

Thorverton Parish Council

Additional Information for Tuesday 11th March 2025

- 1 Declarations of Interest
- 2 Co-option of Councillor
- 3 Apologies for absence
- 4 Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on [11th February 2025](#)
- 5 Public Open Session 15 minutes for members of the public to raise any issue of concern, 5 minutes maximum per speaker

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6 Reports To receive reports from:

6.1 County Cllr Squires

6.2 District Cllr Roberts

6.3 Saturday Market

Cllr Hodge report from 8th March 2025

Following on from 4 in a bed had enquiry from a lady who was following the show and wanted to know about the “Witches” mentioned. I directed her to the memorial in Exeter. The team looking after “leigh gardens” enquiring about the labels for the brown bins, as currently one is there one full and no label, another expired - I think Jim was going to be checking on the situation as mentioned at a TPC meeting recently.

Serious complaint about dogs in rec on matchdays, there was 3 separate dogs at a recent match, none were support dogs.

Can we ask the football club to request supporters to not bring them to the rec to comply with our rules.

Is it possible to ask the pothole team to deal with hole in quarry carpark.

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7 Correspondence

7.1 Correspondent 1

Email 1 of 2 9th February 2025

In our letter dated 7th January 2025, despite our request that its content be discussed at the January PC meeting and your clerk confirming to us that our points "relating to TCLT matters" would be dealt with under Agenda Item 6.2 Update - None were addressed or even mentioned.

We trust that these questions WILL BE DISCUSSED at the February meeting as they refer to serious issues as to how TPC is operating.

- Your clerk assured us by email and repeated at the January meeting that TPC has not loaned/granted any money to TCLT, is it possible this statement is untrue? On the PC Notice Board, until last week the TPC budget statement dated October 2024, stated "£7099 - TCLT loaned

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money". Further PC expenditure on TCLT insurance and website, casts more doubt on the validity of the clerk's statements. Can this position be honestly clarified?

- The January PC meeting was an embarrassment to all those members of the public who were sufficiently interested in local government to attend – the very fact that the audience contained two ex-chairs, the ex-clerk and three ex-Councillors must surely demonstrate the levels of concern with current TPC procedures and administration? In particular :
 1. Continuing perceived conflicts with TCLT/TPC officers possibly having personal or prejudicial conflicts of interest?
 2. The inefficiency of the Council in allowing the cemetery planning permission to lapse and so likely incur extra costs, together with the lack of urgency in completing the land purchase.
 3. The fiasco of an ex-Councillor being invited to rejoin without following due process. (There is still a further vacancy to be filled)

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Alongside the concerns over potential conflicts of interest we would also remind all Councillors of their obligations to comply with the Nolan Principles of Governance in Public Office. In particular:-

Integrity - "holders of public office should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves/family/friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships".

Objectivity - "must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using best evidence and without bias"

Openness - "Should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner.

Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty - "Should be truthful"

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Do all Councillors believe that their Council is operating to Best Practice?

Hopefully our concerns will be properly addressed at the meeting on Tuesday.

Email 2 of 2 5th March 2025

To All Councillors

Having witnessed the disdainful manner in which TPC dismissed the genuine concerns of four members of the Community who had taken the trouble to write expressing their democratic views concerning the Council's current practices, we suggest that our subsequent letter dated 9th February, (which was sent to all Councillors) be withdrawn from the March meeting agenda.

We have at least learned a new phrase "enabling grant" which seems to have only recently entered the PC play book, and also that "many Councillors have conflicting interests, but that we

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are fully aware of them" - but not disclosed at any meetings in 2024 it appears!

We would hope that TPC will accept some of the criticisms levelled at it and that it will be determined to ensure that best practice and the Nolan principles are more strictly adhered to going forward.

7.2 Thorverton Bus Service

Follow up to an email from September

Since moving to Thorverton in October 2023, my wife and I have tried to use public transport whenever possible.

With a little planning, the 355 and very occasional 675 / 678 services can be useful during the daytime.

The issue arises during the evening, with the final bus from Exeter to Thorverton departing at 18:00 (17:55 on Saturdays). Clearly this precludes an evening out in Exeter, unless one drives.

