

Thorverton Parish Council

Additional Information for the meeting on 9th January 2024

- 1 Public Open Session** - 5 minutes maximum per speaker
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Apologies** To consider any apologies for absence
- 4 Minutes** To approve the meeting minutes of 9th January 2023

Thorverton Parish Council

5 External Reports To receive reports from:

5.1 County Cllr Squires

5.2 District Cllr Roberts

5.3 Saturday Market

6 Projects

6.1 Affordable Housing

Imminent expenditure

CLT Network membership renewal £ 175

CLT Network Enhanced Service for setting up CLT/CBS £ 475

6.2 Thorverton Library



News

All the latest updates from Devon County Council

Funding to help set up a community reading space available

Posted on: 20 December 2023

We're inviting community organisations and town and parish councils in rural areas to apply for a grant to help provide access to books and reading.

Grants of up to £300 are available through The Community Support Library Fund and aims to help local groups set up a reading space alongside existing community activities or services.

Applications are welcome from town and parish councils, charities, voluntary community groups and church\faith groups that have an open and accessible space for readers to enjoy.

Grant applications from schools are also accepted where the reading facilities can be used by other groups, such as parents or by a pre-school.

The funding can be used to enhance an existing space for things like bookshelves, comfy seats, better lighting or books.

To find out more visit [Devon County Council's website](#). This fund closes on March 31, 2024.

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7 Recreation Ground

7.1 Financial Report for January

7.2 Play Equipment funding

8 Grounds Maintenance

8.1 Contractor work for the Month

8.2 Village Tidy-Up Day

8.3 Tree Survey

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9 Planning & Consultations

9.1 24/00150/FULL Land at Lynch Farm Roof to cover yard

9.2 24/00151/HOUSE 1 Stonebridge Cottages Replacement Porch

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9.3 Crediton Town Centre Masterplan Consultation

Email 9th Jan from MDDC

I am writing to update you on the progress of the Crediton Town Centre Masterplan [...] The plan aims to support the evolution and development of Crediton town centre. [...] We would like your help to finalise this draft plan which will enable it to be adopted by MDDC in mid - 2024.

The Consultation on this draft plan will run from Monday 15th January until Monday 26th February. We [...] will be holding a session at the Boniface Centre, Crediton on Wednesday 17th January 2024. The session will run from 1500 to 1600 with tea and coffee provided. A public session will follow from 1600 -1900.

If you aren't able to attend the consultation, information boards will be available for viewing following the event at Crediton Town Council Offices and will be available throughout the six-week consultation period.

[...] comment online via the [Council's Community Hub](#)

9.4 Survey of rural services in Mid-Devon

Email 4th Jan from MDDC Forward Planning

The survey will run for 8 weeks and seeks to find out where residents in rural communities across the district access local services, such as healthcare, shops and recreation facilities.

Expanded on from previous years, the survey addresses how well rural areas are served by broadband and mobile phone coverage, where publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points should be provided so that the Council can investigate these, and if community energy schemes have been proposed or set up. We are particularly interested in how neighbouring communities support each other, and whether certain villages serve as a hub for neighbouring settlements.

Feedback from the survey will inform the new Local Plan, to guide the use and development of land across the district for the next 20 years, helping to make our villages more self-sufficient, while moving towards a net zero carbon future.

For the first time, the survey is also open to the general public to complete and can be accessed via <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/rural-services>. Following a request to extend the deadline, responses **by Friday 1st March 2024**.

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9.5 Town & Parish Charter Review

Email 6th Feb from MDDC Democratic Services Officer

The Charter between Mid Devon District Council and its Towns and Parishes comes up for renewal every three years, in fact this was last reviewed in 2020 so may I apologise for being late in getting this review to you.

I attach the Town and Parish Charter and its Annexe both in PDF format and in WORD format. I have left in the tracked changes that we have made so that you can clearly see what is proposed to be changed. Most of the changes are due to changes in Legislation or reflect the current working practices between the District Council and the Towns and Parishes.

I would be grateful if you would take this Charter to your Town and Parish Council meetings to seek their approval or to suggest any further amendments. The Consultation period lasts for three months in order to accommodate all Parish Meeting cycles and so I would be grateful to receive your Council's agreement or suggested amendments to the Charter by Wednesday 15 May 2024 at the latest. I will collate the responses as they arrive in so do feel free to respond sooner.

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10 Correspondence

Part B 10.1 January's Public Session

10.2 Footpaths to Permissive Bridleways

Email 26th Jan

I have been asked to approach the Parish Council by British Horse Society Ride Out UK for more off-road access for riding as the roads are becoming more unsafe to horse ride on.

The suggestion is to use some footpaths as permissive bridleways too.

Would you and the council support this do you think? The footpaths are probably old trails anyway. We also have to contact the landowners.

[name redacted], upton pyne equestrian and other riders (up to 30) are all very keen after a few having near misses on the roads. Obviously, they won't be used intensively every day.

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10.3 MDDC State of the District Debate

Email 18th Jan from MDDC Executive Assistant

This year's State of the District Debate which has now been confirmed for Wednesday 20 March at 5.30pm in Phoenix House, Tiverton .

The Council is really keen to engage with all town and parish councils at this event so we would be very pleased if you or a representative(s) from your council could attend. Devon Communities Together and DALC have both agreed to attend.

We listed some suggested topics

- Emergency planning / community resilience
- Shared costs/services/joint working
- Community housing / neighbourhood plans
- Funding opportunities – e.g. planning and net zero, etc.
- Areas you would welcome more support with – eg precept setting, planning,

If you would prefer to prioritise the topics already suggested, please let us know so we can finalise the agenda for the evening.

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It is hoped that the event will be an interactive one, with break-out sessions, as well as presentations, and will go some way to promote enhanced working between our respective authorities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We will look forward to hearing from you with confirmation that you and/or a representative from your council will be attending.

10.4 Thorverton PO Agreement Renewal

Email 6th Feb from resident

We have all seen the continuing injustice with the postmasters.

The post office brand is in the mud.

I suggest that the parish council , who I assume rents/leases, the location where the post office is placed, do not renew the agreement. This will make things more difficult for many villagers but it is the right thing to do. Think of the innocent sent to prison or who committed suicide. A little price to pay.

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11 Clerk Employment

11.1 Annual Review

11.2 Pension Arrangements

Option 1 - Local Government Pension Scheme

Operated by Peninsula Pensions for Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, D&S Fire Brigade and many others.

Employee's contribution 5.5% Employer's contribution 21.9%

Unlikely to back date.

Option 2 - Nest Pension Scheme

Operated by Nest for one of clerk's other employers.

Employee's & Employer's contribution both discretionary.

Will back date for 6 weeks only.

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12 Finance

12.1 Bank balance Not received

12.2 Payments To consider the following payments:

12.2.1 Mid Devon Mobility Donation		£ 200.00
12.2.2 Exeter Inn Winter Warmth Food & Beverages		£ 75.00
12.2.3 J P Roberts Clerk pay for January	£ 425.69	
Reimbursement for Wildflower seeds	£ 89.50	£ 515.19

13 Business at the Chairman's Discretion

Items for information only - no decision making during this item.

14 Next Meeting - Tuesday 12th March 2024