WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Your Parish Council

Woodbury Parish Council normally consists of 13 Members who volunteer their time for the benefit of the community. They run drop-in sessions, attend our monthly Full Council meetings, Committees, various Sub Committees and Working Groups, also are representatives of the Parish on outside bodies. They also represent the community in dealing with District / County Council and national matters and are involved in helping organise events, as well as other initiatives in the Parish. Together they assist in the efficient smooth running of the Council.

From our Parish Council Office in Woodbury, the Clerk to the Council and her Assistant 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. They also provide a service to the community giving information to residents in person, via our noticeboards, website; https://woodburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/ and Facebook and X, please follow us.

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

Report by the Chairman of Woodbury Parish Council

Firstly, I am delighted that in August 2024 this Council was awarded "Quality Council" under the National Award Scheme. We have been recognised as a Parish Council who have demonstrated community engagement, good governance, and council improvement, also one that goes beyond their legal obligations.

We are very proud and committed to continuing this work for our residents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the other Councillors for their dedication over the last year. At times it has been very demanding, and many hours volunteered representing this Parish. Additionally, I thank all our volunteers who help provide facilities or a service to those living and visiting our parish.

Our Clerk, Anne-Marie Bates, with her assistant Emily Waller have provided us with support and we have been working together to strive for us to continue to be a modern, dynamic, forward-thinking Council, bringing a good service to its residents.

I thank Simon Andrews, Hayley Morrell and Ben Girvin for their time and work whilst being Woodbury Salterton Councillors, unfortunately, due to various reasons they have had to resign.

We welcome Ian Hunt and Michaela Wright who have been co-opted as Woodbury Salterton Councillors and wish them all the best in their new role.

We now have one vacant seat, if anyone is interested, please contact the Parish Clerk.

This year has continued to be very busy with the emerging East Devon District Council's (EDDC) Local Plan. We have made sure our residents' views have been heard by speaking at numerous East Devon District Council Strategic Planning and Planning meetings.

Unfortunately, due to Government pressures and the need for housing, some development in this parish has and will be approved. However, we can assure you that we will be fighting to make sure the best schemes are implemented.

We have a "build for benefit" motto and many of our conversations with developers have tried to obtain good connectivity, design layout, usable open spaces, and speed calming measures, as well as additional assets for community use.

During this year, a lot of work has been completed to get the long-awaited **Neighbourhood Plan** adopted. The plan has now been

submitted to East Devon District Council for the final stage. Residents will have an opportunity to comment prior to the referendum vote to approve it.

In Exton, we have listened to your wishes and installed new children's play equipment along with a pétanque court, which are all proving to be very popular.
We will continue to make improvements to the other play spaces across the parish.
We are also working with two of our volunteers, Judy Green, and Paul Hannon, on improving the footpath network and have installed new bridges, way markers enhancing accessibility.

Local Government, as we know it will change and the two-tier system (Devon County Council / East Devon District Council) will be replaced. How this will look for Devon is still being negotiated. Parish and Town Councils could also see changes with more services and assets being devolved to them.

We continue to have a good working relationship with our County Councillors Jeff Trail and Richard Scott and our District Councillors Geoff Jung and Ben Ingham who attend our monthly Full Council meetings and information, and issues are exchanged.

During 2024 - 2025, the Parish Council has;

- As already mentioned, new play equipment at Exton Play Park as well as a Pétanque Court.
- Provided a new train for Woodbury Play Park.
- Provided funding for the Community Allotment Project including picnic table and noticeboard.
- Installed new fence posts at Woodbury Salterton play park

If it is not already in place, the Woodbury Salterton bus shelter will be replaced and there will be an added information board explaining the history of the Old Plantation Well, which will also have a makeover. Thank you to Debbie Jung for her assistance.

We are looking forward to the next productive year with several projects in mind and we will continue to fight our corner and do our utmost to protect this Parish from overdevelopment and to strive to retain our 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

2025/26

Woodbury Parish Council's Budget for 2025/6 is £146,080

For an average Band D property per year, it equates to £ 99.87, which is an 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 obtain the most competitive prices.
Our budget for 2024/2025 was £139,155 and this was spent on a number of services and responsibilities.

