

COUNCIL MEETING

22 February 2021

Public Questions

Member of Public (1)

Question 1.

I would like to ask a question regarding planning enforcement or more to the point lack of enforcement, it appears at the moment that abuse of the Planning regulations and operating without planning permission is being overlooked or given a very low priority. Some cases involve major issues such as road safety, pollution, flooding, the environment etc, and are not being looked at for months and in some cases years.

As this is a dangerous situation to be in could you please give me some idea what time schedule the public can expect from reporting an incident to action being taken by the enforcement officer.

I fully understand that Covid makes some jobs very difficult to carry out but in this instance when most cases are outside a site visit can be carried out with social distancing and in safety.

Reponses from Executive Member for Planning

At <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning/enforcement/making-an-enforcement-complaint/> - there are pdf documents under 'related links' which set out the enforcement process and procedure.

Question 2.

I see on the Teignbridge District Council website that the TDC constitution has been revised, could you tell me why this was done and what consultation was carried out before the implementation.

Response from the Chair of Council

This was done in accordance with the resolution of Full Council September 2019. <https://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=165&MId=1506&Ver=4>. The report together with the recommendations was published on the Council website five working days before that meeting (in line with legislation) to allow the public and members to read the documents and to submit questions. None were received on this report.

Member of Public (2)

Question 1.

With last year's illegal alteration of the precept, which has set a precedent for Dunchideock, would it not be sensible to cancel the DPC precept demand for £7,930 as DPC no longer has officers or members to legally administer and spend this public money as it does not have the external auditor's approval?

Response from Executive Member for Corporate Services

The precept for 21/22 was set at a public meeting. The parish council continues to exist and so the precept is lawfully due. Future meetings will determine replacement of officers and members. No external audit approval is necessary.

Question 2.

DPC might not be resurrected in May 2023 if nobody stands for the council seats. If so what happens to this frozen public money?

Response from Executive Member for Corporate Services

The Parish Council remains a legal entity issues relating to its assets are for the Parish Council to determine.

Question 3.

Next year DPC will not issue a precept demand so what will TDC do then?

Response from Executive Member for Corporate Services

The Parish Council remains a legal entity and as such may issue a precept demand

Member of Public (3)

Question 1

Item 7. The Parish Clerk and all Councillors of my Dunchideock Parish Council have allegedly resigned. I say "allegedly" since part V clause 84 of the Local Government Act 1972 puts legal doubt as to whether the Chairman could have resigned independently of a meeting, a question I have asked on 7 February of your Monitoring Officer – reply awaited. The TDC Electoral Services Manager advises that as things currently stand, the vacant seats on the Parish Council may be filled by election at the next ordinary elections in May 2023.

Why then is TDC imposing on we residents that we pay part of our Council Tax to Dunchideock Parish Council to enable TDC to fund the Parish Council precept of £7,930 in 2021/22, none of which can be operated or spent?

Response from Executive Member for Corporate Services

The precept was duly authorised at a public meeting and communicated to us. The parish council still exists as a legal entity and we must honour the precept demand placed upon us. The Parish has the opportunity to replace the staff and continue to operate the council and deliver the services voted on as part of its precept setting.

Question 2

Agenda Item 12. Members Allowances; Independent Remuneration Panel's (IRP) recommendations regarding Members Allowances 2021/22 and Table page 113. The proposed SRA's 10.7% (£14,068) increase is an amazing proposition in these financially constrained times and the IRP recommendations, even at a 5.5% increase, is surprising. Cannot not Members realise their predicament and decline such substantial increases for 2021/22?

Response from Executive Member from Corporate Services

These are recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Council to consider. Members can also choose on an individual basis whether to accept all or part of their allowance.

Question 3

Item 16 – Notices of Motion - Standards Committee process changes, presented by Cllr. Eden. As the Secretary of the Teignbridge Association of Teignbridge Councils (TALC), I see it as disappointing that TALC has not been consulted regarding this motion, one that is integral to the standards that govern its members. Why was TALC ignored in this process?

Response from the Leader

This Notice of Motion will be debated later in the meeting. Your question should be directed to the Councillor concerned outside of this meeting.