
TALATON

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

WEDNESDAY, 24TH APRIL 2024
AT 7.30PM
AT THE PARISH HALL, TALATON
MINUTES

Present:-

From Talaton Parish Council - Cllr Patricia Lenehan (Chair); Cllr Gerri Hawkins (Vice-Chair); Cllr Wood and the Parish Council Clerk – Mrs C McIntyre

Other Councillors:- EDDC Cllr Richard Jefferies

Members of the Public:- 12

1. Welcome

The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed all present, to the meeting

2. To confirm that the Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2023 are an accurate record

The Minutes were confirmed as correct and were signed by the Chair

3. Chair's Report – Cllr Leneham presented the following report

Regular monthly activities of the PC are well documented so my report this evening will focus on the one-off projects and activities that we engaged in over the last twelve months. All of which are also recorded and in the public domain but in case you missed them, here are the highlights.

Policies & Procedures: Our Clerk, Christine McIntyre updated and created all the documentation required to keep us compliant.

The Move to Internet Banking: What a nightmare this was! It took five months to resolve but only after we asked local MP Simon Jupp to intervene. Barclays paid us £200 in compensation for the inconvenience. However, Cllr Walker still couldn't access online banking for a further five months so they paid us another £150 in compensation.

Councillor "Code of Conduct" Training completed by everyone, including the clerk.

The Hedge beyond Beacon Cottages: you may remember that a milk tanker left the road, damaging the hedgerow and leaving a gap. The planting was replaced by Escot Estate but it was out of season and was followed by a very dry period, so the saplings perished. They were replaced by Talaton PC at the right time of year and Cllr Peters watered them but the saplings were destroyed/damaged by hedge cutting by persons or authority unknown.

Reg Hawkins has recently replaced the saplings so let's hope that we are third time lucky.

New Highways Officer: Kyle Walker took on the role in Feb and in his first few days got to grips with our severe problems on the road near Escot. We had also been trying to have a meeting with the landowner of the field where the problem originates, without success. But Kyle managed to get a meeting almost immediately and ensured that remedial work was carried out to prevent further run-off onto the road. It is important that we establish a good relationship with the Highways Officer and we feel we have got off to a great start.

Allotments: Are under new ownership, and thanks to the Clerk, we have a 7-year lease in place, expiring 30 Nov 2030. Tenancy agreements are also in place. We have done lots of maintenance and ground work over the winter and made provision for water via the donation of 3 water butts from South West Water, although sadly, one has gone missing already.

Telephone Box is being turned into a book and toy library.

Close: Thank the Clerk and Cllrs for their invaluable work.

4.To receive reports from Devon County Council Councillor Iain Chubb and East Devon District Council Councillor Richard Jefferies

EDDC Cllr Richard Jefferies

Cllr Jefferies did not supply a written report but provided an update at the meeting as to what he had personally been involved in at EDDC and advised of EDDC's future plans.

Cllr Jefferies took several questions from the audience

DCC Cllr Iain Chubb

Cllr Chubb was absent and had sent apologies. However he had forwarded the following reports:-

Whimble & Blackdown Division members report April 2024

As we move towards spring and summer, it seems that our traditional four seasons are now more like the Northern Territory of Australia with just two, the wet from November to April and the dry, May to October. Unfortunately, our wet season seems to be far longer than the dry one, having a detrimental impact on the Devon Highways network, particularly in rural areas where the potholes are all too obvious to see, appearing on what are effectively former cart tracks with tarmac on the top. In urban areas, most roads are purpose built with proper foundations that are generally more robust. This state of the public highway is by some distance the item that features most in conversations and correspondence with constituents and below is a more detailed report on how this last winter has gone for DCC Highways who are trying to keep up with rising demand, combined with limited human and financial resources.

Winter 2023/24 Highways update

DCC has established a 'Planned and Reactive Maintenance: Potholes and Drainage Task Group' first reporting in March 2019 and an updated Performance Dashboard Report has now been produced to Councillors. As is typical for the winter period, DCC Highways the Service has recorded a gradual increase in the number of publicly reported pothole defects (PIPs) since November, mainly via the 'Report a Problem' web site. A team of Highway Safety Inspectors undertake assessments, using extended weekday and weekend working where resource allows. The Main contractor called Milestone are currently in the process of recruiting three additional permanent inspectors to assist in driving further efficiencies and timely inspections. There have been more pothole defects this financial year than 2022/23. Whilst a further 12 months of network deterioration has occurred, the impacts on network condition of the relatively early and harsh freeze/thaw cycles experienced during last winter (2022/23) were felt deep into the summer months of 2023, added to by a number of severe storms and torrential rainfall. Additional in year Government funding of £7.5 million is enabling more reactive, short notice and planned works, including minor hand patching and dragon patching will be delivered on the minor network in Devon as a result of it.

