

**MINUTES FOR THE COLYTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER AT 7PM.**

Present: Cllrs R Watts, H West, K Clifford, J Gardiner, E Jones, J Hay, A Parr, S Real, P Arnott, C Denny and C Pady.

Also in Attendance: DCC Cllr M Shaw, EDDC Cllr H Parr and S Haines (clerk)

Members of public: 10

The Chairman request that those people recording the meeting declare so and conform to Standing orders and GDPR legislation.

AGENDA

20/12/78 Welcome by Chair. Cllr Parr welcomed everybody to the meeting and congratulated the Christmas Light Committee on a job very well done bringing some much needed cheer to the Parish with the lights.

20/12/79 Receipt & Approval of apologies for absence. Clerk confirmed no absences tonight.

20/12/80 Police report

October 2020 Total of 3 crimes.

Colyton – 2 crimes reported

1 Violence and Sexual Offences

1 Other theft

Colyford – 1 crime reported

1 Violence and Sexual Offences.

20/12/81 Declarations of Interest. None

20/12/82 Public Question time (maximum 15 minutes) A member of the public asked if the role of the CeremTec site liaison group was to deal with the concerns of individual home owners and support them or to direct them to their insurer? Cllr Parr confirmed that the site is not owned by the Parish Council, if individuals have issues then that would be a private matter and they should contact their insurers personally. The same member of the public then asked if paper copies of the Parish Newsletter would be needed this month? Cllr Watts asked if any had been requested last month to which clerk confirmed they had not. Issues were printed off last month as a trial to see if there was any demand. Cllr Watts confirmed that it doesn't look like there is a demand so no further copies should be printed off.

Another member of the public voiced serious concerns over the upcoming road closure of the A3052 where the tram tracks cross the road. This is due to take place in January. This will generate an extra approx. 6500 vehicles daily being diverted either through Colyton or going around via Seaton. The Tramway have stated that there needs to be three layers of concrete laid, each layer will take 24 hrs to dry, could highways be contacted and see if some sort of temporary bridge could be erected to allow cars to pass over? Cllr M Shaw stated that he will see what he can do. The same member of the public then addressed an email exchange between a resident and Stuart Hughes raising concerns over the speed along the Seaton Road. The response from Mr Hughes was very poor and dodged the issues completely. He stated that a meeting should be held between Stuart Hughes, Neil Parish and the Parish Council to address the speed, the limit of 60mph is far too high, there are talks of a 20mph trial being launched in certain areas. The Parish Council have submitted an interest in this. The final point made by the member of public was surrounding the holdup of the work in the Stop Line Way, he asked what the cause was. Cllr M Shaw confirmed that talks were still in progress with the land owner and he hoped for a resolution soon.

20/12/83 Approval of the minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on 9th November 2020. Cllr Arnott proposed these minutes be accepted, seconded by Cllr West. Cllr Parr stated that he did not agree with the minutes, item 20/11/74 – Neighbourhood Plan he did not agree that the proposal was to keep all comments back from the Steering Group and the Consultant, only from the Councillors until the end of the public consultation period. Cllr West stated that the original proposal was for all comments to be held back from all parties until the end of the consultation period (14th December) this was seconded by Cllr Arnott and voted on unanimously. He also stated that if Cllr Parr disagreed then he would be accusing himself and the proper officer of being untruthful. Cllr Parr stated that this was not the case. Cllr Pady stated that the consultant needed to see the comments to do his job and it would be wrong to keep them back from him. Cllr Watts stated that the consultant would be in the exact same boat as the Parish Council, if everybody saw the comments at the same time. He stated that Cllr Wests proposal was correct and the minutes were also correct. Cllr Gardiner stated that she thought that Cllr Wests proposal was for the comments to be held

