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February & March 2021



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EDITORIAL No153

Happy New Year to you all we hope you have all enjoyed your celebrations and remain fit and well in this challenging time. Don't forget the volunteer helpline is there should you need it on 01884 35455.

#### NEWS FROM YOUR DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Devon County Council has a statutory responsibility each year to set a balanced budget. Financial targets are set for all the areas of activity that are undertaken by the County Council. Elected Members approve all budgets of the authority and, throughout the year, monitoring of expenditure and income is undertaken to ensure that spending remains under control.

The funding for the Council's budget currently comes from a number of sources including council tax, business rates, government grants, fees and charges.

I am sorry this is a bit heavy reading, but County is a big organisation and manages millions of pounds of our money, I thought you might like to know how we spend the money and where it comes from. If there are any issues that you are concerned with, please let me know and I will do what I can to get them resolved. We know about the roads, it has been a difficult time, but I can assure you that our Highway Officer is on to it and getting it sorted.

- 1.1. This report outlines the financial position and forecast for the Authority at month 8 (to the end of November) of the financial year.
- 1.2. At month 8 it is estimated that budgets will overspend by £1.9 millions, a reduction of £823,000 from month 6 forecast of £2.7 million. If this overspending materialises then it can be accommodated by not making the full 2020/21 planned contribution to reserves which would leave the Council in a break-even position.
- 1.3. The Dedicated Schools Grant projected deficit, relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), is forecast to be £30.4 million, this is an increase of £2.6 million since month 6. In line with Department of Education guidance this deficit will not be dealt with this financial year but carried to future years.
- 1.4. Central government has put in place a number of grant funding streams to help support Local Authorities during the pandemic. The confirmed additional funding Devon County Council is expecting to receive directly is £80.5 million, these grants are detailed further within section 8.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 the Government published the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2021/22. Excluding Government assumptions about council tax nationally, the increase in Government funding for the Council is £3.7 million or 2.2%. This includes. An additional £3.1 million from a new

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Social Care grant of £300 million nationally. This is to support both Childrens and Adults Social Care.

An increase in Devon's allocation of Rural Services Delivery Grant of £368,000;

A reduction in New Home Bonus Grant of £957,000;

Government compensation for no inflationary increase in the business rates multiplier of £1.2 million.

Other social care grants continue with no inflationary increase.

#### For Council Tax, the Government has announced that.

The Council Tax increase that will trigger the need for a referendum is 2%;

- Local authorities can set an Adult Social Care Precept of up to 3%. If the full percentage is not used in 2021/22 there is an option to carry forward the unused amount to 2022/23;
- A grant of £670 million nationally has been announced to offset some of the impact the Pandemic is having on the Council Tax Base for next year. Devon's share is £6.358 million;
- A Council Tax Income Guarantee Scheme has been announced that will compensate authorities for 75% of irrecoverable losses in the current year.

#### The Government has also announced.

Devon's share of national COVID funding for 2021/22 is £14.823 million.

The continuation of the 75% Covid-19 Sales Fees and Charges compensation scheme into the first quarter of 2021/22.

The Fairer Funding Review, 75% Business Rate Retention and the Business Rates Reset have been delayed.

A public sector pay freeze has been announced, except for those earning less than £24,000 per annum who will receive an increase of at least £250. The pay freeze does not apply to front-line NHS staff; and

The National Living Wage will increase by 2.2% next year to £8.91 per hour.

#### 2021/22 Targets

- 3.1. Cabinet in December approved Revenue Spending Targets that totalled just over £571 million which represented an increase of £28.4 million or 5.2% and included savings of £15.3 million. Although that was only a few weeks ago much has happened. A new variant of the Coronavirus has been identified and the Country has entered another national lockdown. It is hard to imagine that a return to normal will happen quickly.
- 3.2. The changing circumstances has led to a review of the Targets. Some savings previously identified do not now seem feasible. Other areas need

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bolstering to increase the resilience of the Council. In summary the proposed changes are:

Reduce planned savings by £3.7 million across Adult Care & Health, Children's Services and Highways, Infrastructure and Waste.

