

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 26th September 2008:

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There were 7 Councillors, District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan and 13 Parishoners present.

Apologies for absence: Mr B. Toms and Mr A. Clarke.

Open Forum: One of the Parishoners present raised the issue of cars parked in Town Park car park that had had notices placed on them. These had been placed there by the Chairman notifying the owners that the cars would be removed if they did not do so. The cars were untaxed. One of the owners was apparently away on business. It was also commented on that cars did not appear to be parking sensibly, so less cars could use the car park. The other point raised was the blocking off of the path from Lower Street to the Village Hall car park. The Chairman asked if we could return to this and the parking on the main street later in the Meeting.

District Councillor – Mrs D. O'Callaghan: Reported that she had been contacted by the owner of the silver BMW in the car park that had been issued with a notice of removal, who is away working and was unable to remove the car by the deadline given.

At the last Parish Council meeting it was asked that when building work commences at Elmfield that the lorries etc; be re-routed to avoid the village. Mrs O'Callaghan had asked the Planning Dept about this, but it is a Highways issue and it was highly unlikely that such a request would be granted. She had also passed on the Parish Councils concerns once again about the lack of street cleaning in the village. The Chairman has also met with Mr K Carter regarding this matter and was assured that more would be done. The bus pass scheme for over 60's is to be reassessed as the times that the pass can be used are not always practical. There are also plans for free swimming in the leisure centres for the over 60's. Devon County Council are to implement plans for a residents concession parking scheme. The permits will cost £10 per year but other than that parking will be free. Devon County Council also have plans to implement affordable housing. 50% of all future new builds should be affordable. There are plans for 400 new affordable homes in rural areas. There are plans for 200 in Kingsbridge, 200 in Totnes and 200 in Dartmouth. There will also be exception sites whereby the houses built will remain 100% affordable in perpetuity.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been supplied to each Councillor prior to the Meeting.

Matters Arising:

a. School Update: Mr Dainty reported that the Planning Application for the erection of a sail canopy had been withdrawn, although new ones are to be submitted at a later date. The Chairman of the Governors would like to discuss the plans for the sail and why it would be beneficial to the school. The children had had two harvest services and all went well. The fruit and vegetables given went on sale and the profits given to the Adumasa fund. Some of the gifts were given to Quay Court Nursing Home.

b. Church Update: On Saturday a mini fete is to be held at Bowringsleigh, the benefits of which are to be divided between the Horticultural Society and the Church. The Parochial Church Council also thanked the Parish Council for their kind donation to the floodlight. The Church Yard is looking good and some coppicing work has been privately done behind the playground.

c. Village Hall: The new curtains have been fitted. There is to be a notice placed in the small car park beside the Village Hall stating that it is to be used by Village Hall users only. Many users find that they have difficulty parking on occasions.

d. P3: There was no report given as Mr Toms is away. The Chairman did however give a brief outline on what the P3 fund was used for, for the benefit of the Parishoners present.

Planning Issues: The application at Linham Barn which was raising concerns is not to be pursued any further as they are not contravening their grant of Planning Permission. The possible planning issue at Gerston is yet to be confirmed.

Unitary Devon: A letter has been drafted by the Chairman and copies given to the Councillors based on the Meeting that was held, it has now been sent with our comments. The Parish Council is basically in favour of the proposal but without the financial commitment.

Path from Car Park in Lower Street: After the last meeting when the safety of the path was drawn into question, the Chairman met with Tor Homes and asked for some repairs to be done. However, in the mean time they have fenced off the piece of path in question so blocking access completely. Following further phone calls we are still waiting for a response from Tor Homes, about when they will undertake the work,. A letter has also been sent complaining of Tor Homes "cavalier attitude" to the Councils questions. The Parish Council would be in favour of spending some of the P3 funds to help with repairs, even though it is Tor's Homes land and therefore ultimately their responsibility. Mrs Kitt, resident present said that she had difficulty walking and when she has shopping the closure of this path has caused her some difficulty. Mrs Doyle asked Mrs Kitt whether she had thought of applying for a disabled space

outside her house. The Clerk to find out how Mrs Kitt should go about this.

Disabled access on West Alvington Hill: This question had been raised before following concerns of a resident in a wheelchair. District Councillor Mrs D.O'Callaghan to look into this on behalf of the Council.

Parish Plan: Mr A. Clarke was unable to attend the Meeting. But the Chairman informed everyone present that the launch evening had been a great success, and a good number of Parishoners had attended. He thanked Mr Clarke and his team for their efforts and the rest of the Parish Council who helped on the evening with refreshments, setting up etc; It is proposed that once the Parish Plans have been delivered to all the households in the Parish that another meeting will be held to start the move forward.

