

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2018

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. There was an attendance of 4 Parish Councillors, 1 Parishioner and Devon County Council – Mr Rufus Gilbert.

This meeting was in place of the one that should have been held on Tuesday 2nd January, which was cancelled due to some members being unwell.

Open Forum: There were no topics for discussion this evening.

County Councillors Report: Mr R. Gilbert reported that there was a pot hole action fund of £45 million pounds. £1.75 million being allocated for Devon. The Highways Conference held at Rattery was well attended and informative. He has reported the stretch of road from Easton to Easton Cross as it is full of pot holes, he suggested that the Parish Council should report the stretch from Easton to Kingsbridge as this too is full of potholes and damage probably due to the amount of lorries travelling to and from the sewerage works. 25% of Doctors and 30% of Nurses are due to retire from the NHS in the next 4 years, so unless these positions are filled there will be a considerable shortfall in medical services. The water that was seeping out at Townsend Road is under control at the moment. However, the man hole cover is not a cast lid but a flimsy metal one, we should press DCH to get this changed as it could be considered dangerous.

District Councillors Report: The Government draught finance settlement for local authorities will be confirmed in February. The council tax cap has been raised from £1.99 to £2.99 or max of £5.00 per household. The police authority cap has been raised by £12 per household. There is to be no cap on Town or Parish Councils over the next 3 years. There is a Scrutiny meeting on Thursday, there is a budget gap of £345,000. Topic under discussion are to be public toilets and whether some should be closed or made into pay on entry. Fees and charges, playspace inspections, winter boat storage, planning fees are to be increased by 20%. In the years 2019/2020 the council will be expected to make estimated savings in the region of £600,000.

Police Report: There were two crimes reported in the last two months, one of criminal damage to property and a driving of a motor vehicle with excess alcohol

Declarations of Interests: There were none declared this evening.

Approve the Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed, copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to this evenings meeting.

Matters Arising:

- a. Village Hall Update: The scheduled works have been completed, although there are a few snagging problems to be sorted before the final invoice is paid. On the whole, we are very pleased with the alterations and look forward to doing more works in the future, funds permitting.
- b. Advertising for a new Clerk: The Clerk has had an enquiry from an lady who may be interested in taking on the role. We will follow up this enquiry and hopefully we will be successful in finding a replacement.
- c. Hedge trimming work party: This needs to be undertaken within the next few weeks we will follow this up at the next meeting and arrange a date to suit everyone.
- d. Noticeboard Update: The Clerk will bring all the information gathered to the next meeting.

Planning Applications and Updates: There were no updates to be given and there is one set of new plans to be distributed to the councillors.

Parish Representatives Verbal Updates: None given.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that he had been round and topped up all the grit bins in case they are needed. Mrs M. Kitt to ask the new owners at the pub if they need any supplies to keep there. The wall from the main road to Homefield has now been repaired and is safe again, and it looks really good.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:-

Lloyds Current account - 4024.41

Lloyds Savings account - 857.07

Parish Plan account - 499.98

Consider the 2017/18 Precept: The current precept was set last year at £4200, after due consideration it was agreed to increase the amount of the precept to £4370 an increase of £170. This extra will help towards the scheduled increase in the playground insurance and the increase in the car park charges at Towns Park. This increase was proposed by Mr G. Johns and seconded by Mrs A. Smith, with all in favour.

A.O.B by the direction of the Chairman: There was nothing further to discuss.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 7.00pm.

Signed Dated.....