DEAN PRIOR PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2025 at 7.00pm at Dean Prior Village Hall

Present ; Cllr Bailey , Chairman of Dean Prior Parish Council , chaired this meeting and Karen Gilbert acted as Clerk Cllrs Rutley ,Smerdon (DNPA) & Thorn were in attendance
Dist Cllr Guy Pannell and C Cllr Dan Thomas

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** - None

2. To receive a report from the Chairman of Dean Prior Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, County and District Councillors and fellow Parish Councillors,
May I start by welcoming you to our meeting.
I am pleased to present my annual report for the past year, 2024/ 2025.

Firstly, a big thank you to our Clerk, Karen for all her guidance and support through the year and also our County Councillor Dan Thomas and District Councillors Guy Pannell and David Hancock for their regular updates, reports and attendance at our meetings. Also, to Peter Smerdon for his knowledge and reports on behalf of Dartmoor National Park, and Parish Councillors Thorn and Rutley for their support and for managing the Village Hall as Trustees.

We must take this opportunity to remember and record the passing of Councillor Mike Chew who served the Parish for many years, and who left us in November 2024. His character and local knowledge gave a great strength and input to the Council which is sadly missed and difficult to replace. Best wishes have been sent to Mike's family with whom we are investigating the possibility of placing a memorial bench with plate somewhere close to the centre of the village.
We have advertised the Councillor Vacancy, but applications are in short supply.

In the past year we finally managed to have our bus stop totally refurbished and repainted, we have replaced the de-fibrillator outer case and we have kept a watchful eye on local Planning Applications including the large housing proposal at Timbers Road. We are also following the devolution plans with interest.
We have frequently observed and reported rogue caravan and camper parking, together with fly-tipping which is an ever present and increasing problem blighting our beautiful countryside.
Thanks to Councillor Thorn who laid our RBL wreath at St. George the Martyr Church on remembrance Sunday.
We are attempting to obtain approval for 20mph restrictions in the central village area lanes.
Ideas are being floated for some kind of community area perhaps with a play/recreation area and some car parking, but this would need a small piece of land in the central vicinity and some funding.

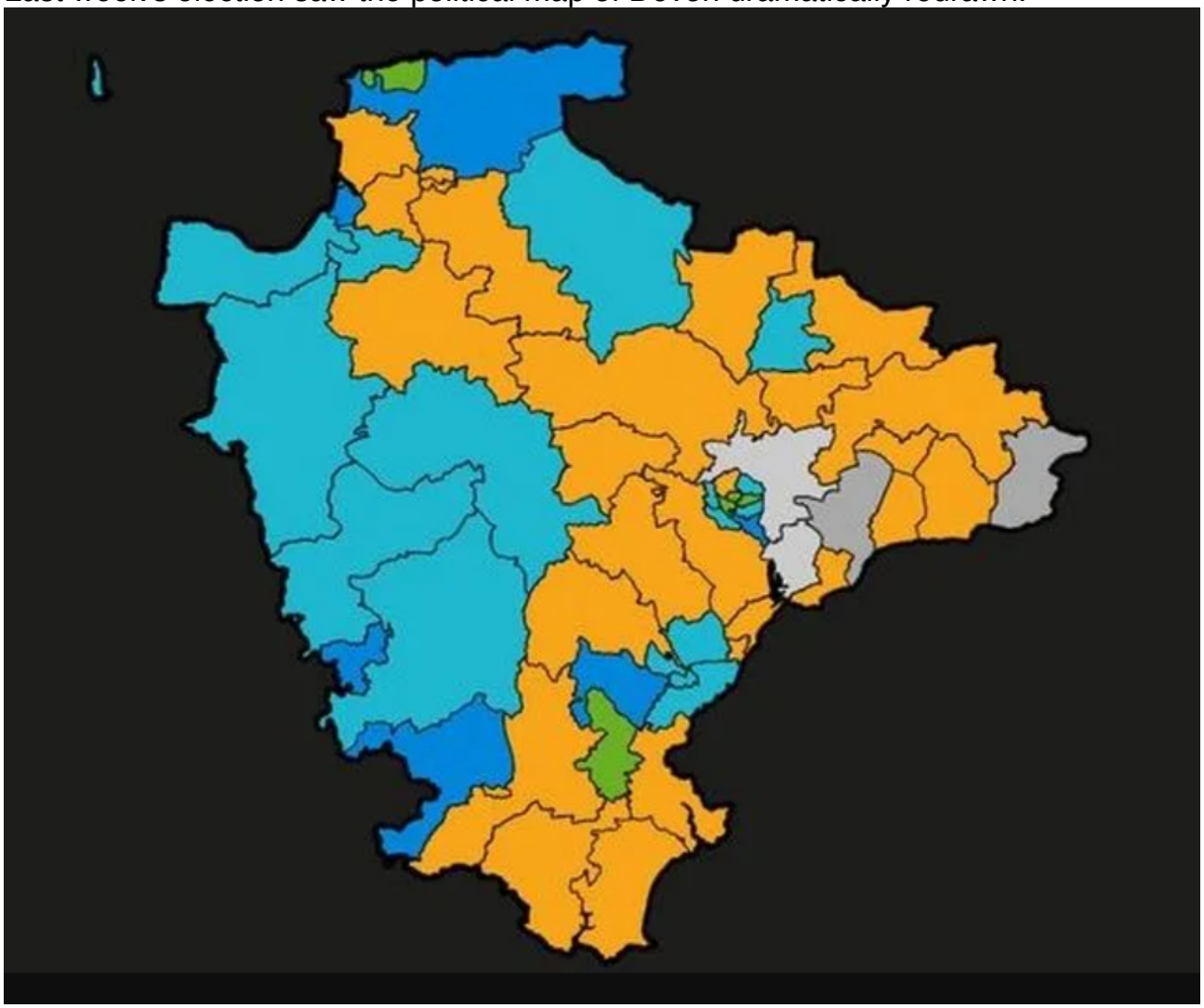
Generally our Parish is quiet, virtually crime-free, peaceful and a nice place to live, and we strive to keep it that way!
Best regards,

