



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL

PARISH

MEETING

7.00 pm on Tuesday 19 April 2022

Bideford

Councillor David Ratcliff chairing

We have also been in a position to financially support the work by ACE Rail to reconnect Bideford to the mainline rail network. This is a very exciting project that will look at the level of environmental benefit there is to moving road traffic onto a rail line and reducing the needless and frustrating traffic bottlenecks that cost residents and planet alike. It is further hoped that works on reinstating any rail connection will also offer up the opportunity to improve flood defences and protect more of the Town from inundation from high tide waters when storm surges happen. Significantly, Bideford narrowly missed being flooded during Storm Eunice as the weather system arrived some two hours after high tide rather than the half an hour before predicted by the Met Office. So, while flood warnings had been issued for salt water flooding we were lucky enough for the storm to pass without any significant flooding to happen. It did however remind us of the urgency of improving the coastal defences around Bideford if we are to avoid losing some areas of housing to salt water flooding in the near future.