

**NOTES OF SOUTHERN LINKS (TRAINING GROUP)****Wednesday 24 May 2023 7.30pm at KP.**

- 1 Cllr Chris Edmunds took the Chair with 14 Councillors present with apologies from Peter Tavy, Horrabridge, & Gulworthy.
- 2 Brian Lamb outlined the history of the provision of a Southern Link training fund for Town & Parish Councillors since 2012, which had stopped with Covid. However, there was still a balance of £2,181.87 held by Bere Ferrers PC available and he was anxious that the scheme be restarted with a new committee and perhaps would act as a catalyst for the future. He noted that Planning training provision had always been provided by West Devon BC.
- 3 Terms of Reference were agreed as follows:
  - a Committee of 3-5 to take over the management of the scheme and funds transferred as necessary.
  - b Funds are only for Parish & Town Councillors belonging to Southern Link and allocated on an equitable basis
  - c Committee responsible for defining the training which will be supported either fully or partially funding.
  - d Circulating all Councils and ascertaining needs.
  - e Organising training either by Zoom or Face to Face or funding other suitable training.
  - f Paying small remuneration to Council Clerk who holds funds.
  - g The Committee would have a quorum of three members and would inform all members present of progress and eventually to Southern Links Committee if reformed
- 4 A straw poll from those present showed an overwhelming demand for 'New Councillor' courses, followed by 'Existing councillors' 'Chairs' and 'Finance.'
- 5 Members present then elected Susan Woolacott (Buckland Monachorum,) Liz Lenton (Lydford,) Ruth Pearson-Bunt (Plasterdown,) and Karen Dreher (Lamerton,) to form the Training Group Committee.
- 6 After a short meeting the Committee announced that Susan Woolacott would be their chair and that priority would be 'New Councillors courses' as soon as possible. They would circulate all Councils in due course.
- 7 The Meeting approved a payment for the teas & coffees provided.
- 8 The Chair thanked all for attending and BL for organising the evening.