Additional Investment of £302,000 in Legal Services to support Children's Services and Risk Management to support the whole organisation; and

Additional £3.3 million to fund the cost of the 2.2% increase in the National Living Wage.

3.3. The proposed Budget Targets have increased by just under £7.3 million to nearly £578.5 million, an increase of 6.6% on the 2020/21 Budget.

I can only help, if I know about it, so do not hesitate to give me a call, always pleased to hear from you. **Ray Radford. Devon County Councillor.** 

#### Welcome 2021

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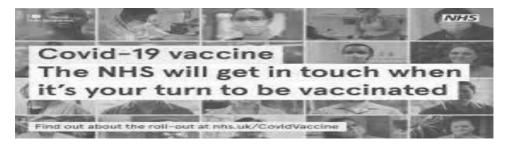
Exactly the same process for ours as the other two in the village, our unit is on the main south view estate road by our main entrance, during the day it's very visible from the main road and during the hours of darkness there is a green light above the unit and a flood light above that. **Chris Hewett Safety Officer** 



## Devon Libraries

I'm afraid that the mobile is off the road at the moment, but we will be reviewing what we can offer shortly. Please keep an eye on our website where we will be posting updates:

https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries
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#### 2020/21 WASTE COLLECTION CALENDAR

This is for the areas of Willand which normally have Friday collections outlying areas will be different and can be found on the Mid Devon Website or call 01884 255255 to request a copy by post.

FOOD WASTE, RECYCLING BOXES (BLACK AND GREEN ) AND BLACK SACKS EVERY OTHER FRIDAY					
FOOD WASTE AND OPT-IN GARDEN WASTE/"PAY AS YOU GO" SACKS <b>EVERY OTHER FRIDAY</b>					
COLLECTION 1 DAY LATE DUE TO BANK HOLIDAY				*	
COLLECTION 2 DAYS LATE DUE TO BANK HOLIDAY *				**	
2021					
JANUARY	5**	11*	16*	22	29
FEBRUARY	5	12	19	26	
MARCH	5	12	19	26	
APRIL	6**	12*	17**	23	30
MAY	8*	14	21	28	
JUNE	5*	11	18	25	
JULY	2	9	16	23	30
AUGUST	6	13	20	27	
SEPTEMBER	4*	10	17	24	
As copied from the Mid Devon Website					



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#### WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL - PRECEPT

This is the precept requested by Willand Parish Council for the year April 2021 to March 2022. The Parish Council carefully considered the current income and expenditure which enables it to do the things it has to do within the Parish and those that improve the village for everyone. This year there will be a small rise in the precept, this according to the MDDC calculator works out as 5 pence a week increase to band D properties.

The income figures are difficult to predict, for example the bank interest is based on the reserves fund in a high interest account as the Lloyds business savings account has an extremely low interest rate and is providing only a few pence a month. The project line is blank as the Parish Council have not identified any sources of funding. Money has been secured from Devon County Council towards the cost of verge cutting. The maintenance costs of the cemetery are under contract, but it is difficult to predict income. Contracts are either ongoing or have been awarded for all the ground maintenance within the village and the figures reflect these contracts.

The VAT figures are shown on a separate line as the Council can claim this expenditure back. The amount claimed will depend on the expenditure in the year, for example in 2020 the Parish Council refurbished the Jubilee Field area play equipment out of reserved funds and this will increase the amount of VAT claimed back in 2021.

