Councillors met on Tuesday 14th January for their monthly meeting. In the public session at the start of the meeting they received an update on plans for car park charging from Richard Drysdale of Dartmoor National Park. The pay and display machines and necessary signage have now been installed, and charging will commence on Monday 3rd February. Payment will be by card or through the RingGo app. It will not be possible to pay by cash. Charging will be in force every day from 10am to 6pm, although Sunday morning will still be free.

Richard explained that the DNPA are hoping to use some of the proceeds from parking charges to support the reopening of the public toilets at the car park, although plans are at an early stage. It is hoped that the toilets will be open in time for Easter. The council has taken the offer of involvement in discussions going forward.

The repairs to the equipment at the playground were ordered before Christmas, although delays with the supply of spare parts mean that they are unlikely to be completed until the end of January. The council has agreed in principle with the Trustees of the sports field that the Trustees will be responsible in future for maintaining and repairing the equipment, whilst the council will retain an overview and responsibility for its operation, insurance etc.

Councillors have agreed with Trustees of the sports field to share the cost of having the dog waste bin on the field emptied weekly. Since it was installed courtesy of the Castle Inn the bin has been emptied by on a voluntary basis by Lesley Fowler who unfortunately feels unable to continue. The council sends its grateful thanks to Lesley for her efforts over the past months.

The council has agreed its budget for the coming financial year. Councillors were keen to avoid adding to taxpayers' burdens and resolved to continue with the present budget, increased only to allow for inflation. Fortunately, changes in the tax base have meant that burden on local taxpayers will actually decrease by 1.9% in 2025-26.