

Raddon Hills Area Group of Parish Councils

Notes from the meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 At Thorverton Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Neville Lane (Thorverton PC) (Chair)

Cllr Roger Cashmore (NSC PC)

Cllr Steve Parker (NSC PC)

D/Cllr Bob Deed (MDDC)

Cllr Levon Stephan (Rewe PC)

Cllr Sarah Cross (Silverton PC)

Cllr Simon Hedges (Silverton PC)

Cllr Olivia Kennard (Silverton PC)

In Attendance: Jane Hole (Minute taker via zoom)

Apologies: Ros Davies (DCC); Cllr Derek Boustred (Stock Canon PC), Cllr Henry Gent, Cllr Jim Enright (NSC PC), Cllr Chris Furse (Shobrooke PC), Cllr David Horton (Upton Pyne PC), Cllr Hugh Rogers (Stockleigh Pomeroy), Jim Maunder (Huxham), Clive Williams (Bickleigh PC)

225. **Notes for the meeting of the 26 April 2022**

Agreed

226. **Matters Arising (not on the agenda)**

Cllr Roger Cashmore gave a brief update on Broadband provision and noted that Devon was in the lowest 3% nationally for connectivity. Airband were no longer contracted by Connecting Devon and Somerset. A new provider Jurassic Fibre were working in the Crediton area to provide fibre to premises. Broadband provision was now via the open market and any provider could be approached.

There had been no response from Mel Stride, MP to the letter sent regarding concerns over Anaerobic Digestion plants

227. **Footpaths update from Ros Davies (DCC)**

Ros sent the following report

i) Right of way: St Martins Chapel to Lee Cross in Thorverton

We are aware of the signing on this route and currently working with one the landowners concerned to address the matter of material/alluvial deposits in times of heavy rain.

ii) Stoke Canon to Brampford Speke – access for all route

We are holding a meeting with a representative of the Devon Countryside Access Forum to discuss the needs for access improvements on this route – meeting planned for 2nd August.

iii) Vegetation management and expectations

This year the growth of vegetation has been enormous. Our contractors are out on the paths trying to cut and clear as fast as they can. If your paths are not as clear as you would like them, please don't worry, help is on its way!

iv) Burnhalt Bridge

We are hoping to get an engineer to look at this project as soon as they are able to find some time. The project is not forgotten, just time is not our side at the moment.

v) Update on parishes in the Raddon Hills Group

Just to say Richard has no comments to add at the moment regarding the rights of way in the Raddon Hills Group. There are no specific problems or issues that we are aware of indeed any large scale projects taking place above general maintenance and vegetation management.

Thank you to everyone for being the ‘eyes and ears’ of the rights of way at a local level and I hope to attend your next meeting.

Cllr Levon Stephan noted that Network Rail had closed a well-used footpath between Rewe and Stoke Canon without consultation and this had caused issues for local residents. Cllr Bob Deed agreed to take this up with Ros and Network Rail

Cllr Steve Parker expressed concern about the fire risk on footpaths in wooded areas in very dry weather. Could footpaths be closed temporarily? Cllr Steve Parker would ask Ros and let the group know.

228. Grant Funding – from whom? What for? What assistance is there for preparing grant application forms?

Parishes to share information on grant funding

The Group thanked D/Cllr Bob Deed for having circulated three useful documents. MDDC Grant Funding Officer, John Bodley- Scott could be contacted to provide help and support to parishes on grant funding.

Possible sources of funding as well as those in the documents circulated were noted as:

- DCC’s Growing Communities Fund which had just been launched aimed at supporting parishes with local issues making grants from £500.00. (<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/growing-communities-fund-launched/>)
- Devon Communities Together
- Viridor Grants - good for playground equipment
- Locality - source of grants for Neighbourhood Plans

229. Update on Climate Issues – parishes to share any updates since last meeting together with any suggestions for cross parish initiatives

EV Charging point – Results of Thorverton parish consultation – circulated

Cllr Roger Cashmore provided an update on Newton St Cyres actions

- Cllr Roger Cashmore was a member of DALC’s Climate group who had just published a draft report and noted that actions were difficult at parish level as central government kept changing their minds about priorities.
- NSC PC have appointed a Climate Officer who reports to each PC meeting.
- A Group within the parish (Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group - NEW) were hoping to participate in the Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Pilot Scheme.
- The NEW group were looking at a Community Larder. Sustainable Crediton were a great source of information.
- Discussions were taking place with MDDC regarding the possibility of a community orchard.
- Sustainable Crediton were organising a Green Fair on 24 September in Crediton Town Square.

Thorverton had carried out a survey on EV charging points and the results had been circulated to the Group. Following a good response rate (91 returns out of approx. 330 households in the parish) it had decided that there was sufficient interest to look into the costs associated with providing public EV points. The speed of charging points was under discussion. There were a number of houses in the parish that did not have driveways so would not be able to charge at home. Rewe had also considered EV points and decided against proceeding at this point. There was an online scheme which allowed home owners with charging points to offer these out for others to charge their vehicles.

230. DCC Highways update

Cllr Roger Cashmore reported that since the last meeting there had been a fatality on the A377 – 2 deaths in 18 months. The A377 Action Group had requested DCC to review the speed limits between Exeter and Crediton with a view to reducing the number of changes in limits. NSC PC were continuing discussions with DCC to get a crossing point at Tytheing Close. NSC's Road Warden scheme was up and running and had three Chapter 8 trained volunteers, tools and materials and an online form for parishioners to report issues. Details would be circulated with the notes from this meeting.

Boniface Trail - DCC were not now supporting the Boniface Trail preferred route alongside the A377.

231. Update on developments within each Parish

Newton St Cyres - Work had started work on a Neighbourhood plan

Rewe - Parish car parks - did other parishes allow cars to park overnight? Generally, yes, as it helps to reduce the number of cars parking on the road, especially in parishes such as Thorverton

Silverton - Online banking - did other parishes have online banking? Yes, the Clerk would be able to provide further information if required.

Thorverton - An open meeting had been held to discuss ideas for possible uses of S106 money. Various ideas had been suggested including a community orchard and a pump track and these were under investigation

232. Focus for next meeting? Ideas for speakers?

Parishes were reminded that if the nominated Raddon Hills reps could not attend the meeting, then another Councillor should be asked to attend.

Parishes to forward suggestions to the Clerk

233. To agree a Chair for the next meeting

Cllr Roger Cashmore would chair the next meeting

234. Any other business

None noted

235. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 October 2022 via zoom