Total income expected £ 14,852

Total expenditure predicted £ 75,214

Precept requested £ 60,362

Precept 2019/2020 was £57,427

Increase for Willand £2,935

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INCOME				
Precept	57427	57427		
Bank Interest	35	20	80	
Magazine Advertising	5000	3042	5000	
Cemetery	2000	4660	3000	
Allotments	1562	2274	2215	
Projects		1372		
Ground Maintenance	4425	5025	4557	
TOTAL	77490	85662	14852	
EXPENDITURE				
Staff	21607	11996	20129	
Office administration	5728	3892	6015	290
Allotments	1562	1133	2215	
Cemetery	3000	1198	3090	
Magazine	6000	4327	6600	
All Ground management	13885	10758	14176	2580
Village projects	5920	4817	7139	1150
Donations to groups	250	250	350	
Play areas equipment	6000	2000	3000	600
Total	70994	44212	62714	4620
Capital expenditure				
legal expenses	1000		1000	200
Community Event	1000			
CCTV replacements	500		500	
Office Admin	0	0	1000	200
Cemetery contingency	1500		500	100
Play areas new equipment	5000		5000	1000
Play areas development			4500	900
Total			12500	2400

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#### WILLAND ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Tiers to the right, jabs to the left, stuck in the middle with nothing to do.

Happy New Year to you all, let's hope it gets better, after the no brainer Lockdown 3 was announced by the Government.

This has meant that football has stopped and very unlikely to start again until August. Whist we were in tier 2 it was feasible to play and open the clubhouse providing hot food was purchased with your drink, although this is difficult to manage it is possible and football at Willand could continue.

As soon as we moved to tier 3, that meant no revenue coming into the club. The FA have provided no financial support for our league, if we were 28 places higher up the pyramid we would be classed as an elite sport and receive a minimum of £30k per month. Trying to play without any revenue streams the majority of clubs agree is impossible. Those of course who have a 'sugar daddy' view it differently.

So now we are in Lockdown, the FA are inviting clubs to vote on a null and void proposal to stop the season completely. The rationale behind that is we won't be able to start until mid-March and trying to play 30 games in 10 weeks is just not practical or feasible. I suspect that this motion will be approved, and the season will never be getting going again.

There is a suggestion that a zonal league be considered with promotion and relegation still a live issue. Of course, depending on your outlook clubs will have different views on that, those fighting at the top will support it, those at the bottom will reject it, and those who are the jam in the middle will ultimately make the deciding vote.

If this zonal league were to be approved it would be an 18 games competition, which is harsh on those clubs last year who were not promoted or avoided relegation having played 30 out 38 games. Again, I can't see this starting as some clubs will be in tiers 3 or 4 after lockdown and can't play.

Hopefully, we can get going in August, given that the country has started the roll out of vaccine it is expected that the country will be in a more resilient place by then.

Let's hope after a slow start this year will be a better one. Stay safe, see you on the other side. Cheers. **Dominic Clark** 



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#### WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS).

B!!!!!! Here we go again THE SITE IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

This of course due to the wretched Covid-19. However, we are forever the optimists, we say we will open and meet again.

So, while we are in "lockdown" it would be good to feel that we continue the recycling and composting of our garden waste – here are a few tips/suggestions that may assist: -

- 1. Do Home Composting
- 2. Devon County Council Ashely Recycle Centre Tiverton EX16 5PD. Contact 0345 1551010 for information as to opening times and current garden waste they accept. Additionally, you will need to take into account current Government travel restrictions.

Until this pandemic is over and/or until the government so advise - we will remain closed. If, however, you happen to see person(s) on site this will be for maintenance and/or composting garden waste already deposited. The gate will be locked.

When we decide to reopen, we will inform you with notices at the site and use of social media. Until – See you all anon.

Tony Mander. Mob. 07980472242. Email: tmander931gmail.com

#### WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT

2021 is here and things have not got any better in relation to 'lockdown' and with the emergence of a new strain of the infection. There is hope on the horizon with the distribution of the vaccines but that will take time and then we need to give them time to work. We do need to follow the advice and rules and they apply to all — none of us are exempt. I was recently in the Coop doing a necessary food shop and whereas most were being sensible there were some who still cannot follow a one-way system or keep a distance. When I was queuing for the checkout one lady got so close to me that I thought my luck was about to change if you follow my drift.

