

Ugborough Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 10th April at 6.30 pm

Ugborough Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Fletcher (Chair), Beable, Hart, Holway, Hosking, Johns, May, Slater and Wells
Also present SHDC Cllrs Abbott and Dewynter

4 members of the public were in attendance

Guest speakers:

South West Water Representatives delivered a brief presentation responding to questions Council had sent in advance. Their slides can be seen [on our website](#) and here is some useful signposting to resources:

- a) Water UK's new National Storm Overflows Plan for England - click on any storm overflow in the country and find planned investment information. You can filter by water company, catchment etc or just zoom in on the map to find the overflows you are most interested in. [The link is here.](#)
- b) The Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer website – for RNAGs (reasons for not achieving good status) - type in any catchment and then water body (for example the Erme) and find the latest information on water quality as a whole in that river and for the sectors responsible for any reasons for not achieving good status. The Erme can be found [on this link](#) but the wider website will give information on all waters the Environment Agency test
- c) SWW's [WaterFit Live](#), giving real time information on storm overflows which may temporarily be affecting designated bathing water quality (soon to cover all storm overflows in the region)
- d) [SWIMFO](#): Environment Agency's website on designated bathing water quality:

Additional points:

Exporting water - They are increasing their water sources and making use of china clay pits in Cornwall to increase water supply during dry periods. SWW does not export water to other parts of the country at present.

Invasive species – The main species is Himalayan Balsam. SWW has a legal requirement to manage outbreaks on their own land and are not adverse to working with other groups and organisations to manage it in neighbouring areas.

A member of the public asked if the human resources were sufficient to take on the extra work over the coming years. SWW confirmed that there would be use of contractors and internal recruitment for project management and quality control.

1. Apologies: Ella Briens (Dartmoor National Park), Greener Ugborough, Sue Johns (St Peter's Church), Cllrs Cooper and Nelson and DCC Councillor Dan Thomas.

2. Introduction & Annual Report by Chairman Cllr Joan Fletcher

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council.

Last May was Parish Council elections and were very pleased that 10 councillors were happy to stand again. This of course meant we didn't actually have an election and we co-opted our 11th member, Colin Wells from Filham.

We continue to be grateful for the work of our Lengsthman who has been busy around the Parish keeping drains and buddle holes clear. In fact, the sight of John out and about is often a better indicator of the weather to come than the forecasts!

DCC are in the final stage of the process for implementing a 20mph speed limit in Ugborough Village. This has been a priority for the community for many years and it is only achievable because the Parish Council has agreed to pay for the implementation.

Also, in terms of road safety, the Parish Council has temporarily relocated the Bittaford Vehicle Activated Speed sign to the approach to Beacon View in Bittaford to encourage drivers to slow down on the bend.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to convince Devon Highways that there should be an extension to the 30mph limit at Filham. However, we are still exploring the possibility of a bus shelter at the Davids Lane junction by the Bloor homes development.

The Parish Council continues to work with Dartmoor National Park to improve accessibility to Bittaford playpark. The new gravel path through the play park has suffered during the periods of heavy rain and we are continuing to explore ways of improving the drainage to avoid the path being washed away. Looking ahead we will be exploring the possibility, with South Hams, of using some s106 funding to improve the upper section of Bittaford playpark.

South Hams have agreed s106 funding towards the cost of a fence around the Ugborough School field. We expect this to be installed soon and this will mean the community will be able to use the field for sport and recreation outside School hours under the terms of a license agreement between WeST and the Parish Council. More information on how this will work soon.

The Parish Council held a carbon reduction event 'drop in' on the 23rd March and are very grateful to Greener Ugborough for their help and support for this event. There weren't as many attendees as we would have hoped but those helpers and visitors who were there felt they made some useful contacts and were able to access useful information. The Parish Council will be putting some of the information available on the day on to the website for all to access.

The Parish Council finances continue to be in good shape and it has been able to continue to provide grants towards community initiatives. Over the last year, it has provided funding towards Ugborough and Bittaford planters, Ugborough newsletter, Ivybridge Ring & Ride and the Four Rivers Dementia Alliance. Thank you to Councillor Johns who yet again managed to source a magnificent Christmas tree for the Church green this year.

In relation to IT the Parish Council are transferring to a new website which can be found at www.ugboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk. We are also in the process of implementing Parish Online, a digital mapping software package.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without the support and hard work of your Parish Clerk and Councillors.

3. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023 were confirmed

4. Reports from District Councillors Vic Abbott and Alison Dewynter

[See our website](#)

5. Reports from local groups:

St Peter's Church – [see our website](#)

Bittaford Village Hall – [see website](#)

Ugborough Village Hall:

- level of use is now almost back up to pre-COVID use
- Wide range of users – clubs, groups and individual events
- Investments this year include electrics, storage and new projector and screen
- There is a small surplus in the accounts for the year but expenditure costs have increased significantly
- 24-25 priority is to improve the toilet facilities

A member of the public asked if there were any plans for solar panels on the roof. This is on the agenda for future consideration

Greener Ugborough – [see our website](#)

COUNCILLOR ADVOCATES to the Police and Crime Commissioner – [see our website](#)

6. Questions and issues raised by Parishioners

- Two members of the public thanked the Council for their work.

Cllr Holway and the clerk had attended a webinar regarding funding available for rural communities to co-create innovative approaches for meeting the local area's decarbonisation ambitions. It was agreed that Ugborough was not ready to apply for this particular funding stream.

Cllr Holway to attend the Sustainable South Hams 'Taking Action Together' assembly on 20th April

It was agreed that Council would register an interest with Devon County Council in installing an electric hook-up in the parish – **Clerk to pursue**

Meeting closed at 7.48pm