

TEIGNBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (TALC)

Secretary: Dudley Swain 01392 833353 email: dudley@the-swains.co.uk

Minutes

of the meeting held Thursday 29th June 2017 at Forde House

Present:

Abbotskerswell	Kevin Farrelly	Ipplepen	Roger Carnell; Shirley Northwood
Bishopsteignton	Elaine Cawthraw;	Kenn & Kennford ..	Andy Chislett; Bridgette Williams
	Keith Lambert; Hazel Stuckey	Kingsteignton	Chris Meathrel
Bovey Tracey	Tony Allen; Steven Leigh	Moretonhampstead	Jane Willis
Bridford	Roger Dowding	Newton Abbot	David Howe (Chairman)
Denbury & Torbryan	Tony Brownhill		Carol Bunday; Mike Hocking; Liz Roberts
Dunchideock	Dudley Swain	Tedburn St Mary ...	Pat Moody
Ideford	Anthony French; Ashley Lamb	Whitestone	Les Hickman; Tony Reed
	David Fox	TDC	Douglas Hellier-Laing; Sylvia Russell
Ilsington	Laurence Dunkley		Reg Winsor; Gary Powell

Apologies:

Ashburton (Adrian Daw; John Nutley); Buckfastleigh (Fanny Jackson; Janet Jones); Chudleigh (Michael McCormick); DNP (Jo Rumble); Ide (Rose Saunders); TDC Kenn Valley (Kevin Lake) and Newton Abbot (Phil Bullivant); Shillingford St George (John Parrott)

1 Police & Crime Commissioner, Devon & Cornwall – Alison Hernandez

This was an extensive and active topic so these minutes do not try to cover all the topics but simply summarise the essence of the presentation and discussions. The new Police & Crime Plan sets out the strategic priorities for policing in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, some 1.7m people. This includes, for example, increasing support for and use of CCTV with funding available for links to local hubs. The intention is to better connect with communities, an aim to be supported by the impending Councillor Advocate Scheme to launch soon. There is greater need for the accessibility to policing rather than merely the visibility of police. An increasing move toward “civilianising” many of the police functions is in hand – some 50 civilian investigators are currently being recruited to undertake detective work. In order to retain talent, there is now more opportunity for PCSOs to become police officers. The 4 year budget plan is soon to go to the Police & Crime Panel, However this is long horizon for the many unknowns of the service. Other items covered included:-

- The PCC could be a retired police officer (although not just recently retired) so long as they are independent – it’s a matter of public choice.
- Police are now increasingly professional, much greater knowledge.
- A concern was raised about the money for policing compared with pension provision. Police pensions are complex because of there being two systems, differing start dates and lengths of service. Some pension support comes from central government, remainder from local system. Retirement used to be mandatory after 30 years; this is now flexible.
- The Police Authority used to be “invisible” whereas the PCC is a high profile sole decision-maker, directly responsible for many aspects although policing is the Chief Constable’s remit. Is the PCC value for money? She has three years to demonstrate/prove this.
- CCTV in Cornwall uses the fire service as a hub. Devon hubs will be in Newton Abbot and one other elsewhere, but not in fire HQ. Small villages cannot easily benefit from CCTV so there is effort to increase rural policing, the support for which is not readily forthcoming from Whitehall.
- Concern was raised over the period of road closures following a RTA
- For non-emergencies, the 101 service is key: phone, email (101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) or online (<https://services.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting>)

- There was extensive detailed discussion regarding domestic violence, victim care, bail terms, custody staffing and facilities, mental practitioners, police investigation processes. The PCC was thanked for her detailed discussions and offers to investigate various specific matters; she offered to return to TALC in 6 months for a follow-up discussion.
- 2 **Annual General Meeting** – The Chairman made a brief verbal report of the past year, mentioning responsibilities and jobs being devolved to LC's but without the associated funding. David Howe and Dudley Swain were re-elected totally unopposed as Chairman and Secretary respectively.
 - 3 **Minutes of the meeting 30th March 2017** – These were approved
 - 4 **Litter Picking** – TDC is responsible for keeping local roads clear of litter but with such a large local highways network, the frequency of such cleaning is slow. However, they have an excellent fly-tip response team. TDC can give councils support (jackets, gloves, plastic bags, picker sticks) for them to undertake litter picking on their own roads but these are usually restricted to within 30mph speed limits and require risk assessments and insurance. More details, forms, guidance are on the TDC web page at <http://tinyurl.com/TDC-Litter> .
 - 5 **Secretary's Report**
 - 5.1 The bank balance remains at £165.22
 - 5.2 DNP asked that we highlight their Dartmoor Local Plan local councils consultation which ends in September. A leaflet will be sent with these draft minutes.
 - 6 **Topics for Meeting 28th September 2017**. Members requested to hear from DCC about proposals to close some very minor rural roads as a cost saving measure. The Secretary has had confirmation that Phil Shears, Interim Head of Paid Services, will address TALC on his role and any TDC reorganisation (following the departure of the Chief Executive) along with detail about strategic alliances (such as greater Exeter strategic planning).
 - 7 **Chairman's Business**
 - 7.1 The paperless planning transition is progressing. Two particular concerns are the very slow broadband speeds particularly in rural areas and the lack of quality pdf downloads on TDC's planning pages. Some further investigations need to be progressed.
 - 7.2 The Chairman considered the agenda item regarding the departure of the TDC CX Nicola Bulbeck to not be a matter for Members to discuss in detail.
 - 8 **Matters brought forward by Members.**
 - 8.1 Despite minute 7.2, there was a very lengthy and principled discussion regarding the sudden departure of Nicola Bulbeck. Members were particularly concerned over the lack of openness and transparency over her leaving, along with the total secrecy imposed in TDC. The Secretary was mandated by a Proposal which was seconded and a near-unanimous vote to write to TDC asking for more information. The question regarding TDC's continued support for TALC in the light of such management changes will also be raised.
 - 8.2 The Secretary raised the matter of an internal auditor who has a policy to not use email for audit reporting to a parish council clerk (making it difficult to forward information to councillors). No members had any experience of this approach, indeed a Clerk reported the value of email for communications. The principle was not established and it remained a personal choice of the auditor.
 - 9 **Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 28th September 2017** at 7.00pm at Forde House. For your diaries, our final meeting this year will be 30th November

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.