

SOUTH POOL PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 7th April, 2025 in The Church Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Present – Cllrs. P. Clee, T. Hirst, H. Wareham, P. Wotton and J. Milne in the chair. Cllr. J. Brazil, 5 Members of Public, Rod Birtles and Mike Shopland.

1. Apologies – Cllr. P. Evans and Cllr. D. Lovett.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduce Rod Birtles and Mike Shopland to everyone, our two Speakers for the evening.

2. Rod Birtles was from Devon Communities Together; he addressed the meeting on Emergency Plan. Rod explained to those present how a plan is put together and how it works. He stressed how important it is to involve the whole community. He explained the new way forward for small communities such as South Pool is to form a Community Hub. These work by having a designated place such as The Hall for people to gather at who have specific roles in the plan in cases of emergency. It is important to have a “Tool Box” with all relevant information for an emergency to be held at this place. General information can be on line but it is important not to make personal information available to the public. A full version can be held on a private website for emergency workers only. Chairman asked Rod to forward details of our Emergency Plan which have yet to be completed. He then thanked Rod for his informative talk.

Mike Shopland – addressed the meeting on Composting, He explained how he is starting a composting business in a field he owns, while this is not Community Composting it does involve the community and if at any time land for Community Composting became available, he would be willing to run it for us. He plans to make a collection of garden waste from parishioners, only within the village, free of cost and compost the waste at his field at Ford for his own use. It was suggested by a parishioner that the collection would probably work best on the alternative week to SHDC brown bin collection. Mike intends to start his collections next month; he has left his email address with The Clerk. If any parishioner would like Mike’s email please contact The Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Mike for his interesting talk.

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3. Cllr. Brazil's Report – Council Tax and Car Parking charges have both increased for the coming year, there is a resident's reduction for car parking available by request. Kingsbridge Fore Street parking charges have increased and changed from long stay to short stay, at the request of the Town Council. SHDC have planted a large number of trees at the new community woodland, Hope Wood, South Brent, intending to plant more trees when land is available. He reported the waste collections have improved over the last year since the management has been taken back by SHDC.

Devolution – Unitary Authority – Cllr. Brazil explained the process of forming the unitary and the progress so far.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Brazil for all the work he has carried out for us and his attendance at our meetings over the past year.

4. Chairman's Report - There have been 9 meetings this year. No Planning meetings. Planning Applications – 9, 7 of which were for building, extensions etc.; and 2 for Trees, 1 application was withdrawn and all other applications were approved. 2 applications were outside our parish, both still under consultation.

Projects – Stepping stone to Pontoon clean-up is still ongoing. The Kayak left beside the road at the pontoon was removed by SHDC.

Potholes – a recent discussion was held, if this could be a project for the Parish Council but the Highways own the roads and parish councils can only be involved in pothole repairs after joining The Road Warden Scheme, then training and before any action can begin permission has to be given by Highways.

Local Council's re-organization – Cllr. Brazil has covered in his report. Cllr. Milne and Cllr. Wotton had attended a meeting with SHDC on this matter.

October – Peter Sandover gave a presentation for South Devon National Landscape Partners (AONB).

November – Sean Manzi retired from the Parish Council and moved from the area; in February we welcomed Hugo Wareham to the PC.

The Chairman thanked all the Councillors for their support and work over the year, he also thanked the Clerk for her work and support and the parishioners for their support.

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5. Finance/Clerk's Report - The Clerk thanked the Chairman for all the hard work he has carried out over the past year on behalf of the parish and his support to the clerk.

Balances of accounts on 31.03.25 –

Current Acc. – £346.85. Deposit Acc.-£ 17680.21 - £18,027.06.

Bank service charges commenced on March 4, these will be made each month. £4.75.

The Parish council has received a thank you from The Coleridge Bus for the donation of £200.00. The bus is looking for new drivers, if you would like to volunteer, please contact The Coleridge Bus.

6. Public Participation – A parishioner asked if there were going to be any VE Day celebrations - The only celebrations known in the parish is the ringing of the church bells on the day. There are celebrations to be held in Kingsbridge.

Councillors Meeting –

1. Finance/Audit – The accounts are ready for the Internal Audit, the Councillors agreed Linda Wotton to be the Internal Auditor again this year. It was proposed by Cllr. Hirst, Seconded by Cllr. Milne to sign the AGAR form claiming exemption from full audit, passed unanimously.
Sign Cheque – Devon Association of Local Councils - £116.97. – Subscription.

Date of the next meeting AGM – Monday 12th May 2025 at 6.30pm.

Chairman.