

Sydenham Damerel Parish Council

Annual Parish meeting

Held at St Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel

Thursday 21st April 2022

Minute No 105

Meeting opened 7.02pm

Present: Cllrs N. Furse & N. Pratten, Cllr N. Jory (WDBC), P van Delft (Clerk)

1. The clerk welcomed all those present
2. Parishioner's open forum – 18 members were present.
A parishioner asked for a chair to be called for the meeting, the floor voted for that same parishioner. The chair asked those in attendance if they had seen an advertisement promoting the meetings venue and items for discussion. The chair then proceeded to elaborate on the issues raised from the advertisement.
3. Cllr Neil Jory of West Devon Borough Council was invited to the floor by the chair.
'The way forward' Cllr Jory researched into the subject of the various main options of community governance available to the parish.
 - a. The existing Parish Council to continue.
 - b. A change to become a member of a neighbouring grouped parish such as Milton Abbot. The merits of becoming a grouped member were; the Parish would still continue to have all the benefits of the existing Parish Council but would not require as many councillors to represent the parish.
 - c. A change to a Meetings only parish – this is as the name suggests is a Meetings only council, this does not have all the benefits of a and b however the costs of managing the Meetings only council would be less than a and b. Cllr Jory mentioned that from 2006 only 4 out of 8 petitions for Parish councils changing to Meetings only councils in the country had been approved, the nearest other Meeting only councils in Devon is Kelly. WDBC would hold the assets as trustee of Meetings only council

Cllr Jory proceeded to elaborate on the process to instigate a change of community governance. A petition for a change of community governance would need to be signed by 37.5% of the parish electorate. Should a successful petition be presented, a review of existing arrangements would take place followed by the gathering of information including neighbouring council's thoughts and wishes.

The chair thanked Cllr Jory for providing the information and then opened the floor to questions. A motion to propose for a petition to change from a Parish Council to an alternative body of community governance was tabled, 15 members supported the motion, two members abstained.

The chair stood down. The clerk was then asked various questions including what the cost of the existing parish council was per household. In response the clerk informed that each household would pay £0.45 per week for a band D property an increase from £0.29. The clerk thanked Cllr Jory for his informed talk.

The meeting closed 8.08pm

Parish Councillors

Nicky Furse, Nicky Pratten, Richard Windemer

Parish clerk: Peter van Delft Telephone: 01566 783023 Email: sydenhamdamerelpc.clerk@gmail.com

Portgate Chapel, Portgate, Lewdown, Okehampton, EX20 4PZ [www. Sydenhamdamerel.org.uk](http://www.Sydenhamdamerel.org.uk)