WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22 Published May 2022

Your Parish Council

Woodbury Parish Council consists of 13 Members who volunteer their time for the benefit of the Community and attend our monthly Full Council meetings, Committees, various Sub Committees and Working Groups, which together assist in the efficient smooth running of the Council.

From our Parish Council Office in Woodbury, the Clerk to the Council provides a service to the Community giving information to residents in person, via our noticeboards, also in the near future via our new Website and Facebook page.

The Clerk provides full administration for the day to day running of the Council, including all financial matters, Health and Safety and making sure the Council is working legally and within their remit.

The Parish Council maintains numerous footpaths, allotments, play and open spaces across the villages in the Parish.

Report by the Chairman of Woodbury Parish Council

In May 2021, I was elected Chairman and I have attended a number of events both in an official and an unofficial capacity.

Our last Annual Parish Meeting took place in 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic which has been a challenging time for all of us. Friends of Woodbury Surgery have and continue to provide valuable help to our venerable residents and we forward our sincere thanks. The Parish Council continued to operate and conducted its business virtually, we are now holding all our meetings face to face.

Since 2020 there have been some changes, firstly we welcome new Councillors, Philip Jordan, Sally Cole, Sam Knighton and Alan Wills, they have already been a great asset to the Council and I wish them continued success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the other Councillors for their hard work and who have volunteered their time representing this Community.

Secondly, we welcome our new Clerk, Anne-Marie Bates who was appointed in September 2021. Anne-Marie, a qualified Clerk with 20 years' experience in the sector is giving us the tools to strive to be a modern, dynamic, forward-thinking Council and bringing a good service to its residents.

I thank the previous Clerk David Craig, also Belinda Price for stepping in during the interim period.

We continue to have a good working relationship with our County Councillors Jeff Trail and Richard Scott and our District Councillors Ben Ingham and Geoff Jung who attend our monthly Full Council meetings. They provide us with information that involves or has direct impact on the parish. It is a good opportunity for us to raise questions and forward any local issues. We are looking forward to a continued working relationship with them.

Last year, we were pleased that a night landing light was installed at the Community Playing Fields for Devon Air Ambulance to safely land, this is an important facility to have within the Parish.

The Parish Council now maintain three defibrillators, one in each village. They are located at the Puffing Billy in Exton, the Parish Office in Woodbury and Diggers Rest in Woodbury Salterton.

I wish to thank all those who volunteer their time to provide facilities and a service to those living in our parish. One of those being Friends of Gulliford Cemetery along with the joint council committee who have successfully completed the refurbishment of the Cemetery with the awarded Lottery bid.

It is important to ensure our historic assets are here for future generations.

We are now looking forward to the next productive year.

Your Parish Precept

2022/23

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Woodbury Parish Council's Budget for 2022/3 is £91,930

For an average Band D property per year, it equates to £ 64.74 which is 10 pence **per week**

The Members of YOUR Council are working for you the ratepayer to give you "Best Value" for money

Staffing / Finance / Policy Committee

The Parish Council strives to achieve "Best Value" for all its expenditure, whilst abiding by our financial regulations ensuring we get good value for money and obtaining the most competitive prices.

Our budget for 2021/2022 was £83,866 and this was spent on a number of responsibilities.

The Parish Council continues to provide financial support to a number of organisations including Woodbury History Society, Exmouth & District Community Transport, Exe Estuary, Exeter Port Authority and Wild Woodbury.

We do have a **grant scheme** whereby organisations can apply for a small grant – please contact the Clerk for more information.

Income & Expenditure

Income & Expenditure Accounts will be ratified in the next month or so. The accounts will be published, also Electors will have an opportunity to view the accounts in detail; dates will be displayed, but it will include the first two weeks in July. Cllr. Richard Ball

Assets & Estates Committee

Under this Committee's remit it looks after the Parish Council's assets, which includes bus shelters, public seating, notice boards, bins, War Memorial, Parsonage Cross, village signs, also our play equipment, open spaces, allotments, footpaths, car park and toilets.

Flower Street car park and toilets

we are pleased that on 1st April 2022 the toilets were re-opened after closure due to Covid and some needed maintenance work. Over the coming year we will be looking at refurbishing the car park so it can be utilised to its fullest capacity. We will be investigating the possibility of having an electrical point as well.

Allotments

We have two sites within the Parish with 25+ plots on each, they are all enjoyed with a wealth of crops grown.

