

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd February 2012:

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall at 7pm. There was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors and 5 Parishioners.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mr A. Clarke.

Open Forum: There were no topics for discussion.

District Councillors Report: Mr S. Wright reported that the ongoing budget proposals had been discussed and it appears there will be an increase of 2.5% but this still needs to be ratified at the next full Council meeting.

The issue of free car parks has been under discussion, these being Aveton Gifford, South Brent and Beesands it is proposed to implement parking charges. It also appears that SHDC has been paying West Alvingtons car park business rates for the last 5 years. It was then pointed out by the Chairman that the car park does not belong to the District Council! He has also been allocated three more jobs in his role as District Councillor, these are to do with the 2015 Programme. It will involve Localism, Community Engagement and Devolved Services. The District Council will also be working with West Devon Council as they share services.

Declarations of Interest: The Chairman declared an interest in item 9 on the Agenda. (Planning Applications and Decisions.)

Minutes of the last Meeting: Mr J. Stevenson requested that one amendment be made to the Minutes involving a statement he made regarding the Proposed Caravan Site. It was Minuted on the 5th January that Mr Stevenson said that “he felt that a caravan site anywhere would not look good”. He requested that it be amended to read “that there would be potential to the south of the farm buildings” The Minutes were then confirmed and signed. Copies thereof being given to the Councillors prior to the Meeting. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

a. Traffic Lights: The Chairman had asked whether it would be possible to have traffic lights in the Village, especially during the summer months, as was mentioned at a previous meeting, the answer to this was No.

b. Street Light Repair: It would appear that this has been undertaken.

c. Hedge Cutting: The owners of the properties concerned have been notified.

d. New Field entrance at Longbrook: It appears that as this is a classified road Planning Permission would need to be obtained if this entrance is to become a permanent fixture.

e. Campsite Update: It appears that the Caravanning and Camping Club have rejected the site proposed. We have still to receive the official letter from them.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that he had attended the Late Freda Newshams (ex. Parish Councillor) wake, it was well attended and an appropriate send off for her.

The parking issue in Lower Street continues to cause problems, none more so than a week or so ago when the coal lorry was unable to get down the road to deliver coal to residents. The Highways were asked to see to this but did nothing, so the Chairman went to the Police Station and borrowed some cones. He has also made some polite notices to attach to the cones in the hope that this will discourage cars from parking there. As soon as the legal notices have been completed double yellow lines will then be implemented in this area. The Chairman also attended a Traffic Management Meeting. They looked at the amount of accidents that have occurred between West

Alvington and Salcombe. This was followed up by Devon Highways Accident Investigation Officer. It was agreed that a speed camera sign will be erected down by the Community College. Unfortunately there will be no 30mph signs, as it was said that where street lighting is situated in a built up area it is automatically assumed that this is a 30mph area. They will however put speed monitoring strips in place. The whole thing will then be reviewed in 6 months time along with a full accident history for the last five years. The Parishes of West Alvington, South Milton, Malborough and Salcombe will combine to purchase a hand held speed gun as cost wise these are very expensive to purchase. It is hoped that Sir Simon Day will fund this purchase. It will be used for monitoring purposes only. The Chairman finished by reading an email from Mrs Alison Smith a local resident of West Alvington who has put her name forward to become a Parish Councillor. She gave a brief outline of her life in the email and it was suggested that she be invited along to the next meeting with the intention of co-opting her onto the Council.

Parish Representatives Verbal Reports:

Parish Paths: Mr A. Palmer reported that he has a meeting on the 8th February with Ros Davies from the Parish Paths Partnership to discuss the Parish footpaths.

Village Hall: Ms. A. Quinton reported that she had not spoken to Mr T. Reeves regarding the last meeting. She was asked if she would consult with the Committee regarding the boarding on the side of the Village Hall as some of it is falling off. She will report this to the Committee at the next meeting.

Coffee Club: Mrs M. Kitt reported that there was still a good attendance at the monthly Coffee Club and things are running smoothly.

Pegasus Report: Mr A. Palmer & Ms. A. Quinton attended the Steering Group Committee Meeting on the 1st February. They discussed the housing plans for plots K1 and K5 in a 3 hour meeting. A vast amount of time was spent discussing how far they have actually got with the proposals. They intend to head towards a public consultation which is to be held over a couple of days possibly in April. They will discuss the types of housing and facilities being suggested but the reality is that it comes down to finances and how they will be allocated. It appears that the K5 plot is heading further towards the boundary of West Alvington and discrepancies are showing from the original DPD plan. It seems that we can assume they intend to develop the whole field. The field next to Station Yard is proposed to be a 50/50 split between residential and commercial premises. It will probably be designated for affordable housing as there are no views or value. Commercial premises could also include Care Homes, Day Nursery etc;. Both Ms. Quinton and Mr Palmer felt that there was an element of a them and us scenario. Although when Mr Tarsey left the meeting things seemed to move on more productively and ways forward were discussed. It was hoped the next meeting would be more productive and shorter.

