



Town Clerk: Mrs Judy Morris

The Town Hall, 1 High Street, CULLOMPTON, Devon, EX15 1AB

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD IN CULLOMPTON TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2018 AT 7PM

The Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them. The following matters have, so far, been placed on the Agenda:

- 1. Welcome and introductions.**
- 2. Apologies for absence.**
- 3. To approve the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 May 2017**
- 4. Matters arising from those minutes.**
- 5. Report from Town Mayor, Councillor Iain Emmett**
- 6. Reports from County and District Councillors.**
- 7. Parish Paths Partnership: Report from Volunteer Footpath Warden Nick Savage.**
- 8. CCTV: Annual Report.**
- 9. Community Reports**
 - (a) Police**
 - (b) Cullompton United Charities**
 - (c) Cullompton Neighbourhood Plan**
 - (d) Cullompton Walronds Preservation Trust**
 - (e) Cullompton Community Association**
 - (f) The John Tallack Youth & Community Centre**
 - (g) Cullompton Scout Group**
 - (h) Any other reports from local community groups**
- 10. Any other business that members of the public may like to raise.**

Dated this twenty sixth day of March 2018

Redacted Signature

Councillor Iain Emmett Town Mayor

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND AND SPEAK**



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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN CULLOMPTON TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 11 MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM

The Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all Parish affairs and pass resolutions about them. The following matters have, so far, been placed on the Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions.

Councillors James Buczkowski, Janet Johns, Eileen Andrews, Kathryn Haslett, Rachel Sinclair, Martin Smith, Richard Thorne, Daniel Barnes, Karl Busch, Mike Thompson, Iain Emmett and Will Jones.

Devon County Councillor John Berry

The Town Clerk and the Assistant Town Clerk

PC Adrian Legg (for part of the meeting only)

20 members of the public

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Gordon Guest (personal), Chris Standford (personal) and Camille Harrison (personal).

3. To approve the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 May 2016.

The minutes were approved. Proposed Councillor Martin Smith, seconded Councillor Kathryn Haslett.

4. Matters arising from those minutes.

There were no matters arising from last year's Annual Parish Meeting.

5. Report from Town Mayor, Councillor Rachel Sinclair.

This report is at Appendix A.

6. Reports from County and District Councillors.

Devon County Councillor John Berry reported that:

- He has been re-elected for another 4 year term.
- Despite what might appear in the press from time to time, DCC is recognised at all levels as being a well run council.
- The budget balanced this year. However, Government funding has been consistently reduced over past 6 years and will be reduced again by £23M this year.
- There is increasing concern at DCC over the funding and management of social care for the young and old.
- School funding remains a concern as Devon is under funded by approximately £290 per child although it is not the only county to be so. There is particular concern for those children with special educational needs. DCC will continue to lobby Central Government as this is where all ring fenced education funding is from. However, good results are seen all over the county despite this underfunding – there was particular praise for Cullompton Community College.
- Highways budget increased by £4.2M. South West Highways to be congratulated on the resurfacing of High and Fore Streets.
- Eastern Relief Road plans, as distributed, are only a possibility although new developments will not be permitted until a solution is found to the traffic issues in High and Fore Streets. Another potential solution would be a Western Relief Road through an urban extension to the West of Cullompton. The traffic light issue at J28 is still under review with lorries turning right out of Kingsmill Industrial Estate remaining a particular cause for concern.
- DCC have looked at the issues surrounding Kingfisher Reach development and the traffic issues that have arisen. DCC will not adopt the road until such time as the developer has the road in an adoptable condition.
- The consultation for the new railway station is on the website and will, as ever, be dependent on available funding and consultation with the rail operating companies.
- Dementia Friendly Communities are being encouraged in new developments.
- Councillor Berry offered thanks to the Town Council for their efforts and to the vast number of volunteers who help make the community what it is.
- **Councillor Eileen Andrews** – made a complaint about the condition of pavements in Cullompton and the number of accidents that have occurred. She has written to DCC and would like to stress the number of accidents that have happened.
- **Councillor Daniel Barnes** – Asked whether DCC had heard from central Government with regard to the new funding formula for schools. Councillor Berry reported that a meeting will take place in the very near future and he will report when there is a way forward.
- **Mr Snow** suggested that the traffic issue in Cullompton isn't with J28 but with the right turn into Tiverton Road. He considers that there is a lack of communication between Town Council and DCC at a strategic level and that

there needs more co-ordination between the Highways Department and local people. Councillor Berry stated that many options have been considered and traffic will increase as new developments are completed. He will report Mr Snow's concerns to DCC and record the question.

