

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd September 2011:

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 7 Parish Councillors. There were no Parishoners present.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs S. Howells.

Open Forum: There were no issues for discussion.

Planning Officers Report re: Gerston: Mr Richard Boyt from South Hams District Council Planning Dept. addressed the meeting regarding the revised application at Gerston Point for Mr S. Thomas. This gave the Councillors an opportunity to talk about the proposed plans in more depth and for the Officer to say what the Planning Dept. felt about the application and any future proposals they had to put to Mr Thomas before any final decision was made.

District Councillors Report; The Chairman reported that as a District Councillor August had been a relatively quiet month. New plans for snow wardens and groups have been implemented to keep the car parks open during adverse weather conditions. The major towns, but not all Parish car parks will have equipment out in the car parks and man power to organise the gritting etc;. Parking Enforcement Officers will liaise with shops to organise the keeping clear of the pavements etc; Budget proposals mean that £2.5 million has to be saved in the next 4 years. This is still in the consultation process. The Councils cannot just keep cutting they need to find ways to make money too. One example is the print room at Follaton House which is not used to its full potential, one idea was to perhaps hire this facility out to other Parishes etc, to generate some income. Mr A. Clarke suggested a Devon Lottery to raise money and the printing be done at Follaton House. The Chairman was unsure if this would be feasible. There are to be cuts at central government and the supply of housing aids etc, for the elderly are to be stopped. South Hams District Council currently receives 60% towards this. South Hams Council desperately wants to be able to continue providing this vital service, so the money will need to be found somewhere. There have been suggestions of a new homes tax and the money could be generated from there. On the South Hams District Council web site there are some questionnaires which are interesting and worth taking part in.

Declarations of Interest: This is a new item that will be added to the Agenda at every meeting from now on. Each Councillor will be asked to declare if they have any interests that need to be declared regarding any item on the Agenda, either an expression of interest or whether it could be prejudicial. One example from tonight's meeting was Ms Quinton's input on a planning application which involved her next door neighbour. She chose to declare an interest and did not cast a vote.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 21st July 2011

were confirmed and signed . Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the Meeting. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

Housing Needs Survey: We have had nothing back so far to date. Mr Horton said that he had not received a survey form and had requested one direct. He also knew of others that he thought had not received a survey form either, he will find out if they ever did receive one and let the Council know.

Street Lighting: It appears that the street lights will be going off despite our request not to. Mrs Kitt stated that it has infact already been implemented and that the lights go off at about 1am. 9000 lights will go part time across 44 communities. It is thought to be between the hours of 12.30 am and 5.30am. Mrs Kitt said that once they had been turned off they were not coming back on again, it was felt that once the clocks alter at the end of October the lights would be switched back on again at 5.30 am for safety reasons in the winter.

Playing Field Equipment: The Chairman recapped on the work that needs doing, it appears to be a bigger job than first thought so it would require a separate work party to clean under the matting, to weed the area, put in fresh baton around the edges and to put back safely. We would not have the time to do this on the Village clear up day. A date to be set for this work to commence.

Playing Field Gate: This has not yet been done. It was suggested that a small pedestrian gate be put in place beside the main gate, this would mean that the main gate could be kept shut and used when the grass needs cutting etc; Mr Clarke asked whether consideration could be given to a small gate being put behind the shed to save having to carry the trestle tables so far when they are required.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that the lines in the Town Park Car Park had been done after a request. It was done this time using ordinary paint rather than spray paint, it is hoped that it will last longer. The signs around the Village are looking very clean. There is still some gulley cleanng work to be done this will be undertaken by the Parish Lengthsman. Recently Western Power requested some spaces in the car park to put a generator for a day whilst they undertook some necessary maintenance on the sub-station, permission was sought from Tor Homes and the spaces were coned off and notices placed. This meant that the residents did not have to be without electricity for the day and Western Power could complete their work. The caravan that has been parked in Townsend Road for many years has now had an enforcement notice placed on it. Mrs Kitt reported that the owner has recently put the caravan up for sale. The Town Park Car Park has had a new gate post fitted as the combine working in the field drove into the existing one

Representatives Reports:

Coffee Mornings: Mrs Kitt reported that the coffee mornings were continuing as usual and that all was well. She went on to say that the Chairman had been made the offer of an electric mobility scooter, which he had accepted on behalf of the Parish, this can then be hired out should anyone wish to use it at the cost of £5.00 per week, half of this would then be given to charity. We will have to check our insurance policy to see if this in order.