While there have been challenges around plant breakdowns and availability relating to gully cleaning, it is anticipated the programme to clean 150,630 gully assets will be completed on time for the current financial year. The additional high pressure jetting resource is currently resolving approximately 800 recorded issues per month, effectively maintaining pace with the number of issues reported during the flooding events experienced over the 2023/24 winter period. The Service continues to trial a different approach to cleaning both urban gullies and gullies that require multiple cleans per year.

Special Educational Needs Deficit (SEND)

After a protracted and very difficult period of negotiation, a **high-level agreement has been signed between Devon County Council and the Government, which will see an extra £95 million of national funds set aside to reduce the deficit on special needs education.** The cumulative spending on education for children with special needs and disabilities (SEND) over the past 10 years is set to create a deficit of £163 million by the end of this financial year. In common with many councils across the country, DCC had been negotiating with the Government for extra funding for special needs education under the so-called Safety Valve programme. £10 million has been set aside in 2023/24 to help bring down the deficit. The new agreement will see the Government contribute £38 million by the end of March with the remaining cash being spread out over the following eight years. We will contribute a further £5 million a year from its revenue budget and £20 million from reserves to bring the deficit back into balance by the end of the agreement. It is recognised that DCC must improve its service to children needing help in this area and is committed to doing this, as well as managing its finances most effectively, keeping the Council on a long term sustainable basis

Locality Budgets

Devon County Councillors have a small amount of money each year called a Locality Budget to support projects in their Division with small grants, where demand invariably outstrips supply.

The fund opens up again in mid-April and budget for 2024/25 is £8,000 per Councillor. Further details of qualifying projects and an online application form can be found at

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-nav/locality-budgets/>

Cllr Chubb also provided a Highways Performance Dashboard Winter 2023/24 Report which is annexed to these Minutes

5. To receive reports/presentations from local organisations of the Parish regarding their activities/projects during the last year and future plans

The Wildings School – *Mike Rees Lee presented the following report and took questions from members of the audience*

Short Term:

- Supporting 6 of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people in the locality. All young people thriving within the school.
- Material Change OFSTED inspection completed Jan 24. Report on the Website.
- Purchase of Royston Farm completed in March 2024 – seeking funding to develop the school site, specifically the Pig Sheds, in line with previous planning consent, to provide more suitable and larger accommodation
- Committed to developing strong links to support the community.
- Hoping to open up some of Royston Farm for a community resource – phase one around growing food. Especially out of school hours (weekends and holidays)

Medium Term:

- Reapply for planning permission to develop the outbuildings into educational facility.
- Increase numbers of families we support to between 10 and 20. Huge demand for places and a waiting list of approaching 50 young people.

Long Term:

- Locate further sites for sister schools around Devon
- Develop the Wildings school site into a community hub to support wider community.

Clay Shoot Club – *David Hirt presented the following report*

Talaton Clay Pigeon Shoot is a 'not for profit organization' run by its members to encourage villagers to use their firearms on a regular basis with the aim of improving their shooting ability and competent use of their guns. Weather permitting we shoot on the first Saturday of each month and hold two competitions a year towards the end of the calendar year with the names of the winners displayed on the trophies in the pub.

The club caters for all abilities and in some cases, myself included, of very little ability. We can provide both guns and ammunition so it is an ideal opportunity for villagers to come along and dip their toe in the water and see if it is for them, no prior experience is necessary as coaching will be provided as well as safety instructions. Clay Pigeon shooting can be enjoyed by both sexes and by people between the ages of 14 to well into their 80's so is a truly inclusive sport. This year we froze the annual membership fee at £80, the price including personal liability insurance which is critical in case of an unforeseen accident. The cost of each shoot of 40 clays is £10 and cartridges are available to purchase at £12 per fifty, both these costs are considerably lower than attending a commercial shoot. We currently have 24 members in the club, this includes one female and one junior. All adult members hold a current firearms licence. Any small amount that is made from each shoot is reinvested in the club and in the last two years we have been able to purchase two, second hand, Olympic standard clay pigeon traps that provide more challenging targets. If anyone would like further information or would like to come along and try their hand at shooting then in please call either myself, David Hirt on 07484 706 989 or Phil Moir on 01404 822523.

