roger Croad to the meeting.

Cllr Roger Croad spoke to Councillors and members of the public about the DCC's position on climate change, putting across the following information.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

- Devon County Council declared a Climate Emergency at Full Council February 27th, 2019.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommends a 45% reduction of carbon emissions by 2030 from 2010 levels and net zero by 2050.
- The County Council's emissions have reduced by 36% since 2012/13. Target has been set for 50% by 2030 - exceeding IPCC recommendation. We have:
 - Converted 25,000 streetlights to low energy LED technology and switched to part night street lighting. Consumption now 23% less than 2012/13 levels. Just secured a further £8million to convert a further 51,000 streetlight to LED – by the end of 2020 expect all 76,000 lights converted saving approximately £750k year on year in electricity bills and several tonnes of carbon emissions.
 - Upgraded IT infrastructure
 - Replaced boilers to more energy efficient
 - Replaced older fleet vehicles and started using electric vehicles
- We have funding for projects that are:
 - Trialling innovative approaches from Holland to deep retrofit homes and commercial buildings
 - Collaborating on energy initiatives with Plymouth, Exeter and Bristol councils
 - Install solar panels at County Hall and Great Moor House
- We have applied and are awaiting decisions for funding to:

Install solar canopies on public car parks

- Install a network of electric vehicle charging points at strategic locations
- Help vulnerable households replace storage heaters with central heating

- Install a solar farm on redundant landfill sites

- Devon has 23 community energy organisations – more than any other county in England. Many supported by schemes run by this administration. They have already invested over £14million in renewable energy.

- All waste must be treated as a resource – recycling rate in Devon is currently 54%. Only last week the Brynsworthy transfer station in North Devon opened so now 100% of the residual waste collected by local authorities in Devon is to be used to generate electricity. No waste to landfill so no more methane from landfill sites.

- Our plastics strategy aims to reduce the amount of single-use plastic consumed in Devon – which is a needless use of a material that is very energy intensive. This authority has removed around 100,000 single use plastic items annually from its food outlets.

- The IPCC advises that reducing emissions by 45% by 2030 (from 2010) and becoming carbon neutral by 2050 is likely to avoid the climate warming by more than 1.5 degrees this century.

- the 45% reduction by 2030 target has been described by the IPCC as “Rapid”, “Far-Reaching” and “Unprecedented”. Increasing that target to carbon neutral by this date, whilst appearing to be desirable, will be incredibly disruptive and is likely to be a “Step Too Far” for the wider society to accept. Severe impact on:
 - How food is produced;
 - How we travel;
 - How we power our homes and businesses;
 - What our countryside will look like;
 - How often we use air travel;
 - How many, and type, of consumer items we purchase.

- Devon is made up of a myriad of organisations and businesses and every sector of society and the economy will have to help achieve stretching carbon targets – no one organisation is responsible!

Devon County Council is already having conversations with the Local Enterprise Partnership, Exeter Low Carbon Taskforce and the Devon Community Energy Network about facilitating a Devon-wide Carbon Plan. We'll look to establish a task group to research the implications of becoming carbon neutral and then collectively set a target-year for carbon neutrality that is viable yet stretching. The IPCC's recommendation of 2050 will be the absolute deadline and it will also consider the recommendation from the UK committee on climate change expected in March.

Questions were opened up to Councillors and members of the public. Questions were asked on the following:

Why had solar panels not been done before?

- There was not enough capacity on the national grid until recently.
- Will also be looking at house builders to include solar in all new builds. No actual plan at present, but the action group will be looking into it.

Where will the electricity come from to power electric vehicles if there is a big switch over?

- Again, this will need to be looked at. No full plans at present.

Cllr Hackett asked about the number of PCSO's being reduced, and how it is best to address the shortfall in policing, and what can be done to address the unfairness. Cllr Croad has already written to the Secretary of State on the matter. The Chief Constable wants warranted officers. The Police and Crime Panel is a Scrutiny panel, it can't make decisions. The Commissioner doesn't need to action any ideas put across.

There is no 'place of safety' does not exist on North Devon, people have to be taken to Torquay, which takes much needed officers away from local duty. A facility is needed in North Devon. This will be raised at the next meeting.

Ruby Way

- If it could be opened all the way through, it would bring much needed tourism to the local area, in the same way the Camel Trail and the Tamar Trails do in other areas. This is a County responsibility, and will be raised at the next meeting.

What is your take on Wind Turbines?

- Hydro is more efficient and viable in larger rivers and offshore.

How do you envisage Agriculture reducing?

Exeter University are looking at a project that reduces methane emissions from cattle.

Appendix 1: Devon Climate Declaration.

Councillor James proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Croad on behalf of the council and public present.

5010. Minutes of the Meeting:

22nd May 2018. Proposed by Cllr Stratton, Seconded Cllr Perkin.
Carried nem.com

5011. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was as follows:

Elections

Firstly, I would like to start by congratulating Cllr Pete Watson and Cllr Phillip Hackett on their recent re-election; we look forward to working with you as we do our best to get things done for the people of this parish.

Although there were parish council elections this year, we did not need to hold them in this parish as we did not have enough people putting themselves forward as candidates. During this process all the councillors had to submit candidate forms to Torridge District Council. Two of our members, Chris Durstan and Linda Banbury decided that after serving on the Parish Council for several years, they would not put themselves forward again this time. I would like to thank them for all they have done for the people of Broadwoodwidge in their time on the council.

As a result of this we are two members short, and if anyone would like to put themselves forward please speak to the clerk or myself.

Meetings

The council has met every 5-6 weeks over the past twelve months to discuss a variety of issues, commenting on planning applications and making decisions about things that need doing in the parish.

Sometimes we feel as though our views are not being listened to at Torrridge, but we all feel that it is important that people have a voice in decisions made concerning their local communities, to put forward local point of view and hopefully influence some of the things decided.

As part of the commemoration of 100 years since the end of the First World War that took place throughout the country last year, the council purchased a Silent Soldier silhouette from the Royal British Legion poppy appeal. On Remembrance Day the silhouette was used as a focal point for our thoughts of those who have served their country, this was followed by a service in the church. It was the first time in a number of years that this has taken place in the village and was attended by around 70 people.

As a result of this and other comments from parishioners, the council has decided to erect a permanent War Memorial on the lower side of the Green. Grants are being sought to pay for most of the cost of doing this. It is the intention that the remembrance commemoration will be held in the village every year from now on.

A first aid and defibrillator training evening was put on in February for anyone in the Parish. The 19 people that attended felt it was very informative and worthwhile. We are hoping to put on another one in the autumn.

The council has spent money this year on; regular mowing of the Green, a new light at the corner of the Green to light the alleyway between Church House and Church Cottage, a new litter bin for the Green, and repairs to some of the noticeboards.

The rest of the boards will be done this year, along with the refurbishing of the benches on the Green. We are aware that most of the council spending over the past years has taken place around the village area, if anyone has any ideas about things that need doing in other areas around the parish please let us know.

Last but not least I would like to thank our clerk Rachel for her work over the last year, and also my fellow Councillors for giving up their time in continuing to serve on the council.

5013. The meeting closed at 19.50pm