WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 Published - April 24

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 2023, elections took place; these were uncontested and those returning Councillors retained their seats and we welcomed a newly elected Councillor Steve Parks (Exton ward).

Sadly, four of our long-standing Councillors decided it was time to retire. I would like to take this opportunity again to thank Graham Murrin (Exton), David Atkins (Woodbury), Patrick Bricknell and Geoff Jung (Woodbury Salterton) for their dedication across many years in serving residents in their wards and parish.

During the year we have, by co-option welcomed Ken Perry (Woodbury), Hayley Morrell and Ben Girvin (Woodbury Salterton) as well as Chris Hoar (Exton), who replaced Philip Jordan, as unfortunately he had to step down due to other pressing commitments. Thanks to Philip for all his input during his time on the Parish Council.

This year has been very busy, especially with the emerging East Devon District Council's (EDDC) Local Plan and several major planning applications.

Our residents have had the opportunity to have their say in shaping their village and communities and as a statutory consultee we have forwarded these and our observations to EDDC.

Unfortunately, due to Government pressures, some development will be approved in this parish; however, we can assure you that we will be fighting to make sure these are in the right place and have a "build for benefit" element for the existing community.

During this year, a lot of work has been completed to get the long-awaited **Neighbourhood Plan** adopted. This is now near to being at the point of consultation. This will give all residents an opportunity to have your say.

In April 2023 at our Annual Parish Meeting a number of residents attended. One discussion was about the refurbishment of Flower Street car park, we are pleased that this was completed by August 2023. The car park is now lined to utilise it fully and a height barrier in place. From the feedback we have received, it has been a successful project.

As the elected Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the other Councillors for their hard work over the last year; they have volunteered their time representing this, Parish. Additionally, I thank all our volunteers who help provide facilities or service to those living and visiting our parish.

Our Clerk, Anne-Marie Bates, has provided us with 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.

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 and information and issues are exchanged. We are looking forward to a continued working relationship with them.

During 2023 - 2024, the Parish Council has;

- Funded the Kings Coronation parish events.
- Given Woodbury Green a spruce up, varnishing all the benches, noticeboard, signs, and painting of the fence.
- Funded new "Welcome Signs" in Woodbury and installing village hall signs.
- Funded a Community Arts project to design eight murals for Flower Street car park, these will show the history and wildlife of the parish.
- Exton bus shelters re-varnished
- New fence at Exton play park.

It has also been agreed that both allotment sites will be improved, including new noticeboards.

The Parish Council is near to completing our asset review and agreeing a maintenance program which is part of our six-year Financial Plan.

We are now looking forward to the next productive year and have several projects that will come into fruition which includes the refurbishment and enhancement of Exton play park.

We will also continue to fight our corner and do our upmost to protect this Parish from overdevelopment and to strive to retain our and neighbouring green wedges and open spaces, also ensure that each of our Wards gets the facilities and infrastructure they so need.

Cllr Cheryl McGauley, Chairman

Your Parish Precept

2024/25

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Woodbury Parish Council's Budget for 2022/3 is £139,155

For an average Band D property per year, it equates to £ 95.64 which is 51 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 obtain the most competitive prices.
Our budget for 2023/2024 was £99,824 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 2023/2024 we have provided grants to;
Community Grant;

- Woodbury Scouts & Guides £500
  (meeting costs)
- Holy Trinity Committee £120
  (Arts Exhibition)
- Woodbury Events Committee £400
  (License for Community Long Tables event)
- Woodbury History Society £270
  (To assist with conserving data and providing public access to Parish records).
- Woodbury PTFA £480
  (Outdoor muddy suits)

Coombe Solar Farm Community Benefit has provided grants to;

- Woodbury Village Hall £3,000
  (Refurbishment of the RL room)
- Woodbury Parish Council £1,700
  (Environment Projects)
- Woodbury Tennis Club £3,000
  (Refurbishment of Club House)

Cont:

- WCPF Committee £2,629.98 (Purchase of football goals)
- Exton Village Hall £2,000 (Refurbishment of village hall)
- Woodland Churchlands Trust £960 (Internet for Church Rooms)
- WCPF The Hive £1,500 (Bat Survey)

In the forthcoming year we will be offering a one-off grant for up to £3k for Parish Environmental Projects, more information on this will be released 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; it will include the first two weeks in July. All our finances can be found on our website **Cllr. Simon Andrews**

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 car park remains free to use, as are the public toilets, both these assets are well used.