Parochial Church Council ('PCC') – *Pam Weston presented the following report*

At last we have been able to return to some form of normality after three years of Covid restrictions. A small, but committed congregation have continued to attend and we have seen numbers grow. Special services have been well attended. After much hard work by dedicated members of the PCC, especially our

fabric officer Rick Spencer, the final stages of the works have been completed and we now have a building that is beautifully lit, in excellent condition and has a more functional 'kitchen'. Said 'kitchen' has made it easier to serve refreshments after services. So now all services are followed by refreshments. Three Lent lunches took place in the North Aisle room this year. Coffee mornings happen monthly. All are welcome. Thanks to Sue Harwood and her merry helpers and Gerry and her crew, the village BBQ took place after a gap of three years. Miracles happen. In Talaton it stopped raining and the afternoon was wonderful. Our Rector, Marc is now fully recovered from his injuries and is now very much involved in all aspects of ministry in the Mission Community. That said he has just run the London Marathon, so he is probably aching a bit now! The PCC has complied with the duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Members of the PCC would like to thank everyone who volunteers to support our church, the cleaners, flower arrangers, bell ringers, coffee and cake makers, lock and unlock, organize the organists, choose the hymns, mowers and strimmers, garden openers, the lift givers, the churchyard tidy up gang and those who just quietly visit and enjoy the peace.

Garden and Produce Association – Pam Weston presented the following report

In the year since our last report for the Parish Council, we have managed to run a very successful plant stall, raising £170 which helped towards the cost of the Annual Show and the Pumpkin Competition, both of which are free to enter. Many thanks to those who generously donated many excellent plants. In June we were lucky enough to hear Dr Mick Street talk on gardening for wildlife. It was a pity that he had such a small audience.

July's planned social evening in Sarah and Laurence Wood's garden was postponed due to a combination of deer attack and the shop volunteers' party! Village organisations need to talk to each other more! Our major event, the Annual Show in August, had the highest number of entries for some time and exhibits were good despite the problematic growing season. We hope the bakers in the village appreciated a little more of a challenge this year. At least they had to turn the oven on!

Our Pumpkin Carving Competition in October, once again displayed the amazing talent of many of our neighbours both adults and children. The judges had a very hard task awarding the prizes, especially in the adults class. We were treated to some exciting lighting effects and spooky smoke thanks to Daniel Hawkins. Very many thanks to Maria, Daniel, Nickie and Sybil for going that extra mile.

After the official business of November's AGM we were entertained by Andrea Rye from Combe Garden Centre, giving a talk entitled "Surprising things you didn't know about plants".

Since then the committee has held 3 meetings at which a constitution has been fleshed out ready to be presented to members at our next AGM; the new show schedule has been agreed and coming events organised.

Last Friday Julia Tremlett gave a very interesting and beautifully illustrated talk on the NGS and the glorious gardens which open for it in Devon. Widely advertised, yet only 11 arrived to hear this well informed and amusing speaker. What do we do wrong?

Events to come

- Friday May 10th "Plants that make our alcoholic drinks"
- Saturday May 11th Plant Sale in the church car park
- June 15th Coach trip to Arlington Court
- July 3rd Garden visit and Cream Tea Bickham House home of Julia Tremlett
- August 3rd Annual Show
- Sept 12th Social Evening at Sarah and Laurence Wood's
- Oct 25th Pumpkin Competition
- Nov 13th AGM Plus talk on Spices

The Calendar – Simon Spencer had provided the following report

The Calendar goes out 10 months of each year in print, and in digital format where it is arranged. It is linked to the Parish Hall, and Parish Councils websites. We have a wonderful band of deliverers across the Village for the paper copies, and mostly the copies are in letterboxes during the last weekend of the month. Our compiler Arnie James continues putting together each edition with me, and we try to use accurate information, but there may be times when outside information provided is not accurate, and it gets included. So please ensure what information is given to us is accurate. Presently the Calendar receives advertising money on an annual basis, which this year will be reviewed in the Autumn and is likely now to rise. We have not increased our prices for several years and with costs rising this is now needed. We do have donations from within the village which is a great help and much appreciated. Don't forget, Arnie and I are not a closed shop. If there is anyone out there who would like to take over, do

please let us get chatting. We are not getting younger, and it could be time for a change as we have been doing this for many years....!

