

Ugborough Parish Council News from our May Meetings.

Parish Community Meeting

2 members of the public attended the community meeting together with Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas and South Hams District Councillor Alison DeWynter. We were also pleased to welcome our Police Community Support Officer Kirsty Meakin and colleague.

Cllr May welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our Annual Report. Copies of the report will be available in print format next month. We received reports from:

- Cllrs Thomas and Abbott - Devon County Council
- Ugborough Village Hall (Accounts)
- Council Police Advocate Report
- Dartmoor National Park
- Chair Exercise Group

All of these are available on our website.

Our Police Community Support Officer Kirsty Meakin gave a brief update on policing matters in the parish:

- The crime rate is low in the parish – predominantly domestic issues.
- Parishioners are urged to report any suspicious activity as soon as possible and not be wary of wasting police time:

Emergency tel. 999

Non-emergency

websites www.dc.police.uk/reportcrime

www.dc.police.uk/police-enquiry-office

email 101@dc.police.uk

If anyone wishes to speak to PCSO Meakin please email our parish clerk who can contact her for you.

A member of the public thanked the parish, county and district councillors and the police for their work over the year

Annual Parish Council Meeting

We moved straight into the Council's Annual Meeting where there were unanimous votes to retain Cllrs Tim Slater and Jon May as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Councillors also agreed individual roles and responsibilities and agreed the Council's arrangements for the year.

Questions from the Public and Matters Arising

1. A potential matter for SHDC planning enforcement was raised. Our clerk reported on recent advice from the Devon Association of Local Councils regarding reporting of possible planning breaches:

DALC generally recommends that parish and town councils do not get involved in reporting suspected planning breaches unless it has been identified by the council themselves. If someone reports a suspected breach to the parish/town council, we suggest that the individual is advised to contact the planning authority directly. Our reasoning is based on a couple of factors -there could be issues around "pre-determinisation" if a planning application was subsequently submitted after the council had filed a report in relation to a suspected breach. Formally putting your councils' name to information provided to the planning authority could have ramifications for the parish/town if that information was not correct. Overriding, a town and parish council does not have the power to investigate suspected planning breaches, and such matters are not a duty of town and parish councils.

Cllr Thomas added that if the individual reports their concern themselves then all the updates regarding that matter goes directly to them.

If you wish to report any concerns regarding developments go to the South Hams District Council website planning enforcement reporting page

2. Cllr Fletcher reported on the work done by a parishioner to ensure the success of public access to the school field over the year and we would like to formally thank Rowan.
3. Defibrillator training has been booked for Saturday 19th September, 12.15pm in Ugborough Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.
4. Devon County Council have agreed to install a Grit Bin at Lucerne Fields opposite Kerswell Close

5. Devon County Council will be trimming parts of the hedge on Ugborough Road, Bittaford and clearing back undergrowth to widen the road. The stability of the waste in the hedge is being monitored
6. The tree obscuring the existing light on the Lutterburn St junction with Undertown street has been trimmed. Devon County Council will be undertaking a light monitoring test next and the results of this will inform any further action.
7. We are pleased to report that Devon County Council will be undertaking major works to unblock underground drains this financial year which should alleviate the problem of flooding above the school

The monthly report from District Councillors DeWynter and Abbott is available on the website:

Summary:

1. Fusion Lifestyle and SHDC Leisure Centres
2. Bank Holiday Changes to Waste Collection
3. Guided Tour of Local Community Energy Projects
4. Renter's Rights Act Came into Effect on 1 May 26
5. A special community screening of "The People's Emergency Briefing".
6. Let's Talk Sessions on Teenagers
7. Delivering More Temporary Accommodation to help tackle homelessness

Planning

We supported 5 planning applications and noted the 6 decisions made by South Hams District Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority.

Finance

Our clerk had prepared our end of year accounts (available on the website) and presented the report from the internal auditor which gives us a clean bill of health and a few useful recommendations to further improve our practices. The next step is to submit the Annual Governance Accountability Report to the external auditor. This summarises our year end financial situation compared to last year and explains any major changes in expenditure or income. The external auditor aims to sign off this document by the end of September – meanwhile all our submissions are available on the website.

Highways, Parish Paths and Transport

Following the clerk's recent attendance at the Devon County Highways Assembly organised by Cllr Louise Wainwright (Salcombe Division of Devon County Council) Cllr May has agreed to undertake the training required for Parish Road Wardens and once this is complete we will give further consideration to joining the Devon County Council Road Warden Scheme. This would enable us to work on minor roads filling pot-holes and clearing drains but is only viable if we have sufficient community volunteers and adequate storage for the tools and tarmac. So lots to think about! Watch this space

Assets and Maintenance

We hope to purchase a bench for placement in Lucerne Fields but need to get permission from the land owner for placement. Work progresses on the grant application to refurbish Bittaford Play Area.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th June 2026, 7.30pm. Ugborough Village Hall