Planning Applications/Decisions and any outstanding concerns:

There were no applications or decisions to report, but the Chairman outlined two applications that had recently been submitted and the concerns that the Councillors had raised at the last meeting.

a. Mr Butt: Yarnacombe Farm. The Chairman reported that all the Parish Council suggestions made regarding this application appeared to have been ignored. He sat down with the Planning Officer and discussed the application but it seems that the suggestions were deemed unnecessary. He asked the Parish Councillors present as to which way they would like him to proceed. Should he sign it off as it stands without the amendments suggested or should the Chairman in his role as District Councillor ask for it to be put to the full Development Committee.? After some discussion the Councillors felt that it should be left as it stands although if it were possible to include any changes these were to be explored. All were in favour.

b. Mr Adams: Preston Cottages. The Chairman reported that this application is to be recommended for approval. The Highways Authority have submitted no objection. The

Councillors present expressed further concerns over the proposed application and felt that it was “an accident waiting to happen”. The Chairman offered to speak to Mr Adams and see whether he would be prepared to move the gateway. He will also speak to Mr G. Bryant from Highways outlining our concerns and putting the Health & Safety onus onto the Highways Authority.

Chairman's Recommendation: The Chairman brought to the Councillors attention the dispute between two serving Parish Councillors. Mr J. Stevenson and Mr D. Horton have an ongoing dispute that seems to have involved the Parish Council

The Chairman has sought advice from the Monitoring Officer at SHDC and she offered her advice. The Parish Council have no rights to either sack or suspend a Councillor at any time. If a complaint is received by the Monitoring officer this would be referred to the Standards Board for investigation. On this occasion the Monitoring Officer feels that there has been no such breach. However, it was suggested these Councillors do not stand on any committees within the Parish Council where there can be a conflict of interests or in a position that results in the Parishioners having to take sides.

The Chairman felt as a Parish Council we must remain completely neutral and not support one councillor against the other.

It was suggested that this recommendation and the advice given by the Monitoring officer be implemented and all the Parish Councillors present (with the exception of Mr Stevenson who was unable to cast a vote) voted in favour of this recommendation.

Further to this, the Chairman had also received an email from Mr D. Horton tendering his resignation from the Parish Council. He felt that he could no longer carry on working with Mr J. Stevenson whilst they were in dispute on a personal level. A copy of this full statement was read out to all those present.

Financial Report: The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB - current account -	890.50
Lloyds TSB - savings account	312.46
Lloyds TSB – parish plan fund	1,545.39
Abbey National – P3 fund	378.83

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall	10.00
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Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebration Event: At the last Meeting the idea of a Ram Roast in Townsend Road open to all within the Parish was suggested. A last minute proposal was put forward explaining that the Ring O'Bells would be interested in providing various activities. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were instructed to find out more details and report back at this meeting. As a result the following recommendations are being put before the Councillors. The Jubilee event to be held on Monday 4th June 2012. The celebrations to take the form of two events as follows:

1. Lunch to be served in the Playing Field and Village Hall. This will be a BBQ cooked by the Ring O'Bells. Members of the Parish will be invited to attend and asked to bring salads and puddings. It was suggested tickets be provided purely as a means of gathering numbers, although no cost is anticipated. Each ticket will provide lunch from the BBQ. (No ticket no

- 2. BBQ) The Ring O'Bells have kindly offered two Gazebo type marquees for use in the playing field.
- 3. An evening event will be hosted by the Ring O'Bells which will include live music and food.

It is hoped that any additional attractions at both events will be provided by volunteers. The cost of the BBQ will be funded by our District Councillor from his Community Budget. It was also suggested that perhaps a container for donations be placed somewhere on the day and the money collected used to purchase a commemorative bench or something similar to record the day. Mr S. Harrow, Parishioner present very kindly offered to supply 150 sesame baps for the BBQ. He was thanked and asked to liaise with the pub regarding numbers etc; Mrs S. Howells to find out about the Jubilee Oak Tree that is to be allocated to all Parishes. All in favour of these proposals.

Garden Party Invitation: An invitation has been received from the Lieutenant of Devon requesting the Parish Council to nominate a selfless person who has been a proactive member of the Community over the last 60 years. A couple of names were suggested and this will be followed up.

Communications: Mr J. Stevenson suggested we find other ways of communicating with the Parishioners. He appreciated that everyone is very busy and not everyone has time to check websites for information. He proposed that we implement an email distribution list in order to send out an agenda for up coming meetings, so informing the Parish of what is to be discussed. He felt it may encourage more people to be involved and hopefully tempt them into our meetings. It was suggested that we put a subscription service on our web-site and only email out to those requesting the information and not randomly sending out unwanted emails. We could also ask the Village Correspondent to mention it in her column in the Gazette interested parties could then email the Clerk and a mailing list could be started. Mrs S. Howells offered to help with this task. It was agreed to trial the idea to see how it goes.

A.O.B. by the direction of the Chairman: Mrs M. Kitt raised the subject of the dog mess around the grass banks and on the bank outside the Village Hall. It seems that certain owners are just opening their doors and letting their dogs out to foul wherever they wish. The Chairman suggested that he contact the Dog Warden and ask him to speak to Mrs Kitt direct. Mrs Kitt also said that she was in the process of compiling a quiz book for sale at £1 each, with the proceeds going into the Play Equipment Fund. The Chairman informed the Councillors that the Headteacher at the school was leaving and that it was suggested that they amalgamate with Thurlestone. This would mean that one Headteacher would run West Alvington, West Charleton & Thurlestone Primary Schools. Mrs S. Howells believed that this would be going ahead from September. Mr M. Adams, Parishioner present asked why the footpath repairs had not yet been completed by the phone box in the main street? It has been raised with Adam Key from Devon County and he has assured us that it is to be undertaken as soon as the contractor can get there.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

The date of the next Meeting being confirmed as Thursday 1st March 2012 @ 7pm.

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