

Yarty Ward – District Councillor’s Parish Council Report;

Cllr. Paul Hayward

February 2020

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Next meeting of East Devon District Council (as published before)

Council is due to meet again on 22nd April in Honiton.

As always, all members of the public are welcome to attend and ask questions / make representations as they wish.

Details of the agenda and previous minutes are available (including audio recordings for those suffering from insomnia) via the website link below.

There will be motions to be debated and a series of written questions to Leader of the Council (which can then be followed up with additional verbal supplementary questions). The previous meeting of Council was on 26th February 2020 and then as above. The Annual Meeting of Council will be held on 13th May 2020.

Recent meetings of EDDC:

All minutes / decisions / audio recordings available online at:

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Cabinet	5 th February 2020, 4 th March
Scrutiny	6 th February 2020, 5 th March
Strategic Planning	25 th February 2020
Development Management (DMC)	4 th February 2020, 3 rd March
Overview	30 th January 2020, 27 th February

Council Tax 2020/21:

EDDC Full Council – all members voted on Council Tax increases on Wednesday 26th February. The link is here to for the full reports:

<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/g240/Public%20reports%20pack%2026th-Feb-2020%2017.30%20Council.pdf?T=10>

The Town & Parish Council Precepts for 2020/21 total £4,258,412.59. The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish councils is 3.86% and results in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £70.81 for 2020/21.

Devon County Council set their precept at £86,570,563.86. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,439.46. This is a total increase of 3.99%; includes a charge for adult social care services representing 2% of the increase.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall set their precept at £13,329,651.24. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £221.64, being a 4.41% increase on the previous year.

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority set their precept at £5,306,841.84. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £88.24, being a 1.99% increase on the previous year.

In All Saints, Chardstock and Hawkchurch parishes, the respective Parish Councils voted to maintain their precept at the same level as for 2019/20 which effectively reduced the parish part of the Council Tax bill by way of a marginally higher “taxbase” and thus lowered the “per household” element of the overall bill. In Membury, the parish council increased their precept demand in line with the taxbase rise, which effectively froze parishioners annual contribution accordingly whilst raising another £240 for the parish council’s coffers!

Each Parish Council will no doubt issue their own Budget and Precept Statement in accordance with their own timescales.

Fireworks, Lanterns and Drones:

In light of recent events, and mindful of both the hazards of Chinese lanterns, the potential nuisance and distress to animals and residents from fireworks, and safety concerns over unregulated drone usage, Councillors heard a proposal as below. After a vigorous debate, with significant contribution across the floor, it was

RESOLVED;

That this Council agrees to;

(i) request the organisers of all public firework displays within East Devon, of which the Council is aware or becomes aware, to advertise them in advance, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;

(ii) continue to support public awareness about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;

(iii) write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90 decibels for those sold to the public for private displays;

(iv) encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public use;

(v) recommends that Cabinet adapts the Drone Policy (being recommended to it from Overview Committee 30 January 2020) so as to prohibit;

a) the release of lanterns and balloons from EDDC property and land

b) the release of any firework (above 90db) from EDDC property and land.

(vi) write to the UK Government urging them to urgently ban the sale of sky lanterns (supported by the Fire Service, RSPCA, Marine Conservation Society, Women's Food and Farming Union, Soil Association and National Farmers Union).

Tree Planting & Climate Change:

Chardstock Parish Council have recently declared a parish “Climate Change Emergency” (see minutes 12/2) and are looking to plant at least 100 trees per annum on public, and private, land to help mitigate the effects of Climate Change. Chardstock PC has announced that its Annual Parish Meeting in April is to be designated as a Climate Change Awareness evening and is encouraging residents with ideas, or concerns, or offers of help, to come along and join the debate.

A similar event took place in All Saints on the 3rd March and whilst there were some disagreements between landowners and our resident tree warden on the exact measures needed to move forwards, there was a broad agreement that things can not remain as they currently are...

I saw a very telling quote recently which I share below:

“ We can never return back to normal, because the normal we had was precisely the problem “

I know that the other Parish Councils in Yarty ward are also considering what they can do to reduce their carbon footprint and mitigate against climate change and I hope that all residents support these measures as we all strive towards taking affirmative action for the sake of our children, and their children too.

Holocaust Memorial Day:

I attended this event in Honiton at EDDC headquarters. Richard Halsey, the President of Exeter Synagogue, was welcomed to the council’s headquarters for a special tree planting ceremony to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, which takes place every year on 27 January – the day that Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, was liberated.

A silver birch tree was planted in front of Blackdown House as Mr Halsey recited the Kaddish Prayer and also a special Holocaust Memorial Day flag was raised to mark the occasion, witnessed by members of the Exeter Synagogue and East Devon councillors.

Cllr Stuart Hughes and Cllr Paul Jarvis, who lost members of his own family in the Holocaust, both spoke about the importance of the event, which bears witness for those who endured genocide, and honours the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. It promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) – the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. It was a very moving event.

Flytipping:

On Wednesday 5 February 2020, East Devon District Council's Cabinet approved the introduction of an additional fixed penalty fine against householders who fail in their duty of care in respect of how their waste is disposed. This sends a strong message to householders because the financial penalty will be exactly the same as it already is for anyone caught actually fly-tipping waste themselves.

The council has adopted this variation in order to be able to use the following new penalties:

£200 fine (reduced to £120 if paid within ten days of service of the notice) for small "fly tips" of 180 litres (a standard wheeled bin) or less.

£400 fine (reduced to £200 if paid within ten days of service of the notice) for medium and large "fly tips".

Officers from both the Environmental Health and StreetScene teams will now be able to issue a fixed penalty notice to a person who has breached their duty of care by not ensuring the proper disposal of their waste.

Householders must either pass waste on to the council's collection service, or take certain waste to recycling centres or pass it on to registered waste carriers. They must not pass waste on to any person who does not hold a licence.

If unlicensed collectors are used, they may fly tip the waste and in these cases the householder remains responsible for it. If the fly tipper cannot be found then the originator of the waste can be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

During the past two years the Environmental Health service of East Devon District Council has investigated 49 littering and fly tipping cases and issued 25 fixed penalty notices. They have collected £3,460 in fines and £1,263 in clean up reimbursement costs.

Commercial carriers of waste must hold a licence and they are at risk of being issued with a fixed penalty if they carry waste without one. Some of the fly-tips investigated have involved a significant quantity of material or large items such as mattresses and white goods, but many of them amounted to just two or three black bags, fast food packaging or one or two small electrical items.

Householders can check that waste carriers are licensed on the Environment Agency website. They can arrange for a bulky waste or additional collection by contacting the council's Customer Services team on 01395 516551 or making a request using the council's website eastdevon.gov.uk/waste

The months ahead:

The UK, as with the rest of the world, faces some uncertain times ahead. Your Parish, District and County Councillors – and MP's – will be doing all they can to keep things calm, collected and consistent. There might be the urge to act differently or rashly – this is not advisable and is not helpful. Please think of your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues at all times. Follow advice. Obey the law. And, please do not panic.

I will continue to attend as many parish council meetings as I can until told otherwise and will offer any support I can to your community and residents.

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON.... This was HM Government's advice in 1939. And those words mean as much today as 80 years ago. But they are not simply words on a mug, or a teatowel, or a coaster. They represent practical advice on how we, as a country - and as a planet - will overcome and deal with these present turbulent times.

My best wishes to you all as always.
Please do get in touch if can assist in any way

Paul