ROBOTS – *David Loaring presented the following report*

AIM. To foster and encourage social interaction with events for retired and semi retired men.

During the last 12 Months 2023/2024.

1. Erected Gasebos and food marquees for the celebrations of King Charles coronation.
2. Contributed to the Church BBQ day
3. Helped with the Church annual external cleanup.
4. Helped with the Village Hall exterior cleanup.

For our own gratification we organised the following activities.

1. A visit to an artisan Boat and Aircraft builder on the edge of Dartmoor. Followed by a cream tea.
2. Later Clay Pidgeon Shooting at Westcott. Followed by a cream tea.
3. A walk on Dartmoor near Meldon.
4. All most a mackerel fishing trip, cancelled on the beach due to the weather. We relocated to Seaton and had a tram ride to Colyton with a pub lunch.
5. Skittles matches at the Talaton Inn.
6. A Christmas Meal with our partners at the Red Lion Inn Broadclyst.

2024.

7. Horse. Racing day at Halton.
8. A walk from Budleigh up the new Wetlands to Otterton and return along the river after a nice pub lunch.
9. A visit to watch Exeter City Football play Bolton Wanderers with the traditional pie or pasty and pint lunch.
10. A visit to The Haynes Moter Museum in Dorset. 15 Members attended, most of whom had owned similar cars or their fathers had. We have future outings planned, the next one is a Redcoat Tour of Exeter Quay.

The club has nearly 30 members now and is open for more. We meet regularly on the last Thursday of the month at The Talaton Inn. We are a very happy band of brothers and long may we continue.

Note. We are open to new members, so if you are or have a Retired old Boy looking for a bit of fun come along to the Talaton Inn on the last Thursday of the month at noon, You will be made most welcome.

Knit and Natter – *Judith Collin presented the following report*

Knit and Natter has continued to meet fortnightly throughout the past year with numbers varying from single figures to over twenty. Sometimes the time is used to share craft skills and work on joint projects but the emphasis is often on the Natter part of our name. We continue to meet in The Talaton Inn and we would like to thank Jan and Maria for opening early to enable us to get plenty of Knitting and Nattering done before it's time for lunch – an optional add-on. During the year we created displays to mark Easter, Open Gardens, the Coronation, Halloween, Remembrance, Christmas, Valentines Day and the Community Shop Anniversary. We were fortunate to receive another grant from The Parish Council for which we are very grateful. Some of this money has been used to purchase items to support our yarn bombing plans for later in the year. We are currently working on several projects which we hope to surprise the village with during the year. We are very conscious of using the grant money wisely and to be as green as possible, recycling and reusing wherever we can. In July we ran the "Summer Fruit Punch" stall at the church barbeque and were able to raise a good sum for church funds. We have agreed to do this again this year.

In December we had a stall at the How d'ye Do with a range of handcrafted items for sale; we were very pleased with our sales and the contribution it made to our funds.

We met at the Talaton Inn again for our Christmas meal which was well attended.

The social aspect of our group is very important to us and we hope that our joint creations put a smile on people's faces as they move around the village. Everyone is welcome (crafter or not) and our dates are published in the Talaton Calendar.

The Community Shop – *Philippa Bushell presented the following report*

During the year 2023-2024 Talaton Community Shop Ltd celebrated its 30th anniversary as Devon's first Community Shop. We marked this with a commemorative booklet setting out its history, written by Patrick Rice in collaboration with Lady Anne Boles, and a reception for all volunteers and members at the Talaton Inn. Given the important role of newer volunteers in keeping it going, this was a great opportunity to look back at why and how it came into being, and reflect on the energy and commitment of the people who made and make it a success.

The shop has continued its steady recovery from the impact of the Covid pandemic. We have settled into a newspaper supply and sale routine with a new distributor which is working well for us and for the community. We have developed a relationship with Blakes Bakery in Cornwall which enables us to sell fresh cakes and baked goods as well as chilled pasties and sausage rolls. Our Post Office outreach hours on Wednesday afternoons are going well, in terms of increasing footfall and providing an essential service to the community. Opening hours were reduced on Mondays over the winter due to fluctuations in numbers of volunteers. As always, more volunteers are needed, particularly since several have seasonal commitments or travel plans which make the summer hard to cover. Much effort has been put into volunteer training, and organising the rota and communications to enable gaps to be filled, largely thanks to Helen Reeves. Financially, the shop continues to trade steadily. We need the community to realise that if they don't use their shop it will not be able to continue to act as a social and communications centre for the village as well as offering the convenience of local supplies. Beautiful Days festival once again provided us with a much needed boost to revenue, and we have every reason to hope this annual event will carry on offering us the chance to provide festival goers with a service they really appreciate as well as keeping us afloat. It takes a huge effort from the Shop Manager to organise our Beautiful Days presence, for which we thank her wholeheartedly. The recent interruption to internet services experienced by much of the village also hit the shop. Thanks to the technical wizardry of Chris Jervis, our treasurer, our card terminal was able to continue to take card payments using GPRS for nearly all of that period, with backup from the mobile terminals we use for festivals.

