MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON Thursday 20th April 2017
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, WOODBURY SALTERTON

Present: Cllrs Mrs C McGauley (in the Chair), D Atkins, R Bartlett, Mrs C Bennett, P Bricknell, J Burgess, Mrs M Edwards, B Jones, G Jung, G Murrin, and J Pyne. County Cllr C Channon, District Cllr B Ingham; 25 members of the public and the Joint Clerks to the Council, Mrs L-A Kendall and Mr A J Le Riche

1. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2016 were approved and signed (previously circulated to members).

2. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Tree Wardens and Footpath Wardens were not able to come to the meeting but the Chairman thanked them for their valuable work in the Parish.

3. Parish Council finances

The Clerk submitted the draft accounts for the year. These were not yet balanced or audited. He pointed out that the precept had been increased but the Parish Council had a commitment to a cessation fee for the Devon Local Government pension fund, which had yet to be confirmed. Several projects and commitments had been held over from previous years and so the Council would be asked to review its priorities for the year.

(The following is the final account for the year)

Current account			
Opening Balance at 1st April 2016			29,132.15
Receipts			81,811.10
Total funds			110,943.25
Payments			85,614.26
Net funds			25,328.99
Unpresented cheques			1,046.16
Receipts not on statement			0.00
Balance at 31st March 2017			**26,375.15**
Met by			
30 day account			14,655.27
Treasurers account			11,719.88
TOTAL			**26,375.15**
Gulliford account			
Opening balance at 1st April 2016			795.35
receipts			400.00
			1,195.35
payments			366.00

Balance at 31st March 2017			829.35
Total funds			26,158.34
Earmarked balances			
Grant to St Swithun's Church bells			2,000.00
Coombe Farm Solar Fund			601.00
Flood Resilience			2,000.00
Exton Play Area			13,345.00
Woodbury Village hall grant			1,000.00
Woodbury Church Rooms Trust			1,000.00
Total			19,946.00
Income to be received			
Exton Community re Play Area			7,010.00
S106 re Exton			3,281.00
VAT REFUND			5,781.81
			16,072.81

4. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Pyne, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan team reported that the Plan was progressing but advice was changing regularly which made the process somewhat difficult. The Plan dated 9th march was on the website and comments would be appreciated.

5. County Councillor's report

Cllr Channon informed the meeting that the wardings were changing at the next election and the Raleigh Ward was now taken into the Exmouth, Woodbury and Lympstone Ward. She would be standing in the Ward that covered Budleigh Salterton etc.

She had been proud to serve Woodbury Salterton since 2005 and was please rto support improvements in the area. She thank Cllr Pat Brickenell for his help with Parish Council maters and Tim Smith for help in Greendale matters. The Greendale Liason Group had stopped meeting due to some discord but it was hoped that this would be resurrected.

The Blackhill Quarry Liason Group would continue during the closure period. The Group had won the battle to stop material being brought in for processing. There was still some material on-site to be moved.

She was pleased to have opened the Woodbury Salterton Play Area whilst she was Chairman of DCC.

Finally she commended Woodbury as the only Parish that had invited her to its Annual Dinner.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Channon for her service to the Parish over the last 12 years.

Cllr Channon was then presented with suitable 'retirement' gifts from the Parish Council.

6. District Councillors reports

Cllr Ingham reported on the latest known position regarding the relocation of EDDC HQ to which he had still objected.

The EDDC Council tax had been increased by 4%. This was unacceptable in an area of low wages with no real increase.

He felt that the Woodbury neighbourhood Plan would make a real difference and he commended those involved in this challenging project.

He expressed concerns about the greater Exeter Strategic Plan which could present further challenges to the Parish.

7. Flood Resilience team (Cllr Jung)

Over the period from Jan 2016 money was raised for various Parish Specific Flood Alleviation projects amounting to £7000 with £250 set aside for the formation of a Resilience Group in Woodbury Salterton. There is an identified requirement for a Resilience Group to be set up specifically for Woodbury Salterton because of property damage to a number of dwellings in Dec 2015 from surface water flooding. The other 2 villages within the Parish were considered not to warrant a Resilience Group. Woodbury has a flood relief channel maintained by the Environment Agency, and the surface water flooding during a storm event did not warrant an ongoing Resilience Group. However land off Town Lane was identified as requiring some work which was carried out on behalf of the Parish Council and also by the Landowner Clinton Devon Estates. Further surface water drainage works is being carried out by South West Water in parts of Woodbury to separate the foul water (sewage) from surface water drainage (road drainage). This was considered necessary because sewage was overflowing into the stream and endangering shellfish within the Exe Estuary. This work however will help prevent contaminated water flowing up from the drains within Woodbury and help prevent some surface water runoff due to extra flow capacity. Exton which again is within the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency has in recent months had substantial work carried out by the Agency to help alleviate flooding in the village close to the stream. A Rain Gauge is being installed within the Parish close to the junction of Bonds Lane/B3179 Road. This is being built and maintained by the Environment Agency to warn vulnerable residents and the Flood Resilience team of probable flooding. Due to the nature of the land this will give approximately 30 to 15 minutes warning.

In the autumn of 2016 the Resilience Group carried out a stream clearance within Woodbury Salterton Village. Although the responsibility for ensuring that water courses should be kept clear by the many landowners (Riparian Owners Responsibility a 15th century law) it was thought that by working jointly, the work of clearing debris and overhanging branches throughout the length of the stream in the village would be the most efficient. This work was carried out with a group of over 30 residents and the only cost was £75 for the removal of the debris. It has been agreed that this event will take place each autumn. The Resilience Group have identified 2 pinch points which

are at present beyond the expenditure of Devon County Council. These are the culvert under Stony Lane and entrance to the school which is required to be substantially widened to allow extra capacity and also the bridge on Honey Lane again restricting flow and creating flooding in the village. To assist the flow at these 2 points the removal of gravel beyond the Stony Lane Culvert and the removal of the bank on both sides of Honey Lane was undertaken in April 2016.

Future work: downstream of Honey Lane Bridge, Through records of previous flood events, the Environment Agency identified that flow downstream from Honey Lane Bridge is restricted, which causes water to back up and not drain away. This could be improved by channel improvements and/or the removal of a tree and a root ball. Work last year by the owner (Nigel Edwards) of a wooded area downstream of Honey Lane (See map) has helped in eliminating some of the flood water backing up. The owner is again going to use a mechanical digger when the land is dryer to help in eliminating further flooding in this area. One task is opening up a long discontinued relief channel/ ditch over his land which will allow flood water to flow through if the stream is in flood. The other work involves excavating around a large root ball to allow the water to flow around it. One task is opening up a long discontinued relief channel/ ditch over his land which will allow flood water to flow through if the stream is in flood. The other work involves excavating around a large root ball to allow the water to flow around it. The large root and tree creating flow restricting down- stream of Honey Bridge Woodbury Salterton Resilience Group Woodbury Parish Council Report 17/04/2017 5 It is also planned to cut the tree that has been shown to be restricting water flow through this section. This work will help in flood water flowing more quickly away from residential properties and local roads.

Future work of the Resilience Group: In the next few months training will be required by a few members to provide safe working and eliminate risks. This will be in the form of “Chapter 8 Training” for people working on the highway and chainsaw training so volunteers can call upon a trained operative when required for small and medium tree work. (Major tree felling will remain with trained and qualified professionals) Further Equipment will be purchased and training will take place for all volunteers. An Emergency Plan will be completed and published and advice handed out to vulnerable residents in the event of an Emergency.