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There have been some positive changes with effect from the latest timetable. Stagecoach have extended certain evening journeys of the 55 service (Exeter – Tiverton – Exeter, normally excluding Thorverton and Silverton), to include Silverton. But not Thorverton.

Silverton residents can now travel directly home from Exeter at 20:00, 21:30 and 23:00. Ideal timings! If only they included a slight diversionary loop to Thorverton. A copy of the timetable is attached.

Would it be possible for the Parish Council to lobby for such an extension to our bus service?

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8 Review of Council Policies

8.1 Handling of Communications Policy

Current policy (2022)

[Please follow this link for the Handling of Correspondence Policy](#)

8.2 Standing Orders

[Please follow this link to view the Standing Orders](#)

8.3 Training Policy

Current policy (2019)

[Please follow this link for the Training Policy](#)

9 Projects

9.01 Rooks

Public Open session at February's meeting

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2025-02

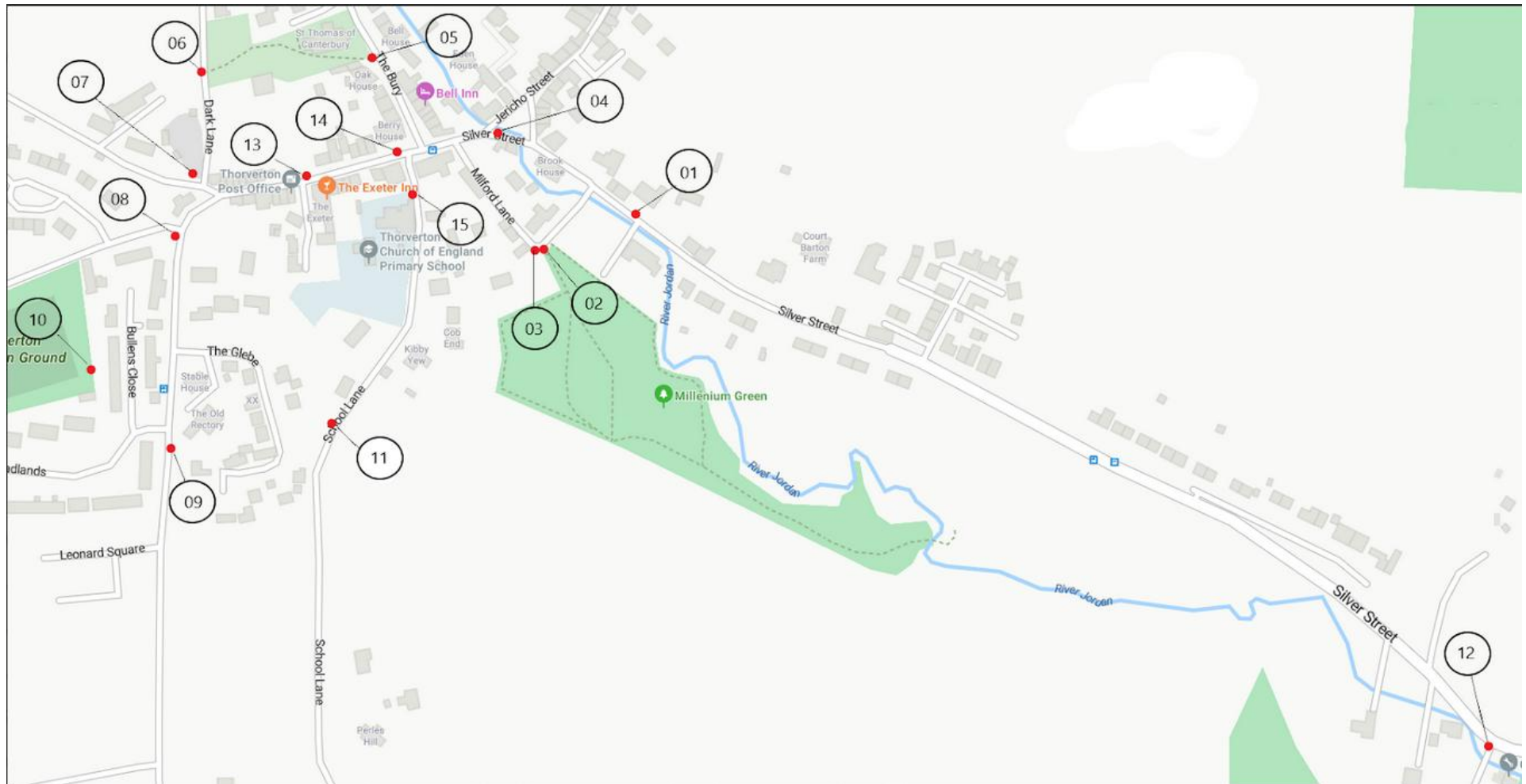
The fourth speaker asked if the Council was prepared to get involved in trying to stop the large number of rooks taking over the village. He was confident that there are two more discrete rookeries developing which could lead to a large number of rooks causing a public nuisance.