Neighbourhood Watch – *Andy May presented the following report*
Status of our scheme

This year little has changed. We have a one-to-one dialogue with all levels of the local policing team although it's clear the attention of the Ottery Rural team is focused on busier parts of their patch stretching from Cowley to Feniton. The scheme is still managed by Andy and Jan May with the help of local co-ordinators, and this year we have been in touch with:

- Police Crime Commissioners office (OPCC)
- D&C Rural affairs team
- D&C Ottery rural policing team

There have been no changes in ward boundaries but the co-ordinators for Larkbere have changed to Julia and Charlie Hutchings. Our page on the Parish Website is constantly updated. 12 events have been posted in the appeals section and emailed to the community. Links to relevant reporting sites, crime or policing related resources are regularly checked and updated. The Calendar is still used to publicise events, crime prevention advice and points of contact. TNHW still offers direct contact with households and businesses by email, in person, by phone or in writing.

Statistics

This year has seen a reduction in advice given and matters dealt with, and reported crime has remained extremely low whilst the number of "Neighbourhood Alerts" reviewed has gone up. Figures for 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024 (Figures in brackets show previous year).

- TNHW have dealt with 8 (16) incidents and made 3 (4) referrals to the police
- We have reviewed 247 (150) separate "Alert" notifications of which 10 (8) were passed on either to a select portion or all of those who have requested our enhanced service.
- Using the crime mapping service on www.police.uk for the calendar year over the last 7 years since 2017 in order the totals were 20, 20, 24, 18, 16, 8 and in 2023 there were 12 recorded crimes. The information is very general with no clear pattern but notably on this occasion, no crimes were recorded in the first and last 3 months of the year. The mapping does provide rough location information and unusually all the recorded crime was in the area between Riverwood Glamping and Escot. By comparison for Cranbrook in 2023 just the monthly figure varied between 17 and 41, and in the small London ward of North Walworth just under 1 km² (Talaton is 9.6 km²)

the monthly figure varied between 257 and 419, or more than our annual total each day. Our parish remains exceptionally low crime by both local and national standards.

Councillor advocate scheme

TNHW have performed this role for the Parish Council since 2017, forming a link with the Office of Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC). TNHW attended 1 seminar for councillor advocates covering topics such as the relaunch of the victim care web site (see link on our web page), a presentation from a drug and alcohol charity and a presentation on the priorities of the Police Crime Commissioner. TNHW have concluded that continued membership has potential benefits for this community, giving us early warning of changes in policing that may affect us. We will continue to attend select events that appear to have a relevance to Talaton, remain on the mailing list of the OPCC and will pass on information to the Parish Council where needed.

Talaton Parish Hall Managers Committee – Alan Franklin presented the following report