Mid Devon District Councillor Eileen Andrews:

- Cullompton Festival commencing on 24 June 2017. Last year very successful with 12 stalls in the market and many events happening in the town – Tiverton Town Band, the Majorettes, the shops put on several promotions during the week and they all took part in the "Spot the Odd Object" competition in High and Fore Streets together with a special lunch for the Senior Citizens of the Parish. The Disability Group hosted a coffee morning to raise some much needed funds for the group. This year's festival will include, amongst other events, an open cinema at the Rugby Club and a music showcase for the young musicians of Cullompton.

Mid Devon District Councillor Karl Busch:

- He is Cabinet member for environmental services.
- MDDC are first in the county that is significantly increasing recycling rates. Education is working and contact has been made with 28,000 households with only 1.8% of those still not recycling.
- There is a new waste management plant near Willand – it is an impressive, brand new site and, in partnership with DCC, will aim to manage waste more effectively. Eventually, landfill rubbish will be sorted and taken to Exeter for burning in the waste to energy plant. Greensdale Estate has a digester to take food waste and compost.
- The most significant item at MDDC is the review of the Local Plan, the modifications to J28 and the Eastern Urban Extension.
- He continues to remind MDDC that Cullompton remains the core of housing provision in the district and that infrastructure allocation should reflect this.
- The Town Council has its own ideas for the future of the town and has been discussing the use of the public toilet site and the future of the former Harlequin Valet on High Street.
- In response to a question from a member of the public concerning the monthly recycling and waste disposal facility at Forge Way car park, Councillor John Berry reported that Cullompton had just missed out (to Ivybridge) some years ago but there are many ways to deal with waste in the District. There is less waste being generated in the existing recycling centres and the question remains whether there is actually a demand for a new centre being created.
- **Mr Snow** asked whether it would be pertinent to put some of the profits generated by waste management back into the communities that generate the waste. Councillor Busch stated that it does in that Council Tax/service cuts reduce as there is less waste to manage.
- **Councillor Martin Smith** asked for figures on the increase in revenue at recycling centres vs the cost of clearing fly tipping. Councillor John Berry stated that there are probably more people dealing with their waste irresponsibly, but that their rubbish is scrutinised and prosecutions have increased as a result.

7. **Parish Paths Partnership: Report from Volunteer Footpath Warden Nick Savage.**

Appendix B.

8. **CCTV: Annual Report.**

Appendix C.

9. **Community Reports**

(a) **Police.**

- **Councillor Iain Emmett** reported concern about the level of vehicular Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). PC Legg reported that the police are aware but that these incidents have to be prioritised with those crimes that cause the most harm being dealt with first.
- **Councillor Daniel Barnes** asked if there were less or more police on the street? PC Legg reported that there are fewer police on the beat with PCSO's being shared where they used to be dedicated to communities.
- **Councillor Martin Smith** proposed a vote of thanks to the police and the work they do in often difficult circumstances.
- PC Legg reported, in response to a question from **Councillor Eileen Andrews**, that there is no size restriction on vehicular traffic in Cullompton – whilst it isn't a police matter, he suggested that DCC should be lobbied for a traffic order to restrict the length and/or weight of vehicles in the Town Centre.
- **Mr Snow** – Stated that ASB figures are on the increase. PC Legg reported that the figures are for the whole Parish although ASB will be concentrated in Cullompton centre. He further stated that serious ASB is not a problem but the low-level ASB will be prioritised within the allocated resource. He also stated that he fears that there are cases of ASB that remain unreported and encouraged all those present to report ASB as they see it.
- **Mrs Wendy Land** asked if parking on the zig-zag lines outside schools was vehicular ASB and PC Legg stated that it is a police matter.

(b) **Cullompton Neighbourhood Plan.** **Councillor Martin Smith** reiterated the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan as, although it cannot change the number of houses to be built, it will have a significant impact on the way new developments look and how they are connected to the wider community.

(c) **Cullompton Walronds Preservation Trust** – Appendix D.

