

## ARLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Arlington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at The Sawmill, Arlington Court at 7:30pm.

**34. Present:**

Cllrs L House (Chair), A Deaks, S Hill, I Gates, J Mann and J Tucker.

**In attendance:**

Mrs A Davis (DCC),

**35. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Mr T Squire (Parish Clerk).

**36. Public Open Session**

None.

**37. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Deakes re Item 45 Planning for replacement doors at Arlington Court

**38. Approval of Minutes of the meetings held on 9 July 2024**

Not all Councillors had had a copy so signing was put back to next meeting

**39. Matters Arising from the last meeting**

None.

**40. Highways**

Cllr Tucker advised that a gate on footpath no 10 had been locked, this has been reported online to DCC

Cllr Deakes informed the meeting that from January 13<sup>th</sup> for 2 weeks, the A39 would be closed for Ash Die Back work, from North Wooley Lodge to Brockham bridge. Cllr Davis (DCC) had not heard of this and would check if it was completely closed or only at certain times.

**41. Co-option of Parish Councillor**

Cllr Carder has resigned so there is now a vacancy

**42. Bench**

Clerk to please contact supplier to get full quote for submission to Sweetings Charity.

**43. New Warning Signs**

It was decided to monitor the situation and see if any accidents occur.

**44. Community Defibrillator**

Cllr Deakes reported that the cost would be approx £1200 and we can obtain £750 from Government Grant, she will contact Sweetings Charity for Match Funding. It was decided that the best site was the Arlington Court Car Park. A meeting will be held between Councillors and the Electrician to arrange, and help with the installation. Once installed it will need checking every 3 days and Cllr Deakes offered to do this. Training will be arranged after installation. It was noted that there will be some ongoing maintenance costs.

**45. Planning Application**

78974 Listed Building consent for replacement of several internal doors. Arlington Court Arlington

It was pointed out that some of the doors to be replaced are original ones. Cllr Mann had been making enquiries from Heritage England, and they have suggested that the National Trust should look into other options. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council should submit the following response

*At the meeting of Arlington Parish Council on 12 November 2024, Application 78974 by the National Trust for Listed Building Consent for works at Arlington Court was discussed. These works relate to replacement of 7 doors of varying ages for modern fire doors.*

*Historic England have reported on the proposal in a letter to yourselves dated 21 October 2024.*

*They have strong concerns regarding the application on heritage grounds and recommend that the application is not determined until further information has been provided and a proper assessment of available options has been made.*

*The Parish Council consider that they need to object to the application until the options appraisal and other information is provided and until a further response from Historic England is made available.*

**46. Correspondence**

None.

**47. Reports**

**1. County Councillor**

This was sent to all Councillors, see attached  
Councillor Davis reminded the Council that we need to appoint a Snow Warden and order Grit

**2. District Councillor**

None. District Councillor not present.

**48. Finance**

**1. To Agree Budget and Set Precept for 2025/2026**

The draft budget circulated to councillors Budget was agreed, Proposed Cllr House, Seconded Cllr Tucker  
All present in favour

It was agreed that in future a Reserve Fund should be included for Maintenance of Equipment

Precept: an increase of 2% from £1450 to 1480 was proposed by Cllr Mann and Seconded by Cllr House.  
All present in favour.

**2. Payments**

HMRC (Sept)	£17.20	Cheque No. 337
Clerk's salary & expenses (Sept)	£72.65	Cheque No. 339
HMRC (Nov)	£17.20	Cheque No. 340
Clerk's Salary (Nov)	£68.90	Cheque No. 341

The four accounts were agreed for payment.

**49. Matters Raised by the Councillors.**

None.

**50. Items for consideration for the next Agenda**

None.

**51. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

# Arlington Parish Council County Councillors report November 2024

## Bus Fare increase and Concessionary Bus Passes

Unfortunately, in the budget the bus fare cap was raised from £2 to £3 in December, this is very disappointing as I admit I was expecting £2.50. rural residents like ourselves are disproportionately affected by the rise as it is a cap and many urban areas the fare would be below £3 anyway.

