

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2015:

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. There was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors, Devon County Councillor Mr Rufus Gilbert, and 2 Parishoners.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs A. Smith, Mrs L. Gritton and Mr P. Moore.

County Councillors Report: Mr R. Gilbert wished everyone a Happy New Year, and apologised for the appalling traffic problems in the Village over the last few days because of the Churchstow diversion. He felt we should write to highways expressing our dissatisfaction at the problem and the lack of notification. He reported that there are a lot of potholes on the back roads of the Parish, especially at Tacket wood and the stretch of road leading to the Gordon Carling Centre. Again at Easton there are some nasty potholes. £4 - £5 million is spent on the roads in winter, including salting, which can use anything between 14.000 and 30.000 tons of salt in a bad winter, other things are flood damage, pot hole repairs etc. At its peak 3,000 pot holes were being reported every week, this has now levelled off at 500 -600. He reported that Devon Schools were in the top 10 in the UK for their achievements. Children in care is improving and adoption and fostering rates increasing. There are currently 3.000 people in Devon living with AIDS, there are also a lot of drug issues in rural areas and a lot in Kingsbridge itself.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman reported that the new head of paid services at SHDC has been appointed his name is Mr Steve Jordan and he will begin his new position next month. After this years elections, the executive at SHDC will go from 7 to 6, so one person will lose their position.

Matters Arising:

a. Playing Field Update: Further to enquiries the school will need to apply for planning for the new proposed play equipment in the playing field.

b. Carol Singing Evening: This was once again a great success with around 50 adults and children attending, we saved money on a Christmas tree by utilising the holly tree next to the Village Hall and decorating it with lights, this seemed to work very well and we had no problems with the tree blowing over or having to remove it after Christmas!

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that his wife Mary, had bought the Parish a potted Christmas tree to plant outside the Village Hall, she will look after it until it is time for it to be planted. On Monday there was a site visit at the Homefield site and a decision is due to be made next Wednesday, the 14th January.

Parish Representatives Reports: Mr R. Ladkin the new P3 co -ordinator reported that he had walked some of the footpaths around the Village. The ladder stile at Easton

needs repairing, and he is on the case. We need to update our records with Ros Davies in due course. Mrs M. Kitt reported that the coffee mornings have restarted, the first of the new year being this week. She thought it may be a good idea to encourage more people of varying ages to come along and join the ladies that already attend, by putting some flyers through homes in the Village. There is now a book library lending facility as well and the Village Hall Committee have kindly allocated us a place to keep them and our coffee and tea supplies.

Planning Applications/Decisions & Updates: The application for Roke has been removed, it seems that SHDC were not in favour of it, so further amended plans are to be submitted, when this happens we can then proceed with our site visit. The application at Langworthys Barn was approved.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds c/a	1637.68
Lloyds s/a	5353.74
Parish Plan a/c	499.68

Cheques to draw A. Mundy £830:00 (Grass cutting) part to come out of TAP fund
 Village Hall £ 40:00 (use of hall.)

Precept 2015/16 with considerations: The Chairman had prepared a spreadsheet of the planned costings for the year ahead and the actual charges for last year. Based on these figures it was agreed to increase the precept to £4505. The Clerk to receive a £45 pay increase for the coming year. These changes were proposed by Mrs M. Kitt and seconded by Mrs G. Rossetti. All in favour. The Chairman and Clerk to sign the precept form to be sent to SHDC.

Parish Council procedure for responding to planning applications with considerations: The Chairman felt that we should look at the way that we currently undertake our procedure regarding planning applications when they arrive from SHDC to ourselves. It was decided that we should still send them around to the individual Parish Councillors to look at and comment in the same way as they do now if they so wish, but then the plans should be brought back to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss in the public meeting, so giving the applicant, or Parishoners the right to speak also. This motion was proposed by Mrs M. Kitt and seconded by Mr R. Ladkin. All Councillors present in favour. This is now an official change to the planning policy of West Alvington Parish Council and documented as such.

Village Hall lease with considerations: Following the AGM of the Village Hall Committee attended by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Clerk who is also the Parish Councils representative on the Committee, there was another meeting with just the Village Hall Committee members to discuss the lease between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. The VHC disputed the current lease stating

that it had only been signed by the PC and no members of the VHC. However, following a trip to the solicitors office the counterpart lease was found clearly showing that both parties had indeed signed the lease. The VHC would like some of the clauses removed from the lease, some are minor amendments but the main one is the removal of responsibility for the playing field fence directly behind the VH. This had to be replaced for safety reasons late last year and the cost as minuted previously was split between the PC, the District Councillors Community Fund and the VHC. It was agreed that we should contact the chairman Carol Horton and the secretary/treasurer Keith Steer about their proposal and informing them that we will take the lease to our solicitors for advice at their expense.

TAP Fund: Bids are going in for the TAP Fund allocations once again, we have put in a joint bid with Kingsbridge on a previous occasion and the Chairman suggested that we do so again this year requesting a £1000 for an information board for the Village, marking key areas of the Parish and some of the history of it too. We could involve the school, locals with stories to tell and other community groups. All present thought this would be an excellent idea.

A.O.B: Mrs G. Rossetti asked if the Diocese had responded yet to the water problem over at the Vicarage affecting Townsend Road. The Chairman said that so far no response had been received and he would chase it up.

Mrs M. Kitt said that she had received a complaint about the hedge at Piers Cottages, apparently there has already been one accident and another narrowly avoided, could we ask about getting this work done. She also asked if anything could be done about the drain at the bottom of Lower Street at the end of the wall before the pavement begins, there is a large hole there and the area is badly lit, this week a lady fell in the hole and was badly shaken. Can we arrange for some lighting or something to prevent anyone falling in the hole? Mr R. Ladkin asked if there were any rules regarding keeping a caravan in a field, one has been sited in a field at the Linhey for several months. Does the 28 day rule still apply? The Chairman to look into this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm. The date of the next meeting confirmed as Thursday 5th February 2015 at 7.00pm.

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