[One member of the public left at 7:23pm – 8]

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9.02 Thorverton in Bloom

9.03 Litter Bins



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If the parish wish to move any of the existing bins, . Keeping in mind land ownership, smell and accessibility.

1. Inform street scene of new location so MDDC can carry out a site check and risk assessment.
2. Contact any local residents of the parish's intension to relocate a bin.
3. If all is ok then the parish can move bin themselves with MDDC acceptance or pay MDDC to carry out works. (price depending on location etc.)
4. The charge to empty the moved bin depends on location.

If the Parish wise to install new bins then the process is very similar.

1. Inform Street scene of new location and bin type required.
2. MDDC will carry out a site check and risk assessment.

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3. A price for the new bin installation and weekly emptying will be calculated.
4. Contact any local residents near new location.
5. If the parish wish to purchase and install themselves then MDDC can just calculate an emptying charge.

As a rough guide to pricing a new litter (any bin will do) will cost about £260.00. Dog bins are considerably more.

The average price to empty a bin is £5.00 per bin plus any distance travelled.

We normally use bins supplied by Glasdon UK they have a great website which will give you a guide to prices

9.04 Wildflower verges

9.05 New Cemetery including name

MINUTERS OF CEMETERY WORKING GROUP 18 TH Feb 2025

1. At TPC meeting 11 th Feb they resolved to reapply for planning permission based on the original proposal. Cllr Shelton to check progress with the clerk.
2. The finalisation of the land purchase was still to be agreed with the solicitors. There was a minor query with the wording and this was hopefully to be sorted between the solicitors. Cllr Shelton to check progress.
3. TPC resolved to advise DB fencing that they will be the selected contractor and a firm order to be placed when the land purchase was finalised.
4. The scope of the work for Andrew the architect was discussed as per his agreed costings which was resolved by TPC.

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Items such as grave and cremation space layouts, footpaths, gateways (not including design of the gates), landscaping. Seating area would not be included in the layouts as there will be space for this would hopefully be at Barliabins. The design and manufacture of the gates would hopefully be by a local metalworker. To be discussed at a further meeting.

Andrew would produce a draft drawing for further discussion.

5. Cemetery rules and costs would be discussed at a further meeting.

6. An information board is to be erected at the cemetery as a requirement of the original grant for the archaeological dig. Cllr Shelton to check the exact requirements for the board with the clerk.

7. Regarding mowing of the cemetery it was suggested that the TPC mower have the necessary insurance so that it can be used on the road. It can then be used on the Rec and the cemetery and

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any where else required by the TPC. Cllr Shelton to speak with the clerk.

Resolutions required by TPC

1. Insurance for the mower to be used on the public highway.

Cemetery Name

Extract from February's meeting

7.3.4 Cemetery Name

Council will consider the name as agreement could not be reached.

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9.06 Exeter Inn Asset of Community Value & Grant Request