(d) **Cullompton Community Association**

It was reported that various fundraising events have taken place over the last year. A small band of volunteers keep the maintenance up to date and special thanks go to those who maintain the main field – it looks magnificent. The track to the car park has been repaired properly using a grant from Viridor Credits Limited and grants from other sources have been used to have a toddler climbing frame installed. There were circulated some 3,000 flyers to

households asking for volunteers but there had been a relatively small response to it.

A meeting has been held with DCC and MDDC re: the proposed distributor road. The CCA consider that the proposal will decimate the fields – CCA have also been told that this is merely an option and may, or may not, happen although no alternative routes seem to be available at present. It is understood that this plan was put together quickly in order to prove the viability of the Eastern Urban Extension in the revised Local Plan to the Planning Inspector and will probably bear no relation to the final route of the road. The final route will be publically consulted and will depend on the various studies and consultations with external Agencies and the public with particular regard to the suitability of the ground to support a distributor road.

The John Tallack Youth & Community Centre

The YMCA has been providing a youth club for 2 years at the JTC with over 440 young people impacted. Numbers have recently increased dramatically with up to 75 at each session although a decrease has been noticed in entrances since a fee of £1 is requested from users (at the behest of the JTC Trustees who will keep the decision under review). Many issues have been dealt with including child sexual exploitation and young mothers together with the more common drug and alcohol problems. More volunteers are always required!

10. Presentation of grant cheques. Grant cheques were presented by **Councillor Rachel Sinclair** to successful grant applicants.

11. Any other business that members of the public may like to raise.

- **Mr Snow** stated that he considers the administration of the council to be lacking in quality with many mistakes being made. He feels that the Town Mayor should take responsibility and disciplining staff where necessary. **Councillor Rachel Sinclair** stated that all complaints that the council has received has been dealt with in accordance with the council's policies and protocols.
- Information was requested regarding when the Brook Road on street parking matter is considered by DCC and HATOC and it was strongly recommended that the local residents are consulted at the time these considerations are made. **Councillor Councillor Mike Thompson** stated that it is a legal requirement to consult with the local population as part of the decision making process.
- **Mr Snow** – Claimed £11,000 debtors shown in the Balance Sheet is a disgrace and wondered why the Town Clerk has not informed the council of the level of debts owed to the Council. Town Clerk informed Mr Snow that he had misread the balance sheet and that, whilst it is owed £11,000, the vast majority of this money is for invoices not yet paid and that are not yet due as they are within 30 days.

MEETING CLOSED AT 10pm.

CULLOMPTON TOWN MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: 11th May 2017

This is my second year as Town Mayor and I have enjoyed this year even more than the first. It has been an honour to represent both the town and the Council at numerous events over the past year. It is rewarding to see so many people actively helping others in the community. I firmly believe that the Town Council is moving Cullompton forward in many areas and adapting to the increasing demands placed upon it by central Government, Devon County Council (DCC) and Mid Devon District Council (MDDC).

During the past year I have

- Attended assemblies at both Cullompton Community College and Willowbank Primary School. I went to the Community College along with Cllr Danny Barnes to encourage the students to join our recently formed Youth Council and I have been to Willowbank Primary School twice, the first time with Cllr Camille Harrison to talk to the children about local government and community involvement and more recently to encourage involvement in the town's Christmas Festival by making lifesize willow statues for the Christmas Parade.
- Welcomed visitors from Cullompton's French twin town, Ploudal Mezeau to Cullompton and presented them with a gift of a sheep notice board to take back to France with them. In return their Mayor presented Cullompton with a bespoke vase.
- Opened the Allotment Association's Community Hub on the Tiverton Road allotment field.
- This Saturday I will be opening the new Costa Coffee shop.

The Town Council is working hard to promote Cullompton, improve facilities, keep the town clean and looking attractive. It works with DCC and MDDC on short and long term projects that will benefit the town. Planning decisions are a major part of the council's work especially with all the new large housing development in the area.

In October the Council hosted a meeting with residents from new development at Kingfisher Reach, to try and resolve the problems being experienced, a follow-up meeting was held in February 2017. Although some issues have now been resolved, some are still on-going.

Councillors have attended many meetings throughout the past year with both the district and county councils to talk about and plans for new housing development to both the West and East of Cullompton and also about improvements to the town's leisure facilities and commercial development.

In January the Council learnt that the application to create a Garden Village had been successful. Garden villages are part of a new generation of locally led development to meet local housing need, with a focus on creating attractive, well-designed places. One of the key benefits of garden village status is that it will assist in delivering urgently needed infrastructure for Cullompton. The intention is to prioritise any government financial support to highway improvements including the town centre relief road and M5 J28 improvements together with measures to reduce flood risk.