I hope everyone managed to have some form of Christmas celebration. I intended to go to Wales to join my daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren for the day. Our other daughter was to join us. I had joked that I may have to settle for baked beans on toast and seeing that it was Christmas I would put a fried egg on the top. Our local mischievous Gazette reporter picked up on it and before I knew it a story was on Devon Live and in the Gazette. Good to have a light-hearted moment and when one of my District Council colleagues appeared at my door just before Christmas with a tin of baked beans it added to the fun. It was 'not to be' on Christmas day and plan 'B' was activated. On Christmas morning I drove to the services at Bristol and met the son-in-law and we



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swapped over the presents and then in the afternoon, after the Queen's speech the family joined together via Zoom so that we could share present opening. The baked beans were not used for lunch as we had an excellent turkey crown roll and also a cooked ham from our local Butcher.

The kindness of the majority of the local community came to the fore for Christmas. One of the noticeable actions was Helen Jones and friends who worked with the school to identify families who would not be having a good meal on Christmas Day. Donations were forthcoming in cash and goods to provide 'hampers' and then the "Butchr" kindly and very generously donated all of the meat requirements and then on top of that 2 Sisters provided a number of chickens. Thank you to all those who put the time and effort into making this happen and I hope those who received the goodies had a good Christmas. I cheated from doing much work by recycling a sizeable cash sum from my monthly MDDC expenses allowance which I passed to the organiser to buy what was needed. With that and contributions from other generous souls the organisers had about £600 left over which has been converted to vouchers for the school to use for those in need during this term. 2 Sisters also went randomly around the village making gifts of chicken to many residents which was a very generous gesture.

Where we have businesses in the village who are supporting the local community can we please make sure that we support them in return that will ensure we keep them for the future.

There were many other acts of kindness and community spirit in evidence over the holiday period and long may it continue please. One such example were contributions towards the cost of the Christmas lights. Thanks go to Pencarrie, Coop, Victoria Windows and the Community Composting Volunteers for their contributions. We did have a problem with one of the lights by Ash Close over Christmas which was regrettable. The lights have now been removed and that is the end of our current 3 year contract. Do we wish to continue with having Christmas lights in the village? It is a little difficult to concentrate a display as we do not have a village centre like Uffculme. Please let us know what you think as they have to be paid for and we will soon have to make a decision for next year.

Some will have noted that the Cemetery fencing has been extended and there has to be further works there to level off the ground where the old fence has been removed. There will be hedge planting and other improvements taking place over the coming year. If you have any comments please pass them to the Clerk and then they can be considered.

Grass verge cutting, cemetery maintenance and a number of other costs have had to be identified, contracts awarded and then budgeted for in the precept.





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Sadly cost have gone up and there will be a small increase in the precept to keep our village in the manner to which we are becoming accustomed. Our Clerk will have included details of the precept for the parish elsewhere in the magazine so that all know what is being implemented.

To meet the growing concerns with regard to the speed of vehicle through the village the Parish Council are obtaining a VAS System through Devon County Council. This will warn drivers if they are exceeding the limit and will collect data – not pictures as yet – but those following will see if you are over the limit. Work is still continuing with the Police to try and get Community Speed watch back up again. We have had another visit from the speed camera van.

There are a number of planning applications for the area and most are not contentious. There is an application for a 6 caravan traveller site off the Uffculme Straight but in Halberton Parish. We do our best to put details of all planning applications to which the Parish Council are invited to comment onto the website. Any member of the community is at liberty to make comment to MDDC on any application and it would be helpful if more expressed their views before any decisions are made.