Councillor John Bailey
Chairman, Dean Prior Parish Council

3. To receive a report from County Councillor Thomas

DEVON COUNTY - Election Results

Last week's election saw the political map of Devon dramatically redrawn.



The Lib Dems went from 9 to 27 Cllrs (4 short of an outright majority).
The Conservatives went from 40 to 7 Cllrs.
The Green Party gained 4 members, from 2 to 6 Cllrs.
The Independents are now at 2, down from 3 Cllrs.
Reform UK are the official opposition, with 18 Cllrs. The South Hams is the only authority area in Devon with no Reform members.

Julian Brazil has been elected Leader of the Lib Dems and will become Leader at County later this month. He has announced that he will be resigning from his position as leader at SHDC.

Paul Arnott, the Leader of East Devon District Council, will be his county deputy. A new county cabinet will be selected over the next couple of weeks , prior to the annual meeting on May 22nd.

Cllr Thomas was also pleased to have been able to grant the sum of £400.00 towards the new defibrillator cabinet for the Parish - for which the Chairman thanked him

4. To receive a report from District Councillor Pannell SHDC

Election round up

The results for the Devon County Council election are in.

The following people have won the seats for the 7 wards within the South Hams.

- Totnes and Dartington - Jacqi Hodgson (Green Party)
- South Brent and Yealmpton - Dan Thomas (Liberal Democrats)
- Salcombe - Louise Wainwright (Liberal Democrats)
- Kingsbridge - Julian Brazil (Liberal Democrats)
- Ivybridge - Victor Abbott (Liberal Democrats)
- Dartmouth & Marldon - Simon Rake (Liberal Democrats)
- Bickleigh & Wembury - Tony Carson (Conservative)

You can find all the detailed information on our website here.

Congratulations to both new and returning councillors.

Water Quality Monitoring Pilot for South Hams

Our rivers and estuaries are a major draw for those who engage in leisure activities both in and on the water, ranging from dinghy sailors to paddle boarders and wild swimmers.

Currently, up-to-date information on water quality is difficult for the public to find, and is often restricted to seasonal sampling at designated bathing water sites.

In April, South Hams District Council launched a pilot project which aims to deliver real-time (or near to real-time) data to help our residents and visitors stay better informed about the health of our rivers and estuaries. The pilot supports our Delivery Plan on climate and biodiversity and our commitment to local tourism and marine businesses.

We've been working with Totnes-based Teledyne Valeport to bring together a suite of sensors that will be deployed at four locations in the district and will monitor water quality without the need for off-site analysis. A senior leadership strategic visit last year highlighted the company's long-established role in underwater sensor research and development.

Throughout this pilot, we will work closely with local community groups already actively engaged in water monitoring activities to identify the most effective locations for exposure risk. The pilot will also work with organisations such as the Environment Agency to help build a better picture of water quality in our district.

The pilot offers an important opportunity to partner with University of Plymouth, with researchers from its Faculty of Science and Engineering playing a key role in providing support for data management and analytic activities, and in developing a user-friendly water quality dashboard. Historic raw water quality data will also be maintained.

Monitoring equipment is expected to be deployed over the course of the summer and will be followed by the launch of the dashboard. An impact report at the end of the pilot will also offer recommendations for potential future activity.

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan consultation – now live

Further to previous advanced notice, the public consultation on the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan has begun and will run until Monday 19 May.

The consultation draft of the Forest Plan can be viewed here: PSDCF Consultation

5 . To receive a report from Peter Smerdon (DNPA)
Peter Smerdon gave a resume of the year at DNPA - adding that financial constraints had had an impact on the Authority and will do in the foreseeable future
He commented on the wild fire over the May Bank holiday weekend and the processes and manpower needed to bring it under control
Peter ended by advising that there was to be a Dartmoor Rural Crime seminar soon - with all appropriate agencies attending

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Cllr Thorn and Rutley gave a brief report on the Village Hall which continued to attract many bookings and had enable the Trustees to donate monies towards the maintenance of the Churchyard

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending .

There being no further questions or comments , the Meeting closed at 7.45pm