After many years in the role Phil Deacon has stepped down as Bookings Secretary and we thank him for all the work he has done in this role. Tanya Jones has taken over the role with assistance from Kat Blockley. Lyndsey Trimmer has now left the committee after many years service and again we thank her for the work she has done. Joining the committee are ROBOTS representative Andy Bratt and Knit and Natter representative Jo Spencer. Sadly the Parish Council is no longer represented as they were advised that there would be conflict of interest issues if they attended. Since the last APM the Hall Committee have organised the How D'Ya Do, a quiz, the Open Gardens teas and a very successful cream tea concert with Jim Causley. More concerts are planned for later in the year. The Hall has recently started running a coffee morning every Tuesday from 10 to 12:30. Attendance at the first 2 has been very good and they will be continuing for as long as there is sufficient interest and volunteers to run them. The Hall has also been the venue for 2 very successful Community Theatre 4 All productions plus events run by FORCE and TRIP and the recent Scott Doonican concert. In addition there are regular Keep Fit classes, the Produce Show and speaker meetings run by the Garden & Produce Association, Parish Council Meetings plus a number of private events. The Committee were pleased to be able to help the Coronation celebrations and the Village BBQ with the loan of gazebos, tables and chairs. The committee has spent time in making sure that we are up to date with various items under the Health and Safety heading. Not very exciting but important all the same as the trustees could find themselves legally responsible in the event of an accident. We are now up to date with our electrical safety testing following EICR and PAT tests. An emergency light has recently been fitted over the fire exit door in the Committee Room and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed. We are now doing a thorough equipment and safety check every month which has resulted in the finding of several issues including 2 emergency exit lights that didn't work. All the issues have been rectified. The Secretary recently attended three 4 hour training sessions via ZOOM and laid on by Devon Communities Together. A lot was learnt including the responsibilities of the trustees, the policies we should have in place, grants that are available plus ideas from other halls in Devon as to events and activities that they run. We are currently in the final stages of obtaining quotes to redecorate the hall, kitchen, committee room, foyer and toilets. It is likely that work will start in the next couple of months. We would like to thank the ROBOTS for providing a workforce recently to clear the paths around the hall and for other work that they have done for us throughout the year. Also to be thanked are Andy and Janet May for putting up the external Christmas Lights. We all continue to manage the Hall for the benefit of the Village and are always open to suggestions as to events that you would like to see in the Hall. We would really welcome more volunteers to help organise and run events.

Community Theatre 4All – Tom Samsom presented the following report

2023/24 has been another very full and successful year for Community Theatre 4All. The membership continues to be drawn primarily from the villages of Talaton and Whimble. There are two highly active groups, the adult group which is open to all from the age of 14 upwards, irrespective of previous experience and a youth group which is open to children between school years 4 and 9. Membership of the youth group, known as Young Community Theatre 4All, is drawn from the following schools, Payhembury and Whimble primary schools, and Kings and Clyst Vale secondary schools and in addition Colliton Grammar school. The youth group currently has a membership of 16. So far this year two productions have taken place and a third is currently in rehearsal. In November the adult group, directed by Mike Gray, put on a double bill of one act plays under the umbrella title of "Gentle Comedy of a Bygone Era". These plays were "The Bear" by Anton Chekhov and "The Laboratory" by David Campton. Both plays, in different ways took a light hearted and comical look at the relationships that can develop between men and women. This production played

three sell out performances, drawing much laughter and appreciation from the audiences. Due to our ticket sales exceeding our projections the company, in addition to the usual hall hire charges that are paid, was able to make an additional donation to Talaton Parish Hall funds. In March the youth group gave three performances of "The Little Prince" adapted, written and directed by Tom Samson from the classic children's book of the same name written by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry. This was a highly successful production that really stretched all the children but especially the older ones who had particularly large parts to learn. This production was supported in various ways by a total of eight members of the adult group. The support ranged from set making (to include the wing, propeller and cockpit of an airplane sticking out of the scenery) set painting, costume creation and the running of a highly complex technical lighting, sound and projection plot. In the last few years the company has invested in much new, state of the art digital lighting and most recently in the purchase of a state-of-the-art lighting control console. This equipment was put to very good use during this production enabling effects to be created that would, before have not been possible. "Toad of Toad Hall" ,the third production of the season, is currently in rehearsal and, for the first time since "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" brings both the adult and youth groups together in one production. "Toad of Toad Hall" was due to perform in the grounds of Rull House Whimble in mid-May but, due to the current state of the performance area and the car parking field adjacent, this production has now been rescheduled to the 25th, 26th and 27th July and tickets will go on sale on the 15th June. It is hoped that the four performances will draw audiences from some distance, beyond our normal geographical catchment, possibly even picking up on the start of the summer holiday season, enabling us to reach our capacity of an audience of 150 per performance. We hope to achieve audiences of this size to enable us to reach our aim of covering our costs and raising good funds to donate to the Whimble Victory Hall for their extension fund raising project. Plans are now well underway for next year's productions.

6. Public Forum

Questions were raised about Voneus in relation to the broadband cabling installed across the Moor. The Chair and the Clerk provided an update. An update on the solar farm in the vicinity was sought but no information was currently available. It was suggested that `Talaton Talk` be included on the list of village organisations to attend next year's Annual Parish Meeting

7. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at: 8.55pm

Date and time of next meeting: To be arranged between 1 March and 1 June 2025

SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR	
DATE OF SIGNATURE	