

## CLERK REPORT FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

27<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### TOWN CLERK

- **Streetlights are now back on in Market Street & Church Street**
- **Attended the Council's Holistic Parking Working Group; now the Transport Committee, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October with DCC and SHDC** to discuss parking across Salcombe, with a view of hopefully finding a way forward to solve some of the parking issues visitors, businesses and residents are faced with.
- **SHDC will be offering free parking** in their carparks in Salcombe on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024.**
- The Council welcomed the crew of **HMS Magpie to the Remembrance Parade**
- **Cliff House Offices** - draft lease reviewed with Cllr Jasper Evans and sent with comments to Council's solicitors
- I was honoured to be invited and attend **Salcombe Maritime Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- **Ivy on the Cliff House Gardens' walls** have been cleared by SHDC
- **Proposal of transfer of land at The Berry from SHDC to STC:** request received from SHDC for STC to postpone the public consultation meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, which was approved at October's TC meeting, to give them time to liaise with their lawyers.
- **SHDC proposal to increase carparking charges** with a reduction for residents: attended a Mayors & Clerks meeting called by SHDC to discuss their proposals. It is very clear that SHDC are continuing with their desire to work collaboratively with the towns and in effect the residents and businesses. There is no doubt that the parking fees need to be increased, but the differential part of the proposal is to support residents of SHDC in light of the cost of living. Discussion will take place at an Executive meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December followed by a public consultation.
- **Casual Vacancy** advert has been posted, with a deadline of 4<sup>th</sup> December for electorate to call an election; otherwise, Council will advertise the vacancy and fill via its Co-option Policy.
- Contractors have commenced **repairs** to various areas of the **sea wall at North Sands, with South Sands to follow.**
- **WEEKEND PUBLIC NUISANCE OFFICER** - Council resolved at July's Town Council meeting to not necessary to hire a weekend public nuisance officer but to signpost on social media and website should any member of the public wish to act regarding anti-social behaviour. Was to be reviewed at September's Town Council meeting; have referred this to the Community Working Group to review and bring to Council for a decision.
- **RUBBISH IN TOWN** - Council considered employing a street cleaner for July-September 2025 and resolved at July's Town Council meeting to postpone a decision until October, after the busy summer months. Have referred this to the Community Working Group to review and bring to Council for a decision.
- **DCC** have advised that they will schedule works on the **blocked gullies on Devon Road and top of Baptist Lane** with the hope that this will prevent water flowing into **Courtenay Park.**
- Alongside Cllrs Bricknell and Sims-Stirling (both members of the Council's Community Working Group) I met with **Susannah Hunter (Community Development Manager)** and **Neil Hawke (Assistant Director Strategy and Organisational Development)** from SHDC to discuss **SHDC's Community Development Project** – very much about working together with town and parish councils for the benefit of the residents in terms of support, funding and creating community support within the towns/parishes.
- Instructed SCC Plymouth to carry out the **valuation of the Council Hall and rent review** (Oct 2024 TC meeting resolution)
- Concerns were raised by a resident regarding the **weeds and moss on Robinson's Row** last month. Unfortunately, this is still an issue; office is liaising with SHDC – we are aware there have been internal changes with SHDC so could have got caught up in the change in departments' responsibilities.
- Attended the **Civic Reception**

### PROJECT OFFICER'S ACTIVITY

- **Daily** – Email, admin and general office tasks.
- **Weekly** – Check Mortuary Building & Jubilee Gardens Playground & record