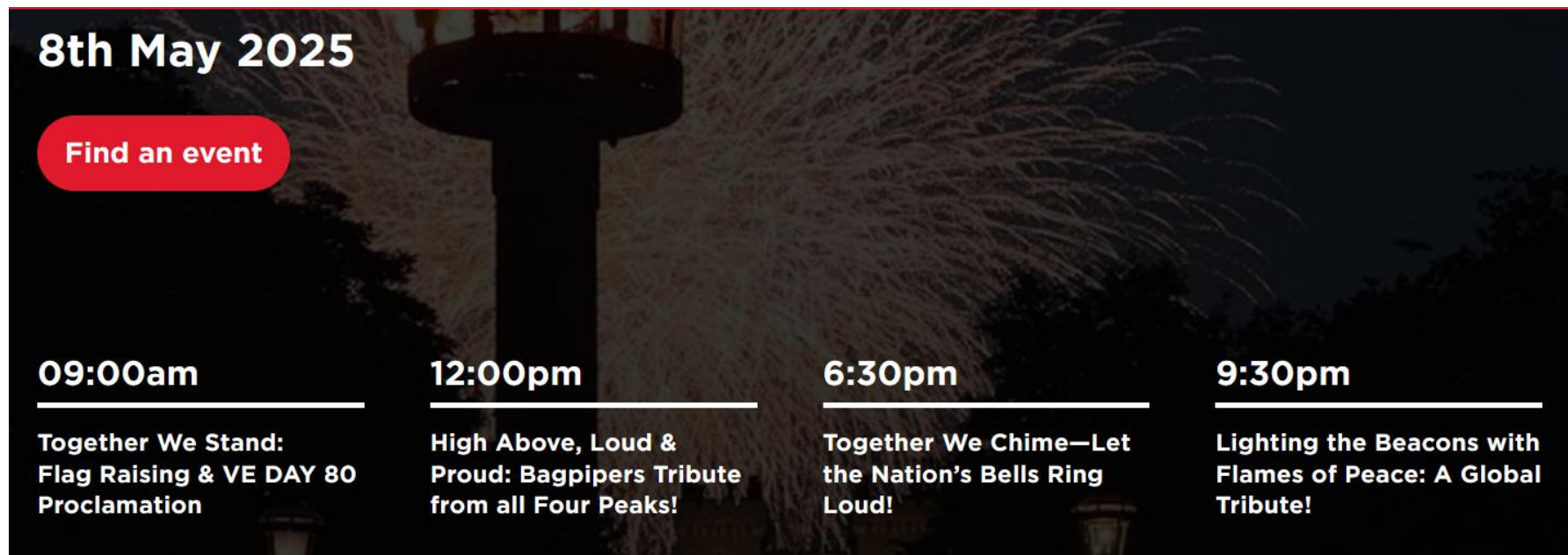
3	a) Name of your Project b) Brief Description	a) The Winter Warmers Urn b) The Exeter Inn needed to buy a new urn to boil water and keep it warm for the Winter Warmers.
4	Why is your project necessary?	<u>When the Community Group took over the Exeter Inn in November 2024 the existing boiler was found to be unsafe. A new one was necessary so that there would be constant hot water for the Winter Warmers.</u>
5	Total cost and timescale of your project	£ 75 Ongoing
6	Grant amount requested	£ 75

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9.07 Affordable Housing

9.08 VE Day

80th Anniversary on 8th May 2025 – [National Plans](#)

A banner for the 8th May 2025 VE Day 80th Anniversary events. The background is a dark image of a fountain with water spraying upwards. The text is white and red. At the top left, it says '8th May 2025'. Below that is a red button with the text 'Find an event'. The banner is divided into four columns, each representing a different time of day. Each column has a time at the top, followed by a horizontal line, and then the event description.

8th May 2025

Find an event

09:00am	12:00pm	6:30pm	9:30pm
Together We Stand: Flag Raising & VE DAY 80 Proclamation	High Above, Loud & Proud: Bagpipers Tribute from all Four Peaks!	Together We Chime—Let the Nation's Bells Ring Loud!	Lighting the Beacons with Flames of Peace: A Global Tribute!

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9.09 Inpost

Please can Inpost be on the agenda this month

9.10 Quarry Car Park Signage & untaxed vehicle

Email from Cllr Uglow

1. Out of date signage.



2. Possible abandoned/ untaxed vehicle.

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9.11 WI Winter Warmth, Listed Building application and ACV

Email from Cllr Uglow

1. Should the building be listed
2. Should there be ACV

Email from WI

We shall not continue to be part of the Warm Space scheme as there is uncertainty of availability of the WI Hut from March onwards. However we shall continue for the time being with the Welcome Cafe which in itself is a warm space.

9.12 Tidy-Up Day

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9.13 Sheep Dip

Email from the Church Commissioner's Agents

I understand that there has been some correspondence between and TPC over the years regarding a potential purchase of the site, but the sale did proceed due to



contamination and a report that was produced. I believe that following this report, the sheep dip itself was fenced off.

