

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2013:

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. There was an attendance of 5 Parish Councillors and 5 Parishoners.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mr J. Stevenson.

Open Forum: Mrs G. Rossetti, Parishoner present raised concerns about the speed of the traffic travelling through the village. She has been working on her property recently at Elmfield and was deeply concerned by the horrific speed and also had concerns about the amount of damage that was being done to her families property, it really needs to be addressed. The Chairman said that this is something that raises its head frequently, but each time we are told by Highways, after they have completed their speed monitoring that we do not have a problem in the village. Mrs Rossetti asked where the monitoring took place, and perhaps it should have been higher up in the village. She said she had also spoken to the Community Police Officer who seemed to think there could be the possibility of a weight restriction being imposed through the village. Mr Norsworthy agreed that there a lot of heavy vehicles that pass through the village, one especially at about 8.00am every morning. Mr M. Adams said he didnt see how any restrictions could be imposed as it is an A road and they have to use it to access businesses in Salcombe. Mrs Rossetti asked about the use of a speed gun to produce as evidence of speeding issues. Mr Adams asked Mrs Rossetti if she could cut back one of the trees at her property to give vehicles clearer vision of the road up through the village, she felt this would probably encourage vehicles to go faster, but would look into it. The Chairman said he would contact Highways again about this, we have a new officer there so perhaps a chat with him would be beneficial.

District Councillors Report: There has been a call for information from the Devon & Cornwall Fire Service, this has arisen because there have been some periods when the stations cannot be manned. This is sometimes because of the dispersal of the local work force, due to housing issues etc; the response times have been changed from 3mins to 5mins and now 7mins to allow the fire fighters time to reach their posts. Next Thursday there will be a meeting with the scrutiny panel to raise the questions posed so far and hear the responses. A similar initiative was taken with the Ