

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 2nd October 2009:

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 8 Parish Councillors, 4 Parishoners, District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan, Sgt Jane Corkhill & PCSO Dave Gibson.

Apologies for absence: Mr D. Dainty.

Open Forum: Sgt . Corkhill introduced herself and PCSO Dave Gibson. She explained that they are able to help the Parish with any issues they may have. PCSO Gibson can deal with antisocial behaviour issues. It was asked if anything could be done about the caravan that continues to park on the road below the Village Hall. To date nothing could be done as it is not deemed to be causing an obstruction, Sgt Corkhill said she would look into this. PCSO Gibson has come to the area from Torquay and is keen to be involved with the community. He would like to try and set up surgerys either in the Village Hall or somewhere else suitable to discuss any issues members of the Parish may have. Mr A. Clarke asked if a neighbourhood watch could be set up in the Village, we used to have one but it was disbanded. PCSO Gibson will send some information to the Clerk. The question of the “boy racers” was discussed and the problems that they cause late at night driving at speed. Sgt Corkhill said that they seem to have the problem under control at present, they have even seized some vehicles, ticketed others and the Fire Brigade have used shock tactics showing films of the consequences of reckless driving. The Chairman asked whether on his travels, PCSO Gibson could periodically check on the Town Park Car Park which is not yet lit, there have been occasions when there have been “strange” goings on! Sgt Corkhill said that they would be again using the speed gun in the Village, involving the school children, the last time they used it positive results were achieved. The children interviewed the drivers that were speeding asking them a series of questions composed by themselves, the impact of the questions that were asked was extremeley positive.

The Chairman thanked them for attending the meeting and we look forward to working more closely with PCSO Gibson in the future.

District Councillor – Mrs D. O'Callaghan: Councillor O'Callaghan spoke of a letter from South Hams District Council regarding the review of play area maintenance. The Parish Council have received a copy of this letter and will take note of any relevant information. On the 13th October there will be a Parish Cluster Meeting, the Council will be sending a representative along. Councillor O'Callaghan has given us some information from CVS regarding possible funding for Village Hall maintainance, and applying for grants. Councillor O'Callaghan also has a small allowance of cash for use on worthy projects within her district, she has already allocated some of it but there is some should there be anything specific the Parish council requires.

She also highlighted a letter from Andy Smythe regarding the Church Wall repairs.

The Parish Council also have this letter.

She finished by thanking everyone involved in the Fun Day and commented that it was a very enjoyable event.

Minutes: The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 29th July 2009 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been supplied to each Councillor prior to the Meeting.

Matters Arising:

a. Street Light for the Town Park Car Park: The Chairman reported that Sir Simon Day has received the money from Devon County to give us for the payment of the new proposed light. A cheque for £2,400.00 should be with us by Monday. The Chairman asked if all the Councillors present would now be happy for the work to go ahead to position the light in the car park. Our share of the costs would now be £49.83! All in favour.

b. Main Road Parking: The Chairman reported that we still have a problem with cars turning right at Woodlane entrance. We have received a few letters of concern from residents. According to the Highway Code a junction is supposed to be kept clear 10m either side of it although this is not a legal requirement. However it is a legal obligation if parking within 10 metres of a junction to park with the flow of traffic and at night displaying side lights. The Chairman asked whether we should restrict the parking opposite to give the residents using the lane acceptable access. Mr D. Horton felt that we still have not achieved any restrictions and that there are always at least 18 or 19 cars still parked there and that the stretch of road where the cars are parked is still too great. Mr A. Clarke felt that we need to take away two spaces to resolve the problem. The Chairman commented that cars were still continuing to park on the road, even where the double yellow lines had been painted. Mr Clarke suggested that we look at the pinch points in the Village and perhaps erect signs stating that on coming traffic have priority. The Chairman suggested the use of white "hash" lines which invite cars not to park in that area of two car spaces so enabling the residents of Woodlane to be able to swing right with ease. If this idea fails then further double yellow lines should be put into operation. Park sensibly or be restricted. The Chairman requested a motion to try the hash line idea.. It was proposed by Mrs. S. Howells, seconded by Mrs F. Newsham, there was 1 abstention, 1 against and 4 in favour.

c.School Communications: The Chairman reported that he had met with Mr Reg Rew, the Chair of Governors for the two schools. Open discussions were on the subject of improved communication and better dialogue for the future. The Community Governor would be asked to liaise more closely and a meeting was to be arranged with Mrs Rachel Perkins, Headteacher, next Thursday. It appears that Salcombe and Thurlestone each have a member of the Parish Council on the board of Governors.

d.Bench repairs/new noticeboard: The bench has been repaired. The noticeboard will be fixed on the wall when it is finished with the kind permission of Neale Scott at Creek's View the owner of the house at Tacket Wood.

Chairmans Report: .

A letter had been received from Barnardo's saying the Family Fun Bus that meets in West Alvington Village Hall every Tuesday had donated the bus to the local Family Outreach Centre in Kingsbridge. The service would therefore continue as before and be manned by the same staff.

For some reason the grass beside the footpath leading from Kingsbridge to West Alvington had only received one cut while the Kingsbridge section had three. Discussions are under way as to why. Also Devon County Council are still using the wrong type of weed killer! Devon County Council had agreed to raise the crowns on the trees leading out of the Village from Prospect House.

South Hams Council Planning Dept. are undergoing a full review. It is intended to take on board all the criticisms from the public sector such as agents, the public, Parish and Town Councils. A full review will mean a much improved more "customer friendly" Planning Dept. This will also improve the working conditions for the Council officers. South Hams Council have employed a consultant company called Vanguard who are spearheading the review. The first meeting we were invited to attend was on the 7th September. This meeting briefly detailed the work that would be undertaken and those that would be involved. Whilst the Chairman was very enthusiastic over the review he did not feel that a consultancy firm should have been employed. We shall see if the end result outweighs the Chairmans initial reservations.

Parish Reports:

a. Church: Mr D. Dainty was unable to attend the Meeting so there was no report.

b. School: Mr D. Dainty was unable to attend the Meeting so there was no report.

c.Village Hall: Mrs Doyle reported that a notice had been put in place requesting that only cars using the Village Hall should park in the spaces next to the Hall. She also reported that the Village Hall Committee had donated the £25 prize money for the

Wheel of Fortune for the Fun Day, the Chairman thanked Mrs Doyle for her report and also for the generous gift from the committee.

d. Parish Fun Day: Mr A. Clarke thanked everyone who helped in anyway on the day the support was great from the members of the Parish Council and from the Parishoners. He sent special thanks to Mrs Margaret Kitt and her family and to the Chairman and his family for all their help not only on the day but in the lead up to the event itself. Also to Derek and his family. He also especially thanked Mrs Liz Lawrence for her single handed running of the barbecue. The day went well and he had already received one letter of thanks from a Parishoner. He said the support from other organisations, including the Horticultural Society, the Village Hall and the Church was very welcoming. One of the Parishoners present commented that West Alvingtons Fun Day was equally as good as Charletons and they have been running this type of event for many years. The Chairman and Mrs L. Lawrence both thanked Mr Clarke and his family for all their hard work.

e. Parish Web Site: The web site continues to run smoothly.

Church Wall Update: We have received an email from Mr Smythe the assistant engineer with SHDC, with regards to the repairs to the wall. It appears that the tender procedure in connection with the repairs has now been completed. However they are currently unable to appoint the successful contractor as the necessary "faculty" permission form the Diocesan Advisory Committee has not been received. It appears that in spite of the fact that they have received the approval of the Church's Architects to carry out the work the DAC have engaged their own consultant engineer to look at their proposals and they have come up with some ideas of their own. This in turn could make the results of the tender process invalid, as they have tendered using their engineers drawings and specifications. SHDC have shown that they have misgivings about the DAC's alternative proposals. Discussions between SHDC and the DAC will continue until a solution is resolved.

Road Closure Notice: We have been notified that there will be a road closure at Collapit Bridge, they are to carry out repairs to the bridge and Mr Horton was told that there may be a possible pull in created.

Village Phone Box: A letter has been received from BT asking the Village if they would like to purchase the phone box for a £1. All of the working parts would be removed. It was noted that at present the phone box was subject to vandalism and at

times used as an urinal . It was decided not to venture further with this as the phone box would require future maintainance and cleaning. Volunteers for this job would be few and far between.

Diocesan Letter: The letter and subsequent invoice was discussed again. It was still felt that we should not be held liable for the full amount especially as it was stated in past communications with the PCC that they would be meeting the cost of any charges. However, it was felt that it would be a gesture of good community spirit if we offered to meet half the costs so that this issue could be resolved and the account paid. It was proposed by Mr A Clark and seconded by Mrs L. Lawrence that we approach the PCC with this proposal. All the councillors present were in favour of this.

Planning Applications:

a. Mr M. Hill: Application for proposed stable block and roof extension at Langworthys Barn, West Alvington 7 against 1 abstention. This application was subsequently withdrawn.

b. Mr P Gellately: Resubmisson of householder application 28/2078/08/F for new landing stage and associated engineering works 8 in favour 1 against

c. Mr & Mrs Everitt: Listed building consent for loft conversion with rear dormer window and external and internal alterations. In favour.

Financial Reports:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB	current account	1.757:37
Lloyds TSB	savings account	112:67
Lloyds TSB	parish plan account	647:55
Abbey National	P3 account	378:83

The Parish Fun Day made a total of £531:74 now the final expenses have been taken out this amount will be deposited.

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall	10:00
Clerks salary 6/12	1000:00

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: The Chairman reported that he had had a bit of a “misunderstanding” with Tor Homes over the sign that they had placed in the Village Hall car park stating that it was for the use of Tor Homes residents only. A number of Parishiners had contacted the Chairman expressing their outrage. The Chairman informed Tor Homes he would be removing this sign as it was incorrect and confrontational. Mrs Doyle produced a legal document that clearly stated that parking in the car park was on a first come first served basis and that it was not exclusively for the use of Tor Homes residents. The sign was removed and available for collection.

The Chairman gave a brief history of the Car Park. In the late 1940's the Council had built three prefabricated houses on this site. By early 1960's these were no longer suitable for housing and two were demolished. The remaining property was used as the centre for a Parish Youth Club. By 1967 the numbers attending the club dwindled and so the decision was made to close and demolish. Using the site of the three buildings the Council provided the village car park. The proceeds that remained unspent were given to the Parish who provided a memorial seat in honour of the Youth Club leader.

In the late 1970's the District Council built the Council flats to the West of the Car Park now known to belong to Tor Homes. A Car Park had to be provided for these flats and as a result of the gifting of the Village Car Park in 1967 a new parking area was created which was for the use of the flat occupiers. This area can be seen adjacent to the entrance of the new Vicarage.

The Village car Park had been created and gifted to the village so enabling local residents safe parking. The School, Church and village Hall all depend on this facility. The Chairman assured everyone he would continue to strongly object to any alteration of use.

Mrs Doyle reported that there had been water seeping out onto the road in Townsend Road and that the water board had been but had done nothing about it. There are now holes appearing in the tarmac. We will look into this and see if anything is to be done about it.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.10pm. The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 25th November 2009 @ 7.30pm.

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