*If anyone wants to apply for a concessionary bus pass if you are over the statutory retirement age in addition bus passes are also available to people with certain disabilities. If you are applying for a bus pass based on disability (and you are not eligible for a pass based on your age) the link is; [Apply for a bus pass - Travel Devon](#)*

*To complete a paper application, you can [download a bus pass application form here](#). To have the form posted to you please call [01392 383688](tel:01392383688) or [01271 383688](tel:01271383688) or email at [nationalbuspass@devon.gov.uk](mailto:nationalbuspass@devon.gov.uk).*

To plan your journey the interactive bus map is very helpful;

Devons interactive bus map: <https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/interactive-bus-map/>

Link for service updates from Stagecoach SW; [North Devon Bus Service Updates - Are North Devon Buses Running Today? | Stagecoach](#)

## Highway Repairs

A3123 between BerryDown and Lynton Cross the new drainage scheme is now installed at Stapleton Farm. Ash dieback works on A39 Parracombe by pass November 25<sup>th</sup> to November 28<sup>th</sup> 8pm-6am the road will be fully closed.

**More repairs will be coming in the area, we can expect to see a lot of patching and resurfacing as well as more drainage works in the coming months. Hopefully this winter will not be as wet as winter 23-24.**

## Colder Weather and travelling.

Colder weather is forecast for later this week.

Last winter's biggest issue was the prolonged wet spell which caused extensive damage to Devon's highway network. This led to a 31% increase in pothole repairs between January and April, compared to 2023, and 94% more than the same period in 2022.

However, in terms of dealing with icy conditions, last winter was relatively quiet, with Devon County Council's gritting teams only using around 6,200 tonnes of salt – which was less than half the amount used the previous winter.

Devon's Network Operations Control Centre in Exeter uses CCTV, weather information, traffic and congestion data to monitor Devon's road network 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

As part of the ongoing upgrade of Devon's fleet of 37 frontline gritters, another six gritters have been replaced with newer models ahead of this winter. These replacement vehicles include touchscreen controls to enable drivers to adjust their plough attachments without leaving their cab.

To support active travel, around 14 miles of Exeter's busiest cycle routes will continue to be treated this winter. It follows a successful trial over the last two years of the "Powerflex" vehicle which is small enough to travel on shared use paths in the city.

Around 24,000 tonnes of salt are stored in gritting depots across the county at the start of the season.

There are also more than 3,500 grit bins located across Devon to support community self-help on roads which are not on the gritting network. These supplies must only be used on the public highway. At this time of year, local communities are encouraged to check grit bins in their area. Empty grit bins can be reported via [our "Report It" webpages](#).

More information and advice is available on our [winter travel webpages](#) or for updates on Twitter(X) follow [@DevonAlert](#) and [Facebook](#).

(note to self- reminder to ask about snow warden, grit etc)

## Household support funding available until the end of March 2025

**To help households that are struggling with the costs of energy, food, water and other essentials.**

Devon County Council will receive a share of the Household Support Fund, as we have each year since 2021. This allocation, like previous ones, is a little over £5 million.

The council are now agreeing how we will distribute the funding, working closely with Devon's eight District, City and Borough councils and voluntary and community partners.

**Citizens Advice Devon** will be one of the recipients to receive Household Support Funding, so that they can continue to support people who are struggling to meet their energy needs. Support comes in the shape of fuel voucher payments, and longer-term relief of fuel poverty through initiatives that help homes become more energy-efficient, and that help people stay warm at home – heated throw, body warmer or rechargeable hot water bottle, for example.

This latest round of Household Support Fund allows DCC to continue to provide **Free School Meal holiday vouchers** to families whose children are eligible for benefit-related free school meals during term time.

## The next Local Transport Plan is currently out for consultation

The full draft document of the plan is available to view on the Have Your Say webpage. The deadline for feedback to the online questionnaire is 11:59pm on Saturday 30 November.

The plan's vision is for well-integrated and accessible transport to facilitate sustainable growth, support net zero carbon targets by 2050 at the latest, improve travel choice and benefit people's health and wellbeing.

A number of priorities are proposed across all areas of Devon and Torbay, including enhancement of bus services and supporting transition to lower emission and zero emission buses, providing bus priority on key routes, improving the integration of rail and bus services, establishing a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging facilities, and expanding pedestrian and cycle networks. All of the proposals are subject to securing funding from a range of sources including Local Transport Plan, Government grants and developer contributions .

It is really helpful to hear what residents think about transport and how we get around and in and out of the County, if you have some time please take a look.

The DCC website is very useful for reporting highway problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. [Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

Alternatively, the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

Winter road updates; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/safe-travel/winter-travel/>

Travel Devon website; [home - Travel Devon](#)

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