In August the Council had a stand at the Fayre held in the CCA Fields to find out the views of local people about the type of play equipment they would like to the play areas. This consultation influenced the refurbishment design for Tufty Park and Head Weir Road play areas.

In November, the Head Boy and Head Girl from Cullompton Community College read poems at the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in the Bull Ring and pupils from the local schools attended. It was good seeing so many young people from the area attending the ceremony.

Also in November the Council organised and switched on the Christmas lights. The Christmas Festival Event took a very different format from previous years and was very well attended. The Council is very grateful to everyone that helped to make this a very successful day that we hope those that took part will remember long into the future. We will be building on this success this year and hope that everyone will support us this again year as we couldn't do it without you.

Some of the other things the Council did during the year include:

- Gave a total of £2325 in grants to support local community group and organisations.
- Paid the cost of maintaining the public toilets in Station Road to ensure that they remained open. Mid Devon District Council has agreed to transfer the freehold of the toilet building transferred to the Council for £1.
- Agreed to make a contribution of £10,000 towards the cost of a railway station feasibility study.

- Paid for the youth club sessions at the John Tallack Youth & Community Centre and supported the transfer of the building to the John Tallack Youth & Community Centre Trust.
- Arranged for the production and delivery of a quarterly newsletter to all households in the parish. Anyone who would like an article or advertisement in the Cullompton Crier should contact the Town Clerk. The Crier is an excellent publication and is very good at informing the public of Town Council plans and asking for feedback.
- Continued to support the street markets.
- Supported a Townscape Heritage application to the lottery to make major improvements to some of the buildings in the town centre. The application was turned down but this was not entirely unexpected as we had been told that applications are seldom approved at their first submission. The application will be updated and refreshed to be resubmitted in December this year. The Council has set aside £12,500 in its budget in the expectation that the application will be approved and the project will start to move forward during 2018.

During the year the Council has been successful in obtaining grant funding for a number of projects including

- £90,000 from Viridor for the refurbishment of Tufty Park and Head Weir Road play areas. New equipment due to be installed at Tufty Park first week in June 2017.
- £1500 from the Town & Parish Fund towards the provision of a power supply in Higher Bullring for outdoor events and the market.
- £625 from the Town & Parish Fund towards a project working with the three local schools to create lifesize willow statues to join the town's Christmas Parade.
- £750 towards a workshop to inform the town's Neighbourhood Plan.
- £2000 from Devon County Council towards flooding emergency equipment.
- The Council also received a grant of £500 from Cllr John Berry's Locality Budget towards the project to provide a power supply at Higher Bullring. He also contributed to £2,000 to the "Save Cully Play Parks" Campaign towards new play equipment at Tufty Park.

As Mayor, I would like to thank all the Town Councillors for their work and commitment in attending meetings, reading documents and planning projects and events. Since my last report, in May 2016, the Council has been pleased to welcome several new Council members and say goodbye to others. I would like to thank Phil James, Deborah Christopher, Chaim Ebank and Brett Lewis for the contribution

they made to the work of the Council during their time as Council members, I would also like to give a special mention to Cllr Anthony Buczkowski who passed way in September last year, he was a very active member of the Council who is sadly missed by all of us.

All Councillors are volunteers who give their own time to attend meetings and work to help sustain and improve the quality of live for all those that live in Cullompton

I believe positive things are happening in Cullompton, there are more shops and new businesses opening and more informed discussions and planning for the town. As Cullompton is gradually becoming the strategic development point for Mid Devon it should also attract more businesses that want easy access to the M5. I think Cullompton has a great future ahead of it.

As Mayor, I extend my thanks to the community of Cullompton, the majorettes, the scouts and brownies, the sporting clubs, the businesses, the traders and every group who actively works to support the town, and all those individuals who work with me on a huge variety of projects. Each one in its own way makes the town a better place to live in.

Rachel Sinclair

Cullompton Town Mayor

May 2017

Nick Savage - Parish Partnership Report 2017

At Cullompton Town Council Parish meeting 11/5/2017

There are two parts to this report – last year's activity and the future plans.

