

Southern Link

Notes of the meeting held on **Thursday October 5th 2017**
Rundle Room, Tavistock Town Hall, Tavistock at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Town & Parish Councils

Bere Ferres – Cllr R Lethall, Cllr M Page Bailey, Cllr B Lamb
Brentor – Cllr T Pearce & WDBC
Buckland Monachorum – Cllr D Butland , Cllr S Woollacott
Burrator Grouped – Cllr T Aves (Southern Links Chairman)
Dartmoor Forest – Cllr S Davies
Gulworthy – Cllr G Lister, Cllr K Royston
Horrabridge – Cllr S Roche
Kelly – not represented
Lamerton –,Cllr J Evans
Lewdown Grouped – not represented
Lifton – Cllr C Edmonds & WDBC
Lydford - Teresa Redding (Clerk)
Mary Tavy – Cllr G Hill
Milton Abbot Grouped – Cllr R Brewer, Cllr P Hough
Peter Tavy – Cllr J Jeffery
Plasterdown Grouped - Cllr G Antcliffe
Stowford - not represented
Sydenham Damerel – not represented
Tavistock – Cllr H Smith

Darren Arulvasagam (WDBC)

Mrs J Gillard (Links Administrator)

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing thanks to Cllr D Butland for his work as chairman over the last 2 years.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Simon Kitchen (DCC), Caroline Mott (WDBC), Bill Lane (Peter Tavy), Insp Mark Sloman (D&C Police),

2. Agreement of Notes of Last Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 13th July 2017 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

It was noted revised TAP guidelines for 2018 were not yet available.

Peter Tavy advised their TAP application for culvert repairs was now withdrawn as the repairs were being undertaken by DCC.

4. **DCC Update**

Written update distributed prior to meeting, contents noted and no questions arising.

5. **WDBC Update – Darren Arulvasagam**

Joint Local Plan – The Inspector starts his examination of the plan in January 2018, this will last for 3 weeks, those who feedback to the consultation will be contacted and be asked if they wish to be represented at the enquiry.

2018 Plan – the annual Report contains 8 themes covering a diverse range of priorities. WDBC are now looking to re-align these and restate the plan focussing on easily understandable areas. Ward Members will be taking part in a Budget workshop shortly.

One Council – the budget gap has to be funded. The gap is as a result of reducing government grants and increasing costs – not poor management. Several options are being looked at as solutions. One initiative is commercial property acquisition – borrowing funds at a cheap rate and using the funds to purchase commercial property and renting them out. Professional advice is being taken on this initiative. analysed. Both WDBC and South Hams will make their decisions on 31st October, if either reject the proposal, no further action will be taken on this initiative. So far, over 1700 responses to the consultation have been made. Other Borough and District Councils have no appetite for the creation of a Unitary authority, all Councils would need to be in agreement for this to happen. DCC and the local MPs need to support the creation of One Council for it to progress. If there is agreement, an application would be made to DCLG to form a new council, the formation would happen in 2020. The Boundary Commission would undertake a review to establish the number of members of the new council. No decision has been made as to where a new council would be based. All are encouraged to respond to the consultation.

6. **Policing Issues** – statistics distributed prior to meeting.

It was noted crime has increased and this is a national trend.

Question to Insp Sloman – is this increase a result of decreased policing? Are the changes as a result of changes of methods of reporting and what are the Police doing about it?

7. **TAP Fund**

a. **New applications – Lydford** request for £1500 for community bus shelter. No stakeholders within application however Cllr Pearce stated Brentor would support if they were asked. Application agreed, all in favour.

Dartmoor Forest – request for £1400 for Devon Air Ambulance lights for night landing site. Application agreed, proposed by Cllr H Smith, seconded by Cllr Edmonds.

Lamerton – request for £6350 for 2 VAS signs to reduce vehicle speed through the village. Application agreed, all in favour.

Milton Abbot Grouped – request for £2693.00 for renovation and repair of unsafe section of retaining wall potentially affecting play group. Application agree, all in favour.

Peter Tavy with Brentor, Buckland Monachorum, Lydford and Mary Tavy, request for £5950 for ditching and drainage work in all above parishes. Cllr Jeffery declared a personal interest in this item and did not participate in discussion or vote and no representatives from the parishes listed took part in the

vote. Application agreed, proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Page Bailey, all in favour.

Brentor – application for £1125 for Village noticeboard. Application agreed, proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Woollacott, one vote against.

Peter Tavy – application for £5825 for culvert repair – request withdrawn as DCC now undertaking repairs.

- b. To consider future use of previously awarded training funds from TAP funds. Cllr Lamb advised approximately £3500 was still held by Bere Ferrers parish Council, it was agreed the training already held was worthwhile and that the funds should continue to be used for more training events. Agreed a small committee with Cllr Lamb arrange further courses, Theresa Redding volunteered to assist.
 - c. Shared Southern Link IT equipment – the Clerk advised the equipment previously purchased and held by Dartmoor Forest Parish Council was now available for use by any Southern Link Parish. The laptop, projector and screen were now stored in Tavistock Town council offices, if any parish wanted to use the equipment a booking form must be completed (issued with these meeting notes and also forwarded to all parish Clerks) and arrangements for collection etc made with Jan Smallacombe at Tavistock Town Council.
- 8. Parish Feedback and issues** – Peter Tavy asked what arrangements have been made for Devon Highways to liaise with parishes before lengthsman visit parishes in order to ensure the efficient use of the time and services provided. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting when a representative from Highways would be present.

DATE & VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 30th November 2017, Rundle Room, Tavistock Town Hall

(The meeting closed at 8.45 pm)