

Councillors met for their routine March meeting on Tuesday 11th. There were discussions on a variety of topics:

The council received two visitors, residents of the Mucky Duck, who wished to talk to the agenda item regarding flooding there in January which had resulted in the Lydford to Brentor road being closed. Whilst the location falls within Brentor parish, Councillors agreed to write to Devon Highways in support of the residents' efforts to have effective flood alleviation plans put in place.

The council was told that the bank above the path to the Devil's Cauldron had collapsed as a consequence of the same heavy rains and that as a consequence that path was closed, although work was expected to start the week of the 17th March with the path re-opening the following week.

After a vote, Mr. Anthony Purnell was co-opted by the council to replace Councillor Nick Skeaping. After signing the acceptance of office Cllr Purnell took his place on the council.

The council continues to monitor the usage of the car park. Over this last month it has requested Highways to repaint the give way lines at the entrance to the car park, which have been very badly eroded. The council has also written to the DNPA asking that they reprint their sign requesting visitors not to park within the visibility splay at the entrance to the car park, as parked cars can obstruct the view for vehicles leaving the car park.

The council is beginning to build a file of issues arising as a result of the imposition of car parking charges. Councillors are asking for parishioners' help in building a case over time for the abolition of the charges. They are specifically looking for evidence that demonstrates loss, damage or increased risk to members of the parish which have arisen since charges were imposed.

Councillors were asked to express their opinions on a number of planning applications -

0073/25 Hartswood, EX20 4BJ. Normalisation of existing works to field access track and all weather corral. The application was supported.

0084/25 Cornerways EX20 4AQ change of use from agricultural land to domestic curtilage and erection of garage. Cllrs requested an extension so that a site visit might be arranged.

25/0019 Dalloway, 12 Hawthorn Park EX20 4BD removal of three leylandii trees to ground level. The application was not opposed.

Anyone making a planning application is welcome to attend the meeting at which it has been placed on the agenda for consideration.

Following complaints, the council would like to remind parishioners of the rules governing bonfires: Whilst you can light a bonfire at any time, it must not cause a nuisance to neighbours or passers-by. Bonfires which emit smoke such that it affects the normal and reasonable use of neighbours' properties can be reported to the borough council. It is an offence for the smoke to drift onto a public highway, or if the bonfire emits dark smoke. It can similarly be illegal to burn man-made materials because of the potentially harmful fumes that can be released into the air.

The parish is due to hold its Annual Parish Meeting soon. The purpose of the meeting is for parishioners to raise concerns about things in the village, or to suggest how village life might be improved. It is not a council meeting, although in modern times organising the event does fall to the council. Councillors would very much welcome ideas for innovative ways of holding the meeting which might encourage people to come along and offer their thoughts.