I am also aware that there is however still a hardstanding area immediately to the south of the dip that is not fenced off and is used by the locals (see area outlined in red below). The CC have therefore asked that subject to terms being agreed, whether TPC would be interested in renting this piece of land to document the community's use?

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10 Recreation Ground

10.1 Financial Report for February

£32.41 paid for materials to repair play equipment (see 13.2.7)

10.2 Repairs to the Rocker

10.3 Signage



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10.4 Damage from footballs

Email from Throverton Football Club

- > 1. When we put the last set of netting up, we were advised no further netting would be allowed. It will therefore need the parish council to agree we can put netting up. I think the fear, a few years ago, was that all the residents along the edge of the pitch would demand netting too and that would cause us all a big headache, especially as some of the housing complained to the netting that was being put up versus their neighbours that complained about the lack of netting.
- > 2. Being completely upfront, the football club does not have the funds to pay for this. Creating surplus funds for future issues is something that worries me, as presently, we are pretty much only covering running costs.
- > I have checked the potential costs from the place we got the previous set of netting from, so please see:

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> https://www.networldsports.co.uk/ball-stop-post-net-system-multi-sport.html+netting_poles_height-20ft~6m+netting_grade-Football~-~120mm~Mesh~Black+net_length_metres-65ft~20m

> I am not sure if I have the measurements right, so this is subject to change (I might not need the height I plugged in), but there will be a cost of just under £2,000 for this (I am guessing at the additional delivery costs, plus there will be some additional costs in purchasing some cement and erecting the equipment).

> Assuming the parish council would not wish to fund it, would the council support the football club with looking to see if we could spend part of the available S106 funds on this? If that is an eligible spend, it will allow the club to proceed. I know the parish council often worries about who owns what. As a football club, we are relaxed whether we own it or the parish council does. It is more about who needs to have it in their name, if we need to finance it in some way.

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10.5 Basketball Hoop

Purchase of padding in addition to the hoop.

Contractor for the base and funds available.

10.6 Lottery Bid

Extract from the Rec Ground Working Group minutes (19th Feb)

We decided that we should reapply to the national lottery funding using our original bid with the addition of two extra statements:

- a. Our location which is preventing us from using most local waste management grants as our postcode rules us out.
- b. Lack of regular public transport to other play areas especially at weekends.

We also decided that should this fail again we would have to break the project into small areas and complete each one on its own merit.

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10.7 Dogs

See Saturday Market report above

Email from Cllr Uglow

I would like the topic of dogs in the recreation ground to be discussed by the council, it is an ongoing issue i feel we should discuss.

11 Grounds Maintenance

11.1 Contractor Work for the month

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12 Planning & Consultations

Applications

12.1.1 [24/01727/FULL](#) & [24/01728/LBC](#) The Post Yard
Revised drawings

12.1.2 [25/00297/FULL](#) Rull Orchard
Self-build dwelling & infrastructure

Consultations

12.2.1 East Devon Local Plan 31 March 2025

12.2.2 Cadbury Ward Parishes 7pm Weds 2nd April
Meeting agenda and attendees

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13 Finance

13.1 Bank balance as at 31 January 2025

£53,639.86 (£37,711.13 + £15,928.73)

13.2 Payments:

13.2.1	Ben Fitch Grounds Maintenance Jan & Feb	£	291.90
13.2.2	MDDC Payment for Planning Application	£	293.00
13.2.3	Thorverton WI Winter warmth expenditure (February)	£	38.80
13.2.4	Vision ICT Website hosting	£	161.26
13.2.5	Savills Invoice for Allotment field	£	90.00
13.2.6	A J Marshall consultant work Oct 24 mins para 13.1	£	100.00
13.2.7	Cllr Sims Reimbursement for materials	£	32.41
13.2.8	J P Roberts - clerk pay (February)	£	659.46
	Reimbursement postage stamps	£	26.80
		£	686.26

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14 Meetings

14.1 Annual Parish Meeting 1st March – 1st June

14.2 Next Monthly Meeting Tuesday 8th April 2025

15 Business to be Raised at the Chairman's Discretion

No decisions or payments in this item.