Allotments

We have two sites within the Parish of 25+ plots on each, they are all enjoyed with a wealth of crops grown.
We thank Graham Joyce, Katrina Walsh, and Brian Duff, with special thanks to Nigel Batton and Bob Steventon, who have now stepped down as representatives.
All our representatives are conduits between the sites and Parish Council and oversea the day to day running of them.
We now do not have a specific Allotment sub-committee; this has been incorporated into the Asset & Estates Committee. All plot holders are welcome to attend, and representatives can raise any matters.
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 collaborating 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 Night Landing Site is still in situ and has been used twice in 2023-2024.

Parish Volunteers – Footpath/ Tree / Park Wardens

Thank you to our Footpath Wardens Judy Green and Paul Hannon, who took over from Tim Frampton, as after many years he has retired from the post. The wardens regularly walk the footpaths to make sure that access continues, the footpaths are in a good condition and maintained.
Thanks, also to our Tree Wardens Gavin Black and Paul Glanville who provide advice on planning applications whereby trees are involved, also monitor the trees under our care.
Thanks to our play park warden for Woodbury Salterton, Ngaio Southard who checks the village play park weekly.
If you are interested in being a play park warden for Woodbury or Exton as both these posts are vacant, please contact the Parish Council

Streetlight / Highway / Footpath Issues

The Parish Council does not manage any streetlights. If you need to report a damaged or faulty light, 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" Litter has been left and a substantial increase of dog mess left on pavements, grass verges and in our open spaces. Please 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.

The defibrillators 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. (Cllr S. Parks)

Emerging East Devon Local Plan

The Parish Council formally submitted our observations of all the sites that were presented in the Consultation. We also 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

We are awaiting feedback from East Devon District Council once they have processed all the Consultation responses.

Flood Resilience / Emergency Plans / DRIP Project / Water Testing

Exton Ward Councillors have been instrumental in setting up a new Flood Resilience Group. This group will be making an Emergency Plan as well as purchasing equipment for such an event or potential flooding. Funds have come from successful applications made to Devon County Council.

Devon County Council who leads the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) gave a presentation on their plans to elevate the issue of flooding for Exton, this included Leaky dams. These dams are made of natural woody materials, laid in streams and ditches. They are designed to reduce the downstream flood peak by temporarily storing water by holding it back within the stream's channel or encouraging it to spill onto the banks behind the barrier and slowing the flow. It is hoped that these will help with the current issues along with planned works on the stream which runs under the A376 towards the Exe River.

Cllr R. Ball has been leading the water testing across the parish as part of the West Country Rivers Trust Citizen Scientist scheme, also liaising with Lympstone Group who are also testing water quality.

Parish Full Council Meetings

These are held on the 2nd Monday of each month (excluding August) mostly at "The Church Rooms" Greenway, Woodbury starting at 7.30pm. We try to have one Full Council meeting at Exton and Woodbury Salterton. Residents across the Parish 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.

The agenda for all meetings can be found on our noticeboards /Office and website.

Member of Parliament

Simon Jupp MP

County Councillors 2023-2024

Cllr Jeff Trail
Cllr Richard Scott

District Councillors 2023-2024

Cllr Ben Ingham
Cllr Geoff Jung

Parish Councillors 2023-2024

Cllr. Mrs. C. McGauley
(Woodbury) **Chairman**

Cllr. R. Ball
(Woodbury) **Vice-Chairman**

Exton

Cllr Mrs. S. Cole
Cllr S. Parks
Cllr C. Hoar

Woodbury

Cllr J. Pyne
Cllr R. Parr
Cllr Mrs. S Knighton
Cllr A. Wills
Cllr K. Perry

Woodbury Salterton

Cllr S. Andrews
Cllr H. Morrell
Cllr B. Girvin

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