The Parish Council continues to provide financial support to a number of organisations including Exmouth & District Community Transport, Exe Estuary Management 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 2024/2025 we had a high number of applications for worthy projects, it was a difficult decision, but we are pleased to have been able to provide grants to;
Community Grant;

- Woodbury Scouts & Guides £600 (meeting costs)
- Woodbury Community Playing Fields £825 (towards new football goals)
- Woodbury History Society £275 (To assist with conserving data and providing public access to Parish records).

- Woodbury Community Orchard £100 (to help maintain the Orchard).
- Woodbury School PFTA £200 (for a loose parts play station).

Coombe Solar Farm Community Benefit has provided grants to;

- Woodbury Salterton Village Hall £5,000 (Refurbishment of the kitchen)
- Woodbury Community Allotment £4,000 (To develop a community plot for use by residents of all abilities and ages. This includes raised beds, teaching, and social area).
- Woodbury Salterton Primary School, £550 (repair of the village clock)
- Woodbury Community Playing Fields £993.43 (towards new football goals)
- Woodbury Community Allotment £100 (assist with running events for the community)
- Woodbury Village Hall £2,500 (Refurbishment of the main hall floor)

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 residents will have an opportunity to view the accounts in detail; dates will be displayed. All our finances can be found on our website.

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.
Special thanks go to Cllr K. Perry who has been reviewing all our assets and compiling a comprehensive asset list. This will aid the Parish Council to formulate a maintenance program which will also assist with future budget setting.

Allotments

We have two sites within the Parish of 25+ plots on each, they are all enjoyed with a wealth of grown crops.
We thank Graham Joyce, Katrina Walsh, Brian Duff, and Mark Lovett. All our representatives are conduits between the sites and Parish Council and oversee the day-to-day running of them.
This year we have seen the launch of a new Community Allotment at the Woodbury site. We thank all those involved, and we are excited by how this will evolve and be a benefit to the community.
If you are interested in having a plot at either site, then please contact the Parish Office.

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.

Parish Volunteers – Footpath/ Tree / Park Wardens

Thank you to our Footpath Wardens Judy Green and Paul Hannon. The wardens regularly walk the footpaths to make sure that access continues, the footpaths are in good condition and maintained.
Thanks, also to our Tree Warden Gavin Black 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 Parish Warden, please contact the Parish Council Office.

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.

Flood Resilience / Emergency Plans / DRIP Project

Exton Ward Councillors with the Flood Resilience Group have worked on an Emergency Plan which has now been adopted. Equipment has been purchased which was put to beneficial use when an evacuation of the village hall took place due to flooding. Collaboration with Devon County Council who leads the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) is still ongoing and it is hoped their plans to elevate the issue of flooding for Exton will come into fruition. The Leaky dams have been installed upstream, and it is hoped that these dams which are made of natural woody materials, laid in streams and ditches assist with slowing the flow and reducing the downstream flood.

Emerging East Devon Local Plan

The Parish Council has formally submitted our observations for the Regulation 19 Consultation.

Gulliford Cemetery

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

Flower Street car park and toilets

The car park remains free to use, as are the public toilets. Both these assets are well used but unfortunately this year we have seen some anti-social behaviour and damage to the toilets. This area is being monitored.

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 owns and maintains 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.

Parish Full Council Meetings

These are held usually on the 2nd Monday of each month (excluding August) mostly at "The Church Rooms" Greenway, Woodbury starting at 7.30pm.
We have one Full Council meeting each year at Exton and Woodbury Salterton.
Residents across the Parish are welcome to attend to forward their ideas and concerns.
All Committee meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month if there is business to conduct.
Documents for meetings can be found on our website, noticeboards or at the office.

Member of Parliament

David Reed MP

County Councillors 2024-2025

Cllr Jeff Trail
Cllr Richard Scott

District Councillors 2024-2025

Cllr Ben Ingham
Cllr Geoff Jung

Parish Councillors 2024-2025

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 I. Hunt
Cllr. Mrs. M. Wright
Vacancy

Parish Staff

Anne-Marie Bates
Clerk to the Council / RFO
Emily Waller
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