

Minutes of the Annual Broadwoodwidge Parish meeting

Tuesday 17th May 2022, 7pm at Broadwoodwidge Community Hub

Those in attendance: Cllr James (Chairman), Cllrs Perkin, Worden, Stratton, Hawken, Wonnacott, Crocombe, Clerk, District Cllr Watson, Leader of Torrridge – Cllr Ken James

Members of the public present: 5

5525. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Nobbs, PCSO Jess Mceldon, County Cllr J Morrish

5526. Welcome

Councillor James, Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for coming along. He advised that Cllr Ken James, the guest speaker had a second meeting to attend so agenda items 2 and 3 would be reversed and handed over to Cllr Ken James.

5527. Guest Speaker – Leader of Torrridge, Councillor Ken James

Cllr James thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to speak and apologised for having a second meeting to attend which may eliminate any time for questions. Cllr James was pleased to confirm he had been re-elected as Leader of Torrridge on Monday evening. Cllr James went on to report as follows:

Leisure: From the first of April the Leisure Centres have been run by an arms length TDC company. All the buildings have had an extensive clean and brightened up. Some new staff are in place, Holsworthy and Northam are much busier than they were, but we still have some issues with Torrington. The work so far is the first stage of planned improvements.

Environmental centre: This is a two-stage operation. One, is we want to do more recycling and have more control ourselves. Secondly, at the moment our dust carts and other vehicles are scattered around Bideford. Torrington and Holsworthy in very run-down yards so we want to provide safer and better working conditions for our staff. Land is currently being purchased East of Water Bideford.

Middle Dock: At the moment some lorries are parked up at Middle Dock by the Estuary releasing this site will enable the Council to develop this area to possibly service the Celtic Array that could be coming off North Devon. There are also discussions going on with Plymouth and Exeter University to develop a Marine Excellence Centre. With high level skills and hopefully better opportunities for our young people and better paid jobs.

Devolution: The Government has been advocating all areas should have a Mayor but there are other options which could be unitary or combined authorities. Devon County together with Plymouth, Torbay and all the Districts put a bid together to the Government which was well received but overnight Thursday Michael Gove's department issued a report which virtually stripped all Districts of their powers. Clarity is being sought as to what is the Government Policy.

Following questions from those present Cllr Ken James also provided the following information:

The leisure budget for Torrridge is £450,000 per year. Cllr James is Chairman of the board for the leisure centres.

The maritime centre will be government funded.

£900,000 over 5 years will be granted to Burton Art Gallery.

90% of Torridge employees have now returned to working in the offices.

Cllr Ken James offered to attend a future meeting to answer any further questions. Cllr Dean James thanked him for attending the meeting.

5528. Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 20th May 2020 were previously circulated, no adjustments needed, proposed by Cllr Crocombe, seconded by Cllr Wonnacott, carried nem.com

5529. Chairman's Report

Dear fellow members of Broadwoodwidge parish Council and residents of the parish,

Over the past year the parish council has again made every effort to work for and represent the people of the parish and I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for giving up their time to serve on the council. We have met every 5-6 weeks to discuss various items, some of which I will include in my report.

After taking over three telephone boxes from BT a couple of years ago we have discussed varying uses for them that would be of benefit to people of the parish. In June it was decided to shelve out the box at Ivyhouse to use as book exchange. With some grant money from our District Cllrs this was done, and the Telephone box was also repainted. I believe that this has been well used and appreciated.

We are still considering uses for the box at Dubbs Cross and Cross Green, but we have recently received a grant that could be used to put a Defibrillator in the box at Cross Green.

Following a conversation with the parish website committee it was decided that the council would take over the running of the site. To ensure that it complied with all the necessary accessibility regulations it was decided to commission a new website and transfer all the relevant information from the old one. This was completed in July.

The council has given a number of grants over the past year. These grants are given to help those who provide services to our community. Some of those receiving grants were, The Church yard maintenance fund, Holsworthy community transport, The Hub Committee and Citizens advice.

If anyone knows of groups providing services in the parish that could benefit from a grant, please apply through the clerk to the council.

In October Ros Davies, the parish paths liaison officer gave the council a presentation explaining the P3 grant scheme to assist in the upkeep of footpaths. Following this presentation, we put forward some repair work that was needed on footpaths in the parish. As yet, I don't think that the work has been completed.

The condition of the roads in the parish are a constant cause of concern for those who live in the parish and are raised at most council meetings. Following concerns that money being spent on road repairs did not prioritise the roads that the council felt were in greatest need of repair we requested a meeting with County Cllr Stuart Hughes, the chair of the highway committee. During the meeting we were told that plans were in place to allow parish councils to have a bigger say in priorities for road

repairs. Although we were pleased to hear this, we have been disappointed that we have not had any further information regarding this. We will continue to push for the roads that are in the worst condition to be prioritised for repair.

Planning applications are also on most meeting agendas, and we do try to consider and comment on every application. As every year we have not always agreed with some of the decisions made by the planning authority.

When potential breaches of planning regulations are seen by council members or reported to the council by members of the public these are passed on to Torridge District Council enforcement officers for investigation. This may not always make the council popular, but it is part of our responsibility to ensure that planning regulations are followed.

Plans are being made for the celebration of the Queen's platinum jubilee in the parish that will be largely funded by the parish council. We hope that this will be a good opportunity for the people in the parish to come together.

Finally, I would like to thank Kayleigh, our Clerk for her work over the past year. Kayleigh has now completed all the DALC training. I think that we all appreciate the efficient way in which she does her work and keeps us all informed.

This is my report of the past year.

Dean James, Chairman of Broadwoodwidger parish council 2021/22

5530. Close

The meeting closed at 19.40pm.