

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2017:

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

Apologies for absence: Mrs L. Gritton

Open Forum: Mrs C. Horton read out a letter that she intended to send to the Monitoring Officer as an official complaint about the Parish Council over their alleged conduct concerning Mr and Mrs Hortons planning application for a dwelling below the Ridings. She will send a copy to the Clerk. The letter of complaint was duly notice and no response was given.

County Councillors Report: Mr R. Gilbert reported that this would be the last time he would be attending our meeting before the oncoming elections. He thanked the Parish Council for their support since he became County Councillor. He reported that the budget for this year was a standstill budget. That there would be £8 million extra for highways which is greatly needed. The finance to carry out essential work on the road between Totnes Cross and Halwell has been allocated and the work will be carried out shortly. It will mean some disruption but should be well worth it. 94% of the schools in Devon achieved either good or outstanding in recent ofsted reports, considering that in this area we do not receive the same amount per child for education as others, It reflects well on our teachers and our children. There is an increase in the disposable waste that is being used to provide renewable energy rather than going to landfill. After the 4th May elections County Councillors may have to take on more parishes because of the boundary review, if successful again Mr R. Gilbert could potentially have 16 parishes to look after. The Chairman reported to Mr Gilbert about the state of the road through the village, saying that it really is getting quite bad. He also asked if he would be willing to support our plan for the double yellow lines in Lower Street, this has received some letters of objection from residents. Mr Gilbert stated that he had backed our wish and that the permission would be granted to put the lines in place.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman reported that the budget has now been agreed. Devolution is still being discussed but it appears that it is looking less likely to happen. The leaders of the 17 authorities will continue to meet to discuss relevant issues. The new website was launched last night and should be much easier to navigate and be more efficient.

Police Report: There was nothing to report from the police this evening. The Chairman suggested that as a Parish Council that we should write to the Chief Constable supporting the need for our local PCSO's and the wonderful job that they do. All were in favour of this proposal.

Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations declared.

Approve the Minutes of the last meeting: The Minutes of the last meeting were signed and confirmed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising:

a) Hedge Cutting: This has been completed.

b) Community Reinvestment Fund: The Village Hall Committee has applied for a grant to help with improvements to the Village Hall, the applications go before the committee for approval on Thursday, so let's hope they are successful in their bid.

c) West Alvington Primary School Lease: Unfortunately, we are no further ahead with this matter.

Grass Cutting Schedule: It was agreed to carry on with the agreed 2010 schedule but with a few amendments, Woodlane to have 1 extra cut per year and if the burial site needs any extra cuts these to be done at the discretion of the Clerk to authorise any extra cuts. It was agreed to ask Clive Lee to cut the banks at Town Park Car Park without destroying the trees that were planted there.

Planning Applications and Updates: There is one planning application out at the moment.

Parish Representatives Reports: Mr R. Ladkin reported that footpath 11 had been agreed. There is new footpath sign to be put in at Smallcombe, next to the timber yard. The footpath in the field at Woodhouse is getting quite boggy at the bottom and could do with a boardwalk across it. Ros Davies has agreed to it providing it meets the approval of Mr D. Horton. The issue with planning regarding the caravan at Longbrook belonging to Mr N. Hutchings has been raised. Mr Hutchings says that it provides essential shelter for activities undertaken by them in the wood. The caravan is to be moved into the quarry area. Do we as a Parish Council object to this? It was felt that planning permission should be sought and that the Parish Council was not in a position to give this type of permission. Mr Ladkin also spoke about the Joint Local Plan, his personal view was that it provided better protection and that it would be good to know what's in it and offer any further thoughts on it at the next meeting.

Chairmans Report: At Townsend Road the water is still running down the road, the last time the manhole pipe was blocked. Mrs G. Rossetti felt that if a grid was placed over the buddlehole it would stop rubbish blocking it. The scaffolding on the house at the corner of Lower Street has caused some concerns, especially with cars parking on the other side of the road. There are still some large potholes in the main street and the tarmac is breaking up quite badly in places.

Play Equipment Addition Need Review: We should start looking at the additional needs, do we need some play stuff for younger children? It was suggested that we bring any proposals to the next meeting for consideration.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: The Chairman wished to thank the Village Hall Committee, he said he was really impressed with how things have worked out over the last 14 months since they were left to start a new committee from scratch. The bookings are up and things are running very smoothly. Should they be successful with their application for funding then it could spell a whole new chapter for the hall and its users. It was noted that Malborough have a new flashing speed sign, it was suggested we add our name to the community list to see if we can have use of such a sign in the village.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.22pm with the date of the next meeting being confirmed as Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7.00pm.

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