We thank Graham Joyce, Nigel Batton and Bob Steventon who volunteered to be representatives on the Sub Committee, but also oversee the day to day running of the sites. If you are interested in having a plot then please put your name on our waiting lists.

Community Playing Fields

The Playing fields are a great asset to the Community and we thank Gary King and the rest of the Committee for managing it. Over the coming year we are looking forward to working with the Committee to enhance this area, so it can continue to be a popular facility and enjoyed by many residents and visitors.

Parish Volunteers – Footpath/ Tree Wardens

Thank you to our Footpath Wardens Judy Green and Tim Frampton who regularly walk the footpaths to make sure that access continues and they are maintained. New kissing gates have been installed along the Footpath 4 and repair work at the bridge. This year we hope bridge improvements will be made at Lower Pilehayes Farm.

Thank you to our Tree Wardens Tony Bennett and Gavin Black who provide advice on planning applications whereby trees are involved, also monitor the trees under our care, so they can be maintained and kept healthy.

Street Light / Highway / Footpath Issues

The Parish Council does not manage any street lights. If you need to report a damaged or faulty lights, or highway or footpath issues, please report it to Devon County Council via their "Report It" page.

https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/

Or if it is an emergency call 0345 155 1004.

Litter / Dog Fouling

Please help keep "Woodbury Parish Tidy" and use litter bins and dog bins which are throughout the villages. Please note that doggy bags can be put in normal rubbish bins.

New Website

Woodburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

This will be launched imminently; but still a working in progress site.

Neighbourhood Plan

We have recently had the Neighbourhood Plan returned from having a health check from an independent Planning Consultant.

The outcome is that 90% of the plan is suitable to be submitted to East Devon District Council, but there are areas that need additional work due to some missed opportunities as several well written introductions haven't resulted into policies.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group needs to review the plan and additionally name and map the green spaces for protection as well as open spaces, also with the green policies being strengthened. List non-designated heritage sites i.e. mile stones.

Next process:

1. Revised plan returned to the Planning Consultant.
   If satisfactory–submit to East Devon District Council (EDDC), if not it will need to be further reviewed.
2. Positive Review from EDDC = Public Consultation/Referendum
3. Submission to an Independent Inspector.
   If satisfactory-Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, if not further revisions and consultation required.

East Devon Draft Local Plan

Thank you to all those who came along to our public consultations, we had a fantastic turn out and over 200 questionnaires were returned. The information gathered will help us voice our residents' views, wishes and highlight your concerns.

At the point of printing this report all the information is currently being collated; we will be providing a full report of the outcomes for residents.

We will be making a formal response to East Devon District Council and continue to monitor and have a dialogue with them to try our upmost to ensure the best outcome for our Parish is achieved.

Bus Questionnaires

Earlier in the year we asked residents to fill out a bus questionnaire regarding the current service, also what type of service / routes are needed.

A formal request has been sent to Stagecoach and we hope our request is implemented to provide a better more usable service.

Parish Full Council Meetings

These are held on the 2nd Monday of each month (excluding August) at "The Church Rooms" Greenway, Woodbury starting at 7.30pm. Residents are welcome to attend to forward their ideas and concerns.

Committee meetings are held on the last Monday of the month if there is business to conduct.

Agenda for all meetings can be found on our noticeboards /Office and soon on our website.

Member of Parliament

Simon Jupp MP

County Councillors 2021-2022

Cllr Jeff Trail

Cllr Richard Scott

District Councillors 2021-2022

Cllr Ben Ingham

Cllr Geoff Jung

Parish Councillors 2201-2022

Cllr. Mrs. C. McGauley
(Woodbury)
Chairman
Planning Chairman
Estates & Assets Chairman

Cllr P. Bricknell
(Woodbury Salterton)
Vice-Chairman

Cllr. R. Ball
(Woodbury)
Staffing/Finance & policy Chairman

Exton

Cllr G. Murrin

Cllr Mrs. S. Cole

Cllr P. Jordan

Woodbury

Cllr J. Pyne

Cllr R. Parr

Cllr Mrs. S Knighton

Cllr A. Wills

Woodbury Salterton

Cllr S. Andrews

Cllr G. Jung

Parish Staff

Anne-Marie Bates
Clerk to the Council / RFO

Woodbury Parish Council

Parish Office
Greenside, Greenway,
Woodbury EX5 1LP
01395 233791

Normally OPEN
Monday/ Tues/ Wed/Thurs
9.30am -12.30pm

Email: Clerk@woodburyparishcouncil.gov.uk