back from the Council but not from the Steering Group or the consultant. Cllr Arnott stated that amending a set of minutes without justification is very dangerous, it is forming divisive feelings amongst the Council and creating a lack of trust. It is right that the Steering Group, Consultant and Council should all receive the comments at the same time. He then asked Cllr Parr if prior to the committee meetings and this meeting did he call members of the Council and ask them their opinions. Cllr Parr stated that yes he did call some Councillors to discuss matters, not just this one and he did ask their opinions. Cllr Parr proposed that the minutes not be accepted, seconded by Cllr Real. Cllr West asked if they should declare an interest as Cllrs Real and Pady are on the Steering Group and Cllr Parrs wife is on the Steering Group. Cllr Real stated that he was acting as a Councillor first and would not declare an interest he also stated that he has resigned as a Council representative a couple of meetings ago and Cllr Parr stated that it made no difference to him that his wife is on the Steering Group. Cllr Watts suggested that Cllr Parr refer to the Standing Orders 9d which states that ‘If the Chair of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate, they shall sign the minutes and include a paragraph in the following terms or to the same effect: “The Chair of this meeting does not believe that the minutes of the meeting of the CPC held on 9th November in respect of item 20/11/74 were a correct record but his view was not upheld by the majority of the CPC and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate account of proceedings” Cllr Watts stated that he did not think that Cllr Parr should make the proposal as he is the Chair. Cllr Jones agreed stating that the Chair has no greater authority than any other Councillor or no higher power, he only has the casting vote if there is a draw. Cllr Parr withdrew his proposal. Cllr Real then proposed that the minutes are incorrect and that the comments should not be kept back from the Steering Group and the Consultant until the end of the consultation period, this was seconded by Cllr Gardiner. A vote was held with the result of 5 for and 5 against. Cllr Parr used his casting vote and Cllr Reals proposal was carried. Cllr Arnott then asked what would happen with the minutes from the 9th? Would the current proposal be deleted and replaced with what has happened tonight? Cllr Parr confirmed that this would be correct.

Cllr West then proposed a vote of no confidence in the Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Jones and voted for with 4 for and 5 against so this was not carried. Cllr Hay asked if members of the public could stop interrupting. Cllr Parr agreed, asking the members of public not to interrupt.

20/12/84 Matters arising from the Minutes. None

20/12/85 Report from County Councillor – see Appendix A. DCC Cllr Shaw confirmed that he had nothing to add to his report. Cllr Jones asked him what his perception of Cllr Hughes email reply was in regards to the speeding on Seaton Road. Cllr Shaw replied that it certainly left issues to be resolved and discussions would be needed on how to proceed. Cllr Pady agreed stating that Cllr Hughes completely avoided the question of the lack of signage where the cycle track comes out onto the road, there is no warning to motorist that there may be walkers and cyclists on that piece of road. A traffic calming point has repeatedly been asked for and he needs pressing on this.

20/12/86 Report from District Councillors. See Appendix B for Cllr Arnott’s report.

Cllr H Parr stated that there may be an opportunity in the near future for the Parish Council to take over the toilets as an asset. She stated that they could be made into a really nice set of toilets and it is definitely something to be considered. See Appendix C for Cllr Parrs report.

Cllr Watts asked about the health of the finances of EDDC, Cllr Parr stated that the budget meeting had not happened yet and that she would disclose more information when she had it. Cllr Arnott stated that a balanced budget would be produced once the hole made by LED had been managed.

20/12/87 Highway Matters.