With my District Council hat on there is not much different to report. Due to the lockdown some staff are furloughed, a lot are working from home and a number are being very flexible to help out in other areas. The posh word is being omnicompetent. A lot of work by officers and members is being done to prepare the budget for next year and try and balance this year's budget. With loss of income from car parks, leisure centres and the like it is not easy and although the government are giving grants to cover some of the losses the finance officers are having to work miracles and I am sure some have crystal balls. The real hero's in my book are the 'bin men' and recycling staff. They have been keeping going although they have had to be helped by agency staff [more cost] when some have had to self-isolate. With so many of the community at home we have all been tidying up and turning out and so there is more rubbish and recycling to deal with. The Boundary Commission have reported and it looks as if Lower Culm Ward will be expanded from Willand and Uffculme to include Kentisbeare as well. This will all come in for the 2023 elections.

Please keep safe and look out for the wellbeing of others who are not so fortunate. Do not suffer in silence as help can be found. If you have a problem the details of all councillors at all levels are in the magazine and on the website so give someone a call or send an email. If you see a problem with the roads footpaths or anywhere else please report it to the appropriate organisation and if you are not sure contact the Clerk. Hopefully if we all work together tomorrow will be a better day. **Barry G J Warren.** 

Chair Willand Parish Council Tel: 07971 808423



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#### NEW YEAR HONOUR FOR COLDHARBOUR MILL VOLUNTEER

In the 2021 New Year Honours list, John Jasper, volunteer at Coldharbour Mill Working Wool Museum and Wellington Arts Association received the British Empire Medal for services to Cultural Heritage in Devon and Somerset.

John has been a volunteer at Coldharbour Mill for 30 years. Without him it is doubtful that anyone would have had the knowledge or commitment to successfully lead the volunteer 'Steam Team' to return the dilapidated steam plant to operation. John has been the driving force to return the Mill's rare and original steam plant and associated engines to full working order, to lead a team of dedicated volunteers to operate the historic Steam Complex for the public at regular Steam Up events throughout the year, manage the labour-intensive annual insurance inspection process, and continue improvements to the Museum's many machines by managing regular work days of volunteers.

Undoubtedly, his greatest achievement was to oversee the rescue, restoration and installation by the steam volunteers of the 1867 Kittoe and Brotherhood Beam Engine in the Beam Engine House, replacing the original 1865 model that had sadly been scrapped in an earlier era. To not only re-assemble it from scratch but then to successfully steam it for the public to enjoy is an amazing achievement and a terrific legacy. John has recounted the full five-year story in 'The Beam Engine Story' on the Mill website:

#### https://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/the-beam-engine-story/

Unfortunately, owing to the current situation we will not be able to hold our Steam Days for a while, but John and his team will continue to keep the machinery in working order until things return to normal.

Although the Mill is closed to the public at present, we are all working hard on many ongoing projects and preparing for reopening when it is allowed.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have been helping to get the Mill back in order, as well as those who have been supporting us from a distance.

If you would like to get involved in volunteering at the Mill in any way, please feel free to get in touch with me at the Mill.

Peter Holdway-Bradley, General Manager **To contact Coldharbour Mill**: please phone 01884 840960 (calls are monitored even when the Mill is closed) or email: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk

or visit the Mill website: **www.coldharbourmill.org.uk** or write to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, Cullompton EX15 3EE.

Follow us on Facebook! @ColdharbourMill. Susan Wasfi

## CUT OFF FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

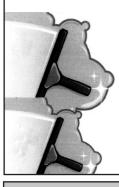
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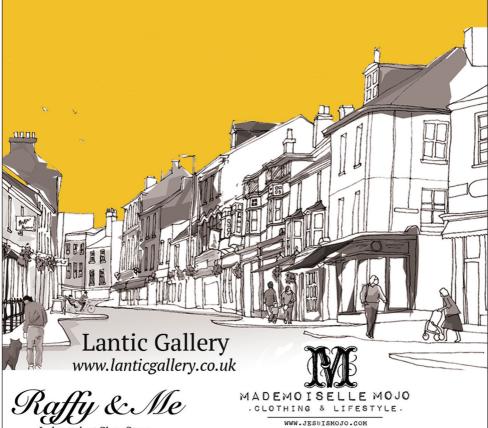
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