

Harberton Parish Council
Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, September 2022

11. Correspondence*

- 11.1. 20220707 Important Community Speed Watch Information *For information* Cllrs are informed of correspondence received from Devon and Cornwall Community Speedwatch that provides information on the enforcement of 20mph zones, what speed thresholds are enforceable and what thresholds are in place to trigger the issue of a Community Speed Watch warning letter from Devon & Cornwall Police.
- 11.2. 20220713 Play Area Agreement letter 2022 Harbertonford and Harberton *For information* Cllrs are informed of the letter from South Hams District Council (SHDC) indicating that invoices for the 2022/23 subsidised Play Area Inspection Service commencing from 1st September will be circulated shortly. This is an automatic renewal as per the agreement as signed in 2020. Had the Parish Council wished to make its own independent arrangements, SHDC requested that they be informed by 22nd August 2022. The Clerk had written to SHDC to comment that the majority of Parish Councils take a break from meetings in August and so to meaningfully consider this, letters should be sent early enough for consideration at a council's July meeting.
- 11.3. 20220719 Freight Strategy: addressing the challenges, opportunities and priorities for the South West to 2050 *For information* Cllrs are informed that Western Gateway and Peninsula Transport Sub-national Transport Bodies (STBs) have developed and published a joint freight strategy for the South West. A full report and executive summary are available on the [Peninsular Transport website](#).
- 11.4. 20220720 #33 2022 DALC E-bulletin *For information* Cllrs are informed that this bulletin includes advice that Parish Councils should be aware of the impact that inflation may have on the National Living Wage and therefore on the National Joint Council Salary Scale. Councils should be aware that increases are likely and to allow for higher-than-normal increases when budgeting for 2023/24. The newsletter also notes that a link to the new [Devon Growing Communities Fund](#), offering grants up to £3000 for projects that support Devon's communities, is available on the DALC website.
- 11.5. 20220721 20MPH Expressions of Interest *For information* Cllrs are informed that Devon County Highways received 105 applications in response to the offer of new 20mph limits for communities. Harberton Parish made three applications. Applications were scored against criteria and at a meeting of Devon County Council Cabinet four schemes will go forward, two within selected areas in Tiverton and Winkleigh with the two other schemes including all the roads within the limits of Ashburton in Teignbridge and Atherington in North Devon.
- 11.6. 20220721 Electric Vehicle Charging at Harbertonford FC *For information* Cllrs are informed that the funders that partner the firm with whom the football club has been exploring the idea of chargers in HFC car park have declined to proceed, saying that *"a stand-alone charger in a relatively remote area would not generate sufficient income."*
- 11.7. **20220725 Request for Grant - St Andrew's Churchyard *For consideration* Cllrs are informed that a request has been made by St Andrew's PCC for a grant for towards the cost of maintaining the St Andrew's Churchyard. As you are aware an annual grant has been made over some years. The PCC now has necessary permissions to repair the collapsed vault in the churchyard, and a quote for £2400 plus VAT has been provided. Any further grant which could be made towards the costs would be greatly appreciated.**
- 11.8. 20220805 DCC Connect Me Update *For information* Cllrs are informed that this update includes information on a new scheme which could give community energy groups the chance to 'rent' farm buildings and lowgrade farmland otherwise unsuitable for grazing and growing crops to help them expand Devon's renewable capacity.
- 11.9. 20220809 Free Trees Information *For information* Cllrs are informed that the Town and Parish Council update from South Hams District Council includes information about free trees available from the Woodland Trust and Devon County Council's Free Tree Scheme.
- 11.10. **20220810 SAAA 2022 Opt-out Communication *For consideration* Under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, SAAA is responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. Smaller authorities are those whose gross annual income or expenditure is less than £6.5 million. The Parish Council has received a communication to advise that whilst all smaller authorities are opted into the central procurement of external auditors by default, any authorities who do not wish to be part of the SAAA arrangements must formally notify SAAA that they wish to opt out within 8 weeks of this communication but no later than 28 October 2022; this decision must be communicated to SAAA via e mail. The Clerk notes that all authorities require an appointed external auditor, even those that qualify as exempt. Although the SAAA email will contain guidance on how to opt-out, NALC strongly recommends that councils opt-in (in which case, no action is necessary), and continue as part of the SAAA sector-led appointment regime.**