- a) Temporary prohibition of through traffic – ref TTRO2137643 – From Monday 8th – Friday 12th February the road from Farwood cross to Purlbridge cross will be closed to enable safe access to BT boxes to install fibre cabling on behalf of Openreach.
- b) Temporary prohibition of through traffic – ref TTRO2137645 – From Monday 15th – Friday 19th February between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 the road past Bonehayme Farm will be closed to enable engineers to safely access BT boxes to install fibre cabling on behalf of Openreach.
- c) Temporary prohibition of through traffic – ref TTRO2137635 – From Monday 1st – Friday 5th February between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 the road past Farwood House, Northleigh will be closed to enable engineers to safely access BT boxes to install fibre cabling on behalf of Openreach.
- d) Temporary prohibition of through traffic and Parking – ref TTRO2137814 – From Monday 4th – Tuesday 12th January the road past the White Hart Inn. Colyford will be closed. This temporary restriction is

considered necessary to remove existing tram tracks and foundation, install new foundation and tracks and reinstate the road to highways specification. Cllr Hay stated that the landlord of the White Hart was informed of this road closure by the Round Robin and not highways, This is poor communication by Highways. Cllr Jones suggested the Parish Council write a letter to the landlord apologising for the lack of communication on this subject. Also that letters be written to both DCC Highways and The Tramway asking if there is anyway these works could be sped up as the road closure will cause huge disruption. This was seconded by Cllr Clifford and agreed by all with one abstention.

20/12/88 Reports from Meetings Attended. No meeting attended.

20/12/89 Correspondence.

- a) Information circulated about the free virtual Devon Community Resilience Forum event. Cllr Jones has received advice to reconvene the Steering Committee and put it to bed for now. A meeting will be needed.
- b) EDDC Corona Virus updates for residents and businesses.
- c) The Rural Bulletin
- d) Information circulated regarding Modifications to the Area of Special Control of Advertisements.
- e) EDDC Planning Consultation dates over Christmas for information.
- f) EDDC confirmation of Notice of Vacancy. Cllr Watts confirmed that further information has been received that 10 electors have requested an election in May and so now co-opting is not an option.
- g) Information from Cllr Jones circulated by clerk: Colyford – Road traffic on Seaton Road. Cllr Jones stated that the Parish Council should make a formal statement as this email needs addressing. Cllr Parr stated that this road has been discussed on a number of occasions and that the traffic does need to be slowed. Cllr Pady stated that Mr Hughes was instrumental in the planning process of getting this path approved but seems to refuse to want to put any warning signs in or traffic measures. He commented that the letter from the resident was excellent but the response was poor. Cllr Jones proposed that a response should be sent to Mr Hughes proposing a site meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Pady. Cllr Real proposed that we go above him to John Hart – leader of the Council as we keep asking for issues to be resolved, for example the zebra crossing in Colyford and the issue with the buses but we do not get any help. This amendment was supported by Cllrs Jones and Pady and agreed by the majority.
- h) Rural Funding Digest – December 2020 Edition.

20/12/90 Finance.

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 23rd November 2020 (Appendix R) to be noted.

Accounts to be approved for payment

BACS EDF Energy, Workshop Energy, Net 9.12 pounds Vat 0.46 Pounds Gross 9.58 Pounds

Cheque 4321 Poppy Appeal, Wreath for Armistice Day, 20.00 Pounds

BACS Viridor, Waste Management, Net 119.20 Pounds Vat 23.98 Pounds Gross 143.88 Pounds

The above accounts were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr West, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all.

- a) Cheque received from South West Water to the value of £20 as part of their Watershare+ scheme.
- b) Confirmation of £120 received from DCC to repay the PC after they agreed to pay Mr Knight for his works on Ham Lane.
- c) Quotes received from Halcyon to complete the bi-annual grass verge cuts in Colyton and Colyford. To be discussed in-committee
- d) Hedgerow laying up at the Allotments. To be discussed in-committee
- e) Notice received from Mr J Rollings – last day of work will be 5th April 2021. Cllr Parr to write a letter thanking John for his many years of hard work.
- f) Budget Version 1 to be discussed. To be discussed in-committee
- g) Three quotes received from Social Club to complete works on the damaged roof and internal repairs. To be discussed in-committee.
- h) Annual accounts for the PMPF received and circulated. Cllr Watts has spotted a small error which he will point out to the clerk to relay back to the treasurer.
- i) Request from the Friends of Colyton Library to ‘borrow’ the CPC zoom account for a meeting on 10th December at 3:30pm. Cllr Watts proposed we agree this as a one off approval as the CPC own the building, this was seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

20/12/91 Planning.

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 23rd November 2020 – (Appendix S) to be noted.

a Planning Applications

20/2548/FUL Land At South Of Cottshayne Hill Colyton – Mr & Mrs Tattershall - Construction of agricultural storage building and retention of access track. Cllr Real proposed this not be supported due to the location of the proposed building, this was seconded by Cllr Denny and agreed by the majority. Cllrs Arnott and Pady abstained.

b Planning Decisions – to be noted

20/1859/LBC & 20/1887/FUL 1 Lilac Place Vicarage Street – Mr & Mrs Camm - Works to outbuilding: remove block work pier; repair and repoint existing stone and brickwork; remove existing door and window and install 2 windows and 1 French door on north east elevation; plaster and insulate interior walls and ceilings; insulate door and tile and insulate floor. Internal works to house: install fire surround and mantle to fireplace in sitting room; remove top 2 door panels and remove internal plywood covering to front door and replace top 2 panels with glass; replace flooring in kitchen/utility area with reclaimed flagstones. Approved with conditions.

20/2011/FUL The Town Mill Rosemary Lane Colyton – Trinity Holdings Ltd - Demolition of existing store & rebuild as new management office. Approved with conditions.

20/1804/OUT 1 Elm Villas Fair View Lane Colyford – Mr Kent - Outline proposal for demolition of existing dwelling and creation of one dwelling (all matters reserved). Approved with conditions.

20/1209/FUL The Cabin Every Hill Shells Lane Colyford – Mr Palmer & Miss Hardingham - Proposed demolition of existing dwelling house and replacement with new dwelling house and creation of new access drive (partially retrospective) Approved with conditions.

20/1709/TCA The Old Manor Old Manor Gardens Colyford – Mr Burrett - Remove deadwood
 - Reduce the lower over extended limb to the south east by 3-4m, target prune to a suitable point, cut no more than 80mm in diameter
 - Reduce the lower over extended limb to the north, over lawn, by 3-4m target prune to a suitable point, cut no more than 80mm in diameter
 - Reduce lower over extended limb to the south, over neighbours garden by 3-4m target prune to a suitable point cut no more than 80mm in diameter. Approved.

20/1914/LBC The Compasses South Street Colyton – Mr Bridge - Retention of 3 chimney stacks which were dismantled, repaired and rebuilt and the retention of existing pots on top of chimney. Approved.

c Planning Correspondence

Memorial application received, standard size, dark grey granite headstone with a picture of a monochrome cat on the stone. This application was approved.

20/12/92 Amenities

- a) Confirmation that all Allotment plots are taken and paid for and there is now nobody on the waiting list.
- b) P3 forms have been circulated to footpath wardens and comments received and sent on to DCC. Currently the P3 account holds £873. Cllr Pady pointed that Downhayne Break needs works but nothing can be done until the land owner gets the hedge laid, also the ditch needs digging out at Nunsford Dairy so that project could be suggested to DCC.
- c) Dolphin Street toilets – reports have been received that the Accessible Toilet (the only one currently open) is actually closed for Western Power to complete works, EDDC Cllrs Parr and Arnott are looking into this.
- d) Public Gardens Maintenance – Cllrs Clifford and West have compiled a list of public gardens. Do the cuts needs to be annual or bi-annual? It was decided that the verges could be added to the Halcyon contract as they have the correct insurance and the gardens should be separate. It was also suggested that the Gardens be added to the responsibility of the new maintenance man who would replace John.