Parish Fun Day: Mr Clarke reported that the committee had held a final meeting this evening and everything was in place for Saturday. It is hoped that in the region of £600 -£650 will be raised with a nett profit of around £500.

Best Kept Garden Competition: Ms Quinton is to give the clerk the names of the judges so that thank you letters can be written.

Work Party: Mr Palmer reported that a date for the work party has been arranged for the 15th October 2011 meeting at 9.00am.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB - current account	1652.00
Lloyds TSB - savings account	712.39
Lloyds TSB - parish plan account	739.29
Abbey National - P3 account	378.83

Cheques to be drawn

Village Hall	10:00
Expenses – stationary, coffee morning etc;	76.33

Items for consideration: It was suggested that the Clerk be authorised to issue cheques for any already approved amounts upto the value of £200. This means that anyone undertaking a job on our behalf will not have to wait until the next meeting until a cheque can be raised. All Councillors were in favour of this.

Damaged Laptop: The Clerk reported that she had had an accident with the laptop (tripped over the cable and it fell on the floor and damaged the screen). We are covered on our insurance policy for such events, the excess being £100. It was agreed that the Clerk should look into either claiming on the insurance policy for a new laptop or pricing for a new screen, this is in the region of £100.

Snow/Grit Preparations: It was suggested that we need another grit bin a Town Park

and another to be placed somewhere else in the Parish, site to be agreed. These could be financed possibly with Sir Simon Days Fund. We have also signed up to Devon County Councils Snow Warden Scheme whereby we will be allocated grit for the winter.

Frequency of Parish Council Meetings: The chairman suggested that we look at the frequency of our meetings, there have been suggestions in the past that we increase how many meetings we have per year. This does not mean necessarily monthly but perhaps every 6 weeks, but not in August or December. This has to be approved by the Clerk but it is something to think about and review at the next meeting.

Forthcoming Social Events:

Carol Singing Evening - The date for this event has been set for Friday 16th December.

Queens Diamond Jubilee - This is on Tuesday 5th June 2012. It was suggested that we consider ideas for an event. The chairman suggested a hog roast, with rolls etc, perhaps the ladies at the coffee club could help with puddings. Something simple to organise would be good so that everyone can enjoy the day. The Chairman who just happens to be our District Councillor could be able to provide us with some funding.

Work Party - This was discussed earlier.

Correspondence: We have received an email from South Milton Parish Council regarding the naming of the sands. Is it South Milton Sands or Thurleston Sands? It was agreed that as a Parish Council we do not need to get involved in this debate.

A.O.B. by direction of the Chairman: The chairman reported that the sites K1 & K5 are approaching the pre application stage. The group involved in this Pegasus wish to consult with all parties that would be affected by the proposals. These would include Kingsbridge Town Council Planning Committee, Devon County Council, South Hams District Council Ward Member, local residents of each area affected, Playspaces groups eg. Football, rugby clubs, etc; West Alvington is being invited to be involved with this and join forces. We can send two members along to the meeting to listen to the proposals. However, the Councillors that attend will need to go along with an open mind and not with preconceived ideas. Ms Quinton said she would be pleased to go along to the meeting with an open mind and listen to the discussion and report back to the Parish. Mr Palmer was also elected to go along to the meeting. All Councillors were in favour of this proposal and Ms Quinton and Mr Palmer were confirmed as the representatives for West Alvington.

Mrs Kitt reported that some of the parents at the school were concerned about the amount of dog mess around the village. It was agreed that we alert the dog warden. Mr Clarke questioned the works being carried out at Weston Farm, it appears to be an agricultural building with a slate roof being erected, have we seen any planning applications? It was suggested it could be being built under the 28 day notice scheme. The Chairman said he would look into this.

Ms Quinton raised concerns about lorries delivering building materials down to Longbrook. It could be an accident waiting to happen as they have been seen reversing back up the narrow road to the village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25pm. The date of the next meeting being confirmed as Thursday 17th November 2011 @ 7.30pm.

Signed..... Dated.....