WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 Published April 23

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, also are representatives on Outside Bodies; together they 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, or our new website; https://woodburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/

We are also on Facebook and Twitter, so please follow us.

The Clerk provides full administration for the day to day running of the Council, including all financial matters, Health and Safety and makes 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 2022, 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 was in May 2022 and although we have now come through the Covid Pandemic it is still a challenging time for us all, especially with the current cost-of-living crisis.

Friends of Woodbury Surgery have continued to provide valuable help to our vulnerable residents and we forward our sincere thanks to them.

This year, we have been very busy especially with the emerging East Devon District Council's Local Plan; we have run several consultations giving our residents the opportunity to have their say in shaping their village and communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the other Councillors for their hard work during this period and over last year; they have volunteered their time representing this, Parish.

Additionally, I wish to thank all our volunteers who help provide facilities or service to those living and visiting our parish.

Our Clerk, Anne-Marie Bates who has provided us with the support and been working with us to strive for us to be a modern, dynamic, forward-thinking Council, bringing a good service to its residents.

In November we welcomed a new member of staff, Debbie Thomas who provides some admin support, we wish Debbie all the best in her new role.

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.

During 2022 - 2023, the Parish Council has;

- Funded events across the Parish for the Queen's Jubilee, this was enjoyed by many. Thank you to all those who organised these events.
- Given commemorative mugs to all pre-school and primary school children
- Provided a Queen's Jubilee commemorative tree at the Cricket Field,
- Funded a commemorative bench, to be located on Woodbury's Village Green.
- Funded a new much wanted dog area at the Cricket Field.
- Refurbished the Parish Office, a warm welcome awaits residents with any concerns, queries or requiring information.

The Parish Council has started to look at our assets and agree a maintenance program, so far, we have;

- Installed a new Woodbury sign at the top of Globe Hill, others will be replaced this year.
- Replaced a fence at Exton play park.
- Refurbished the fence which will soon be painted at Woodbury's Village Green
- Installed a new sign at Parsonage Cross showing that the Cross stands on the site of the Old Village Pound.

We are now looking forward to the next productive year and have several projects that will come into fruition.
We will also continue to fight our corner and do our upmost to protect this Parish from overdevelopment and ensure that each of our Wards get the facilities and infrastructure they so need.

In May 2023 will be our Parish Council Elections. I would like to take this opportunity to thank four of our long-standing Members for their dedicated Service as they will not be standing again;
Cllr Graham Murrin (Exton),
Cllr David Atkins (Woodbury)
Cllr Patrick Bricknell and
Cllr Geoff Jung (Woodbury Salterton)

Cllr Cheryl McGauley, Chairman

Your Parish Precept

2023/24

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Woodbury Parish Council's Budget for 2022/3 is £99,824

For an average Band D property per year, it equates to £ 68.89 which is 8 pence **per week increase.**

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 2022/2023 was £91,930 and this was spent on a number of responsibilities.
The Parish Council continues to provide financial support to a number of organisations including, Exmouth & District Community Transport, Exe Estuary and Exeter Port Authority
We have a **grant scheme** whereby organisations can apply for a small grant – please see our website or contact the Clerk for more information.

In 2022/2023 we have provided grants to;

- Woodbury Village Hall
  £400
  (caretakers store room improvements)
- Exton Events Committee
  £950
  (CCTV village safety)
- Woodbury History Society
  £250
  (To assist with conserving data and providing public access to Parish records).
- Friends of Woodbury Surgery
  £400
  (Providing a befriending, transport and shopping service).

Coombe Solar Farm Community Benefit has provided grants to;

- Woodbury Salterton School
  £420
  (Service of village clock)
- Woodbury Village Hall
  £2,000
  (Provision for full audio-visual facility)
- Woodbury Parish Council
  £3,950
  (Flower Street car park height barrier)
- St Swithun's Church
  £1,300
  (Service and repair the clock)
- WPCF Committee
  £1,600
  (Relining of the MUGA at the Community Playing Fields).
- Woodbury Parish Council Environment Group
  £200
  (purchase of water quality testing kits)

We will be sponsoring the King's Coronation events across the Parish, we hope that you enjoy them. A commemorative tree will be planted later in the year.

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
The toilets have been open since April 2022 and continue to be free to use.
Over the coming few months the car park will be completely refurbished.

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.
We have been working with the Committee to enhance this area, so it can continue to be a popular facility and enjoyed by many residents and visitors.
Devon Air Ambulance have thanked the Parish Council for the Night Landing Site which has been used a couple of times in 2022-2023.

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. A new bridge has been installed at Lower Pilehayes Farm and we will continue to maintain and improve the network via the P3 Scheme.
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.
We welcome Paul Glanville who has taken over from Tony Bennett who retired from this post last year.

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.

Defibrillators
The Parish Council own and 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.

Gulliford Cemetery
Friends of Gulliford Cemetery help to maintain the Cemetery with the joint council committee (Woodbury and Lympstone Parish Councils) who fund the upkeep of the Cemetery to ensure our historic asset is there for future generations.

Neighbourhood Plan
The Neighbourhood Plan has had its health check from an independent Planning Consultant. Communications with East Devon District Council is taking place and submission is imminent.

Next process:
1. Submit to East Devon District Council (EDDC)
2. Positive Review from EDDC then we will arrange a pre-submission consultation with residents/ statutory consultees.
3. After Pre-submission consultation, any amendments must be completed prior to full submission to EDDC.

4. At Submission stage EDDC will complete a legal compliance check and will discuss the appointment of an Independent Examiner and timescales for the referendum which residents will be notified.

Emerging East Devon Local Plan

End of 2022 saw the Parish Council run several Consultation events, gleaning resident's views on potential development sites. The information gathered helped us to voice our residents' views, wishes and highlight your concerns and we will continue to do so.

We have made 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.

Additionally, we submitted a Green Wedge and Landscape proposal to try and protect our Parish.

This proposal along with our formal response to East Devon District Council can be viewed on our website.

https://woodburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/council-business/planning/east-devon-local-plan

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 website.

Member of Parliament

Simon Jupp MP

County Councillors 2022-2023

Cllr Jeff Trail
Cllr Richard Scott

District Councillors 2022-2023

Cllr Ben Ingham
Cllr Geoff Jung

Parish Councillors 2022-2023

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
Debbie Thomas
Admin Assistant

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