- 20/12/93 Review of Standing Orders regarding the approval of Councillor Absence.** Cllr Watts proposed that the clerk to get advise on official wording and then to liaise with Cllrs Jones, West and Arnott who worked on the standing orders a few months ago, this was seconded by Cllr Pady and agreed by all.
- 20/12/94 GDPR Surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan comments.** Cllr Jones stated that at the last Planning Meeting held on the 23rd November it became clear in discussing the agenda item requested by the clerk to clarify the previous instructions on the Parish Council’s Neighbourhood Plan that personal information sent in and detailing information about the person contained Names, Address and Post Code had been shared. This has now been called into question and in a conversation between the Clerk and the District Council Neighbourhood Planning Officer it has been agreed that it should not have been done. In particular as a conversation with myself and another Councillor left no doubt that this personnel information had been shared, in my opinion against the GDPR Legislation. Members will recall that Cllrs Arnott, West and myself had a mandate from the council to review Standing Orders and Policies and to make recommendation to this committee, this is a continuation of this process. The clerk inadvertently sent out to both the NP consultant and Caroline Collier eight early Return comments and personal details prior to our decision to prevent disclosure after the completion of the consultation, this action now confirmed to the Clerk should not have contained any personal information unless individual permission had been agreed on the NP comments document. Although in Para 5 of the DATA PRIVACY NOTICE it does state that any sharing of personal data will only be done with the persons consent, Cllr Jones then proposed that the privacy policy be sent to DALC for clarification, this was seconded by Cllr West and agreed by all. Cllr Arnott asked who had drafted the NP Notice to which Cllr Pady confirmed the consultant had advised on the form which was a standard one.
- 20/12/95 Clerk training.** Cllr Jones proposed that the clerk be encouraged to seek out training programmes to help her as she is asked for guidance but has had no formal training, this was seconded by Cllr Arnott and agreed by all.
- 20/12/96 PMPF Skate Park – to be kept separate to S106.** Cllr Parr stated that the skate park would be a huge expense if undertaken which would require various grants to help with funding, this should be kept separate from the S106 money which would very quickly be swallowed up by this project. Cllr Jones suggested a subcommittee be formed and anybody interested in joining it should contact the clerk. Cllr Watts pointed out that the young people were approached about the skate park over a year ago and they have seen nothing being done. Cllr Parr proposed this be placed on the January full meeting for discussion, seconded by Cllr Clifford and agreed by all.
- 20/12/97 S106 update.** The sub-committee held a zoom meeting last week where it was decided to create a poster to be sent out to various local publications for information. Cllr West proposed this poster be approved, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all except Cllr Real who abstained as he had not seen the poster.
- 20/12/98 Matters to be taken into Committee.**
- 20/12/99 Items brought to the CPC’s attention after the agenda had been published.** None
- 20/12/00 Dates of future meetings:**
Finance and Planning Meeting – Monday 14th December 2020
CPC Full Meeting – Monday 11th January 2021.

Appendix A

County Councillor’s Report, December 2020

Health situation I have received regular reports about the Covid situation. It is quite clear that it was getting worse until the new lockdown, and that infections remain at a much higher level than they were in the summer, even if they are lower than most of the country.

The Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee on 12th November was told clearly that pressure on beds in Devon hospitals was a crucial issue, and this has now been given as a reason for Devon going into Tier 2. In the circumstances I don’t think there is an alternative. We should have learnt now that only when the health crisis is under control can we have a normal economy, but it seems many Tory MPs are incapable of understanding this. I strongly urge everyone to minimise contact indoors even over Christmas, since there is a danger of a third wave if we are not very cautious.

At the committee, a report (for which I had asked at the previous meeting) was presented on restoring elective surgery and cancer services. Progress was being made, although more slowly than expected, in September and October, although the number of people waiting over 1 year had risen to 4,500. Sadly we were told that non-Covid services were already being hit by the second Covid wave, and the November figures would show a new deterioration in the situation. This underlines the high price being paid by many people for the failure to keep Covid under control.

Seaton Area Health Matters I attended the Committee meeting on 12th November, where it was decided not to accept the rental proposals made by NHS Property Services, owners of Seaton Hospital, and to hand over work with local voluntary groups to the new Re:Store community organisation.