Burial Site Update: Everything seems to be running well with the site. There has been one small hiccup, a letter had been received from the Churchwarden regarding the Church mowers. At present Mr J Rhymes undertakes the cutting of the Burial site grass for the Parish Council for which he receives payment as agreed by both parties. The Church feels that as Mr Rhymes uses the Church mowers for this use that an annual contribution of £100 would be reasonable. The Parish Council were led to believe that as the Churchyard is now closed that contractors were employed to cut the grass here, therefor making the Church mowers redundant. It was agreed that before any payment is made either now or in the future that the Parish Council should speak to Mr Rhymes and the Churchwarden. Further discussions to be held at the next meeting.

Parish Correspondent: The Chairman raised the question of the Parish Correspondent, he felt that his comments in the column in the Gazette were not always constructive and could be construed as slightly aggressive in nature towards some of the decisions that the Parish Council make. Mr Horton commented that the correspondent can only comment about the things that he either sees or has the information given to him and that he felt that he has been doing a good job to date. Mrs Doyle felt that unless he was given the feedback, then he cannot write accurately about issues. She also felt that perhaps he should attend Parish Council meetings so that he can hear what is raised and commented on and could report accurately. Mr Adams, Parishoner present felt that the correspondent should be praised for his efforts and felt that he had always reported favourably. The Chairman suggested that a letter be sent to the correspondent. This was thought by other members present to be a bit harsh and that perhaps an informal chat would be better. The Clerk wished not to be involved as the correspondent is a family member.

Hedgecutting and Village Clean Up. This is proposed to take place with in the next

4 to 5 weeks as soon as the contractor is available. This will involve Town Park Car Park, and Lower Street. Mr Horton commented that the road down towards Longbrook has become rather overgrown and could do with a good tidy up. Volunteers for the clean up would be welcome. All the Councillors will be notified with a date as soon as one has been arranged. Notices will also be placed in the Village seeking volunteers!

Planning Applications:

a. Mr S. Rawlinson: Application for alterations and extension to dwelling at Prospect House West Alvington - 8 in favour, 1 against.

b. Graviter Ltd.: Application for demolition of dwelling, outbuildings inc. boat stores and slip. Replacement with new dwelling, carport, boatstore and associated works. Gerston Point, West Alvington - 3 in favour, 5 against.

c. Mr A. Head: Application for erection of garage and store - All in favour.

d. West Alvington Primary C of E Primary School: Application of shade canopy in school playground. - **This application has subsequently been withdrawn.**

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB Current Account	1.872:41
Lloyds TSB Savings Account	111:90
Lloyds TSB Parish Plan Fund	54:00
Abbey National P3 Account	374:37

Cheques to be drawn:

Nicola Fox Audit fee	40:00
King Sign Car Park Signs	66:98
Gazette	41:45
Clerks Salary 6/12	1.058:68
Parish Plan Expenses	
Liz Lawrence	51:27
Clerk	7:31

Village Hall	10:00
Chairmans Expenses (stationary)	39:97

Chairmans Report: The Chairman had nothing to report.

A.O.B – by direction of the Chairman: The parking in the main street was the main topic for discussion. Devon County Council have now sent the new layout plan. The trial period will take place to see how things work out before any final decisions are made. There will be cones placed where the proposed bollards are to be placed and a monitor installed to register traffic speed through the village. The monitor will be positioned a week before and a week after the cones are placed. Double yellow lines will be put in place shortly after the end of October. As to the question of signage Devon Highways will place this where they feel it is necessary. Although it must be stipulated that signs are imperative at the entrance to Town Park as this is a very dangerous junction. The speed limit will remain at 30mph, anything less than this is not a legal requirement. There were still parishioners present who felt that the changes would not be of any benefit to the village and would only be beneficial to those seeking a way through the village to Salcombe. Also it would make life difficult for the residents whose properties are affected by the changes. They still felt that there was inadequate parking facilities in the car park for the amount of properties affected. The Chairman said that car parking would be monitored in the car park to make sure that it wasn't being abused by people parking unlicensed vehicles, abandoning vehicles or using it as a dumping ground. Notices have already been issued to cars that were unlicensed requesting removal. The Chairman reiterated that this trial is a compromise and hopefully eventually everyone would be happy with the outcome.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 26th November 2008 @ 7.30pm

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