- **Liaising with Grounds Maintenance Team** – As necessary to progress issues. Met with Vic Thomas and Sam Bamforth, as Vic is leaving SHDC at the end of November and Sam will be taking over the Chargehand role.
- **Cemetery Activity** –Burial Cert enquiry. 2x new grave purchase & interment. Monument tablet add inscription install. Plot purchase, interment & monument install.
- **Hawk Programme 2025** – Liaised with Chris Wood and interested parties. Chris recommends same programme as 2024 with 4% increase to cover his increased costs.
- **Redfern Wood** – Replaced barriers and signage (X 2), as all removed by persons unknown.
- **Remembrance Day Signage** – Replaced signage at Beadon Cross, as original torn off by wind (I assume). Liaised with Cllr Niven to relocate signs as heavy rubber sign at lower town was better suited to winds at Beadon Cross. Road closure executed without issue at both ends by me and Town Clerk. All signs and rock salt bags recovered to Bonfire Hill cemetery shed or to Regatta Committee for them to store.
- **Krystal Hosting** – Reviewed & updated login details to allow login to Client Area and cpanel. Investigated Calendar & Contacts issue, but not relevant to STC.
- **Trailer @ Park & Ride** – Unmarked trailer still on site (20/11). No way to identify ownership. Sign posted asking owner to remove – no response to date. Tozers advise STC has power to remove. SHDC can't assist, as no ID on trailer. No facilities at the time to remove or immobilise. Process and capacity to remove to be set for next season.



- **Quotes for Tree Work** – Site visit with Jon Pittman at Shadycombe & Bonfire Hill Cemeteries. Liaised with all service providers who tendered. All quotes forwarded to Councillors to review and for them to produce proposal for November full council meeting.
- **Scribe Cemetery System** – Council has resolved to move over to the Scribe system from the current Pear Technology system. India Greenwood at Scribe advised and process to onboard has begun. Documents, pictures and data files collated, and Scribe updated.
- **Rebuild Boundary Wall at Redfern Woods** – Revisited with stonemasons and 3x quotes now received and forwarded to Maintenance & Property Working Group for a decision. Resident has been advised of the current situation.
- **Quotes for P&R Field Refurb** – Property & Maintenance WG updated with reference info received on Devon Woodman along with insurance docs and delivery timescales. Forwarded to Councillors to review and for them to produce proposal for November full council meeting.
- **STC Estate Tree Surveys** – Liaising with Devon Tree Services (DTS) to implement the comprehensive 3-year management plan for STC Estate. Agreed date for survey of 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November with a brief meeting at 09:00 on 27<sup>th</sup> at The Berry to answer any questions the consultant might have.
- **Footpath 42 Temp Closure** - Liaised with Ros Davies @ DCC Public Rights of Way to arrange temporary closure of footpath to allow tree surgeons to fell defective trees safely.
- **Drain at the junction of Knowle Road and Onslow Road** - Causing water to flow over the drain into Knowle Road and the first point of escape is onto resident's drive, which has an incline, and into their car port. Although partially blocked this would not meet DCC's criteria as a defect, hence they wouldn't do anything about it. I cleared the drain with a garden hoe, as per the attached pictures.



- **Mortuary Building Roof** – Since the repair the stain in the ceiling caused by water incursion has been drying out. There has been little to no rain over that period, so expectation was that it would dry out. However, there has been some rain over the last week and in the morning, I checked the building; the ceiling was completely dry with no staining to the plaster as per the attached pictures.



- **Replacement Chain Guards Jubilee Playground** – Liaising with service providers able to supply chain covers for the swing basket at Jubilee Gardens Playground. Covers are in a very bad state and replacement have been received. Looking to replace sleeves at the first opportunity.



- **Office Map** – Working with local company to get an A1 laminated map for the office that can be written on to allocate outstanding reports/problems/etc. Further this can be used to highlight specific areas permanently to add information the whole team can have easy view of.
- **Plastic Benches** – Reviewing Ex-Cllr Milton's work to date on replacement benches with a view to get a proposition to Council.
- **Jubilee Garden Dogwood Cut** – Contacted by Cllr Long early on 27/11 that most of the dogwood at Jubilee Garden has been cut back to ground level. Cllr Long was concerned, as he is not only the Salcombe Tree Warden, but also advises STC on gardening practices/timescales, specifically around the dogwood and ornamental grasses at Jubilee and the bank over the rise on Main Road, opposite St Stephen's Green, and had specifically asked that the dogwood should be maintained until March 2025 to provide colour to the area through

the winter. Have contacted SHDC Gardening & Maintenance team (who STC contract to carry out STC's gardening & maintenance) immediately to get them to stop until I was able to go to site and assess the situation. Having been to site I have advised that no more cutting should take place. The beds should now be weeded by SHDC to improve the look of the area, as it is currently looking very untidy.



## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICER's ACTIVITY

- Updating of Planning agenda compilation
- Minutes
- Log Matters Arising from Minutes
- Daily - office administration – Town Clerk email inbox
- Reporting and Monitoring of 'reported issues' on SHDC / DCC portals
  - Overgrown hedges - Graffiti on bins
  - Land registry of land under DCC's remit for maintenance works
- Coordination of Civic Reception invitees
- A-Boards; letters to DCC advising of STC's policy on A-Boards
- PAT testing for Cliff House lease agreement
- Researching/locating sign writers for Mayoral boards

## Friends of the Dart October Newsletter

- **The Environment Agency Has Ceased Testing For 2024**  
*The Environment Agency has now stopped testing bathing water sites in the River Dart until May 2025. Friends of the Dart has committed to year-round water testing, identifying problem spots, and advocating for lasting change. This testing will be funded by our Crowdfunder.*
- **Crowdfunder Stretch Target**  
*Our 'Stop Sewage in the Dart' Crowdfunder has received enormous support, which led to our decision to stretch the target to £60,000. We received significant donations from local businesses, including Rockfish, who donated £5000. The Crowdfunder has raised £55,000 so far. This would have been impossible without the huge support of the Devon Environment Foundation who have contributed £15,000.*

## SHDC Newsletters:

### "Working Together to Clean Up Our Waters"

In a collaborative effort to address water and air pollution, South Hams District Council is partnering with marine businesses, harbour authorities, and environmental experts to promote cleaner, electric-powered marine technology across the South Hams area. An electric propulsion workshop held on October 18<sup>th</sup> showcased the Council's commitment to transitioning from fossil fuels to electric power, featuring discussions on projects such as Salcombe Harbour Authority's plans to electrify its fleet, including an electric water taxi trial.

Additionally, the Council is expanding initiatives to reduce pollution, like scaling up boat recycling efforts and addressing abandoned vessels. It has also partnered with the Royal Yachting Association and The Carbon Trust to gauge community perspectives on electric propulsion and create a toolkit to assess carbon emissions for boat users. Cllr John McKay highlighted the importance of these collective efforts to preserve local waterways for future generations.

### Resident parking discounts on the horizon in South Hams

South Hams District Council is set to discuss a new discounted residents' parking scheme on November 21, 2024. The proposal aims to balance rising service costs with affordability for locals, following four years of frozen parking prices. Residents who join the scheme would benefit from reduced rates in council-owned car parks. Despite planned price increases, parking charges will remain lower than in similar tourist areas in Devon and Cornwall.

The Council consulted local town councils to ensure the changes reflect community feedback, emphasizing that visitors shouldn't bear the entire cost increase. The initiative seeks to fairly distribute the financial burden while keeping rates competitive and supporting both residents and the local economy.

## Police Newsletters

### Road Safety Week of Action in Devon & Cornwall

- During National Road Safety Week (November 17–23), Devon & Cornwall will see enhanced road safety operations, education, and engagement efforts led by the Vision Zero South West Road Safety Partnership. Key focuses include addressing speed, tyre safety, distracted driving, and the “Fatal Five” causes of collisions. Emergency services will deliver the **Learn2Live** program in schools and colleges to educate young drivers.
  - **Targeted Enforcement:** Police will deploy Speed Detection Officers and use AI cameras to monitor compliance with seatbelt and distracted driving laws. Community Speedwatch volunteers will assist in monitoring speed in local areas.
  - **Commercial Vehicle Safety:** Checks will ensure vehicles meet safety standards to prevent workplace-related road incidents.
  - **Educational Initiatives:** Social media campaigns and new projects aim to improve road safety awareness, supporting the goal to reduce road deaths and serious injuries by 50% by 2030, with an eventual target of zero.

### Police support national knife crime campaign

Devon & Cornwall Police participated in the national 'Sceptre' campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of carrying knives, the prevalence of knife-related crime, and police efforts to address it. Detective Inspector Kevin Morley emphasized that while knife crime in the region is low, even one person carrying a knife is too many. The police work year-round with partners to prevent young people from accessing knives and promote community safety. The message reinforces that carrying a knife does not make individuals safer.