Christmas support for families I have continued to work with Re:Store over Christmas provisions for families whose children receive free school meals. I'm pleased to say that their scheme will now be covering Beer, Colyford, Colyton, Farway, Seaton and Uplyme.

Levelling Up fund The Government have established a £4 billion fund to which I understand councils can apply, with support from local MPs, for projects which will benefit the local area. I am looking into whether there is any way we can get funding for the Seaton Seafront Enhancement Scheme and have been in touch with district councillors about this.

Seaton road issues I'm pleased to see that the Castle Hill resurfacing, which I had been pressing for, has been completed. I have been in touch with residents of Elmfield Road about repairs there, which are due in this financial year. I have also been supporting residents dealing with South West Water over damage to Clapps Lane/Manor Gardens.

Stop Line Way cycle/walking route I have pressed officers twice this month to get a decision on the way forward for the missing section in the Wetlands, for which there is money in this year's and next year's DCC budgets. I have now been told that a conclusion will be reached by mid-January. I will keep pressing.

Colyford 'Devon bank' With Cllrs Jones and Hay, I examined the situation near the White Hart. I've sent photos of the sandbags, designed to create a Devon bank, to the engineering team at DCC who were responsible for the scheme completed two or three years ago, and they are going to look into what can be done to improve the appearance.

Public Rights of Way Committee I attended the November 26th meeting of the committee which considered several East Devon issues (but not in our area).

Midweek Herald column I am now writing every 4 weeks in the paper, along with a monthly column in Seaton Nub News.

Appendix B

COLY VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

PAUL ARNOTT

DECEMBER 2020

Colyton Public Toilets

I asked EDDC officers to look into the situation in Colyton and unfortunately no one in the council knew that Western Power were going to undertake their works so did not have the opportunity to plan for alternatives. I understand the works have arisen as a consequence of the vehicle impact in the summer.

I was provided with a table showing the **three lowest consumption blocks in the district (see below)** EDDC has been looking at water consumption as a measure of use of all toilets in cubic metres (ahead of an imminent toilet review report). As can be seen Dolphin Street is right down there, so at some point this low usage is bound to come under review. For comparison,

In the meantime, Paul John our Area Officer, will attend tomorrow morning (Tuesday 8th December) and turn the ladies into a unisex toilet (as long as nothing is broken and the gate works). If all is well they will be cleaned tomorrow afternoon and re-opened.

East Budleigh	Hayes Lane	1.83
Budleigh	Station Rd	2.54
Colyton	Dolphin St	6.48

Beer Jubilee toilets over the same 4 years of recorded water use stands at 148.5 cubic metres.

Section 106

One of the platforms I stood on for East Devon District Council in 2019 was to get to the bottom of its difficulties in accounting to communities for S106 processes and funds. Therefore, one of my earliest acts as the new Leader this year was to bring forward the independent audit of this by the South West Audit Partnership.

This report has just been received and I will bring it to Cabinet in 6th January 2021 and then refer to our Audit and Governance committee for further analysis. I will keep all councillors and parishioners informed.

Financial help to ensure LED Community Leisure facilities remain available for health and well-being of district's residents.

East Devon District Council has been asked to help its leisure operator LED Community Leisure (LED) with an urgent additional subsidy of just over £732,000 following the severe impact of the coronavirus pandemic on its business operations.

LED runs nine leisure and fitness centres including swimming pools and sites such a tennis courts across the district on behalf of the council and has a membership of around 12,000 people, as well as 'pay as you go' customers. But its operations had to close down for three months from April to June due to enforced Government restrictions during the first Covid-19 lockdown and again during this second lockdown which began earlier this month.

LED, which is a charitable trust, lost around £1m turnover for every month it had to close and has had to draw on its reserves to cover its losses. The majority of its 500 East Devon staff were furloughed. It's estimated that the business boosts the local economy by around £5m every year through the employment of its staff and giving work to local suppliers.