- 11.11. 20220815 Defibrillator *For information* Cllrs are informed that the volunteer looking after the defibrillator in Harberton is moving out of area, but has arranged for another Harberton resident to take over regular checks and communication with Community Heartbeat Trust. Contact details have been supplied to the Clerk.
- 11.12. 20220822 Halwell - Tree Works - A381 *For information* Cllrs are informed of upcoming works to of upcoming works that will be taking place on the A381 at Halwell where 40 Ash trees have been identified as posing a risk to the highway, following a detailed inspection by our arboriculturist. Works will have taken place on 5th September, with further works due on 17th October.
- 11.13. **20220830 DALC Annual General Meeting 5 October 2022 Exeter Racecourse *For consideration*** Cllrs are informed of the invitation to attend Devon Association of Local Council's AGM on 5th October. DALC member councils may appoint one voting representative, and one non-voting representative to attend the AGM. Tickets to the conference and exhibition featuring key note speakers, workshops, exhibitors, Team Devon Zone, and council networking is available at a ticket price of £35 + VAT per person and available to all. More information about the conference and exhibition is available on the [DALC website](#).
- 11.14. 20220825 Volunteer recruitment at Citizens Advice *For information* Citizens Advice South Hams Citizens Advice South Hams urgently need people to help as either telephone assessors or client support volunteers. Full training is available to anyone interested.
- 11.15. 20220831 Sustainable South Hams Assembly - Sat 8th Oct *For consideration* Sustainable South Hams CIC is holding the first regional meeting on 8th October from 10am – 2pm. The organisation is particular keen to encourage interested Parish Councils to join in the event, and invite as many Parish Councillors as possible to attend at least the afternoon session (1.00 to 2.00 pm) for the new Special Interest Group for Parish Councillors. This will be Chaired by a Parish Councillor, Sune Nightingale and Adam Williams from SHDC is a Speaker. A bookings link and poster has been provided to the Clerk for interested parties.
- 11.16. 20220831 #39 2022 DALC E-bulletin *For information* Cllrs are informed that this edition includes news that DALC is developing an Internal Audit service in recognition of the severe shortage of internal auditors in the Devon area. As the Parish Council's internal auditor has now ceased trading, the Clerk has completed a quick survey to indicate potential interest in the service.
- 11.17. 20220905 Waste and Recycling Service - An Update *For information* Cllrs are advised, via a press release, of what residents can expect when the South Hams' waste and recycling service will be run by the Council again from 3 October. The press release comments that initially, the service will run as it is now, and the Council will inherit the same challenges that have faced the previous contractors, FCC Environment. In the short term, there will be no noticeable changes to the service, only that South Hams District Council will be operating the service. Many residents have already made reports when they have had missed collections and the District Council is asking them to continue doing so [on this website](#). If the Parish Council is aware of specific waste and recycling collection problems in the area ahead of the service coming in-house, the District Council would appreciate it if the Parish Council would get in touch with those comments or observations.
- 11.18. 20220908 Council to consider ceasing free garden waste collections and charging for them from spring 2023 *For information* Cllrs are informed by press release that South Hams District Councillors are to consider whether the Council should cease its free garden waste collection service from 31 October and start charging £49 per year for an 11 month fortnightly garden waste collection service from spring 2023. The Executive will debate the topic at their meeting on 15 September at 10 a.m, available to view online via Youtube and Facebook.
- 11.19. **20220908 screw lane wasted effort – again *For consideration*** The Parish Council has received a letter from a local resident commenting that a Highways Crew cleared buddlehole entrances etc. around Harberton, including the two in Screw Lane. It was commented that this would appear to have been done by a person with a shovel. The crew also cut back nettles, brambles etc around the two grips (or easements) and the short ditch parallel to the road – which are situated between Threshing Barn drive entrance to the west and the open ditch to the east. Several days later a second crew came along with a machine and once again cleared out the two grips and the short parallel ditch. Photos of the works were attached to correspondence. The resident writing to the Parish Council comments that as has been explained on several occasions in the past, the 2 grips and the short parallel ditch serve no useful purpose whatsoever, and never have since they were created not that many years ago, so any time, resources and money spent on maintaining them is totally wasted. The Parish Council is being asked to ask Highways to remove these items from their 'To Do' list for Screw Lane to avoid this recurring wastage. The resident would be very happy to meet with someone from Highways (and the Parish Council) on site to discuss and to avoid any possible confusion. It was commented that the buddlehole entrances themselves of course still need to be maintained.
- 11.20. **20220916 Waste and Recycling Service - We want to hear from you *For consideration*** Cllrs are informed that ahead of the South Hams' waste and recycling service being taken over by the Council again from 3 October, Towns and Parishes have been invited to let the Council know to

about problems that residents have experienced in the area. This will add to information submitted by residents on missed collections. The Parish Council is being asked whether it knows if there are particular streets, estates or areas that have had recurring problems with collections, if residents who have assisted collections and have had problems or if there are other issues affecting the service.

- 11.21. 20220921 Devon Community Resilience Forum virtual event 14-16 November - Eventbrite link *For consideration* Cllrs are informed that link to join the free, three day virtual forum has been published. The programme is aimed at Parish Councils and resilience/emergency planning groups around Devon and may be of interest to individual cllrs and groups associated to the Parish Council. The keynote is on the subject of Devon and the climate emergency and sessions around local food production, with further sessions on engaging local communities around flooding, retrofitting homes in the event of a flood, as well as sessions around wider emergency planning such as engaging local volunteers in resilience groups, engaging community assets. [The full programme and booking information can be found on this link.](#)
- 11.22. 20220921 Garden waste collection subscription service moves closer in South Hams *For information* Cllrs are informed by press release that The Executive of South Hams District Council has agreed that residents wanting to have garden waste collections should be charged for the service from spring 2023, with the current service potentially set to cease from 31 October. The final decision will be made at South Hams' Full Council meeting on 22nd September and if Full Council agrees to cease the service, the Council would collect all brown bins on their last collection day in October.
- 11.23. 20220922 Harberton water pressure reduction of 35% *For information.* The Parish Council has received an update from the Harberton resident who has been liaising with South West Water (SWW) with regard to his concerns about high water pressures in Harberton. At previous meetings it was reported that following the approach made by the resident SWW will be reducing water pressure in Harberton. The latest correspondence confirms that the target pressure for the lowest point in the village is 6 bar, at Preston Barns, at 66m *Above Ordnance Datum* (AOD) the lowest point in Harberton village. This will be achieved in late October 2022. SWW policy is not to communicate in advance of a gradual reduction in operating pressure where customers are not expected to have any issues with their supplies but will respond to any such enquiries if they arise. Whilst the lowest property in Harberton village is still going to have relatively high pressure at 6 bar, reducing the pressure further will risk customer's having low pressure further along the water supply network, particularly those at higher locations. There are properties at Dundridge at 95m AOD supplied from a very long private service pipe, which is connected to the end of SWW's Harberton water supply network. Depending on the size and condition of this pipe, this may contribute to further pressure loss at these particular properties. SWW has a conservative pressure target, but may have to moderate this slightly in the unlikely event that customers experience supply issues.