Last year

During 2016-17 we achieved the following

- Six parish path lead walks which covered almost all of the public rights of way in the parish, including ones further afield around Langford and Weaver. Attendance varied from about five to twenty.
- Improving waymarking on the path network
- Routine maintenance of footpaths including strimming, repairing signs and stiles, filling in pot holes etc. Some of this work has been done using the P3 grant by the Town Council staff, some by me and some by Devon County Council This was supported by a routine where each path is walked at least once each season by me.
- Scalpings put down on Growen Lane to reduce problems from a large year-round puddle
- New gate and ramps on path alongside the Culm at the Old Hill end

Next year

Plans for the coming year include:

- 7 walks, with some new ones including a linear walk from Bradninch using the bus to go out
- Continue routine maintenance and regular path inspections
- Repairs to the wall next to Back Lane should start soon (paid for by the management company that owns the wall)
- Improvements to the very muddy section of the footpath from Kia Ora to Knowle
- Better access onto FP alongside Culm at Stoneyford end paid for by developers of new estate on old Cummings nursery site

CULLOMPTON TOWN COUNCIL CCTV ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Since the last meeting, the CCTV recording device has been upgraded and stores approximately 3½ weeks of footage from 10 cameras. In addition, costs are currently being obtained to establish the feasibility of the installation of a further camera at the southern end of Fore Street as this is the only area that the Police would like better coverage of.

In the past 12 months, the Police have viewed CCTV footage on approximately 25 occasions and have seized footage on 6. There are no known convictions as a result.

Report by Trustees of the Cullompton Walronds Preservation Trust and Cullompton Walronds Ltd to the Annual Parish Meeting on 11th May 2017

Analysis of the accounts for 2015 alerted Trustees of the Cullompton Walronds Preservation Trust (CWPT) and Cullompton Walronds Limited (CWL) to the urgent need for greater income. Of particular concern was the poor take up of the holiday letting accommodation. Changes were made to beds and furniture to provide a more convenient facility capable of sleeping up to 12 people, plus cots for infants, and to meet all the requirements of Helpful Holidays criteria for letting accommodation. At the same time a project group was set up to overhaul the website and to make more use of social media. By the end of summer it became apparent that the hoped for improvement was not being made and that the costs of letting almost nullified the income. After discussion with local agents and our accountants it was agreed that the CWL should seek a permanent resident. This was achieved by the end of October resulting in a regular income to the CWL and a reduction in costs.

The gardens have continued to be tended by volunteers with eye-catching results. During 2016 the boule pitch was used frequently by a club from Willand on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during the summer. In the house volunteers have provided a skilled and cheerful staff for the running of the café in the Burrow Room on alternate Saturday mornings. This same group formed the core of the stewards and staff for Heritage Open Days in September which brought 200 tourists to the property. The History Group continues to meet and has had a wide range of speakers with a number of presentations from the University of Exeter and other, more local, topics. The Sew n' Sews continue to meet regularly and the Strollers have had their coffee and cake with the Health Visitor each Tuesday morning. There have been a number of plays presented and next week the Patterns Theatre Group presents 3 one act plays by local writers. The parlour was used for Santa's grotto as part of the Christmas Lights celebration. The Town and Twinning Association teas were held in the house and garden the town barbeque after the town walk was held in the garden which was also the site for the annual concert of the Tiverton Town Band. There were two NADFAS tours with lunch and tea, and visits by the Trustees of the Pilgrim Trust and by two branches of the Devonshire Association. Trustees gave talks about the project in Willand, Uffculme and Tiverton. There have been pop up dinners and private parties held in the parlour and dining room. There were also a number of charitable fund-raising coffee mornings and sundry other users including rehearsals for Gloucester Murder Mysteries and company training sessions. The Walronds house and garden provided a key venue for the Town's SpringFest and Autumn Fruits Festivals which brought a very large number of people to the town with a count of 1,000 coming in to the Walronds property in one hour on Saturday 9 April 2016 and the numbers are growing. Stall-holders were pleased and plans for the Autumn Fruits Festival on Sat 14th October 2017 are well-advanced.

On 11th September 2016 Mrs Linda Jane Holloway, one of our founding trustees, submitted her resignation from both the CWPT and the CWL. She had been Secretary throughout this long period and had made a sterling contribution to the project. Trustees accepted her decision with great regret.

At the end of 2016 the CWPT and CWL remained solvent and the new arrangements are working satisfactorily. Our tenants have settled in and have proved an asset to the project.

Jane Campbell
Chairman of Trustees