The council's Cabinet decided unanimously at its meeting on Wednesday (Nov 11) to recommend that the council pays LED an additional subsidy of £732,275 to cover its net losses up to September 2020. Cabinet also agreed to subsidise LED's further net losses from October on a monthly basis up until March 2021 with a maximum subsidy payment of no more than £1,339,000 in the current financial year.

It means that once the second lockdown is over, and if Government restrictions allow, the nine sites can operate once again. Mr Peter Gilpin, chief executive of LED thanked the Cabinet for their support, adding that it will be the residents of East Devon who will be the real beneficiaries in terms of their health and well-being during these difficult times.

Charlie Plowden, the council's service lead for countryside and leisure, told the Cabinet that the leisure industry had been severely impacted by the pandemic due to the enforced closures and the complexities of reintroducing Covid-19 secure facilities and activities.

He said:

"LED reacted swiftly and decisively to try and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. They put in place a recovery business plan that up to the end of September helped to recover to about 70% of its expected income, which is a fantastic achievement. But challenges do remain, particularly with this further period of lockdown."

Peter Gilpin, Chief Executive of LED, explained to the meeting that as a Community Benefit Society and charitable trust, all revenue and surplus goes back into providing facilities, services and new equipment. He said that LED provides activities for the benefit of the community. Swimming is a very popular activity and teaching children and adults to learn to swim is a vital life skill in coastal communities.

Our work also focuses on families, children, older residents, the unemployed, people on benefits and Universal Credit, so we serve a much wider community than the private sector. We put on a lot of community benefit activities that are not commercially viable and that's why we require a subsidy from East Devon, particularly for the swimming pools."

Cabinet recommended to set up an LED Monitoring Forum of councillors which will meet monthly with the charitable trust to review its performance both operationally and financially. The first meeting is set for 16th December.

Cabinet heard that if the council ran the leisure services 'in house' it would have been able to claim back up to 75% of Covid-19 losses from the Government due to the enforced lockdowns. As LED is a charitable trust, it is ineligible to claim back for the losses. However, the Government announced last month that it had set aside £100m to support leisure centres and the council and LED hope to make a joint bid for funding, although this scheme is unlikely to cover the losses to date in full.

Peter Gilpin pointed out that by providing leisure services through a leisure trust the council was saving around £1m a year, and had done for 15 years now. Once the Covid-19 crisis was over, this saving would recommence for future years.

The Cabinet wants the council to ask its three district MPs to lobby Ministers to ensure that that leisure trusts, such as LED, receive Covid-related support funding in an equitable way to non-Trust leisure providers to ensure a level financial playing field. The Cabinet also wants to ask its MPs to set up an urgent meeting with the relevant Minister or preferably Secretary of State, where they, alongside representatives of the council and LED, can explain the difficulties facing both organisations.

As Leader of the Council, I commented that:

"We are very glad to have LED providing our leisure services, but we are mindful that this is a big call on council resources. Our negotiations with LED have been hard-headed and we have made it a condition of this support that a 10 councillor forum will now meet monthly to help steer them out of these choppy waters. We wish them all the best and are pleased that they accept that we will also be constantly scrutinising operations in the next year in the best interests of council tax payers."

Appendix C

District Council Report, Dec 2020, Cllr Helen Parr

* **Dolphin St Toilets**- Councillors should have seen the exchange of emails on this subject.

* **Community Asset Transfer Policy**

It is recognised that more community benefit may be delivered when assets are owned and managed by the local communities.

The District Council is drafting a policy to guide the transfer of assets to Town & Parish Councils, the document then to be circulated for consultation. Communities will be invited to request transfer of local facilities eg. toilets, playgrounds to be managed by the town or parish council. A decision on whether to transfer will be made and terms negotiated.

Dolphin Street Toilets may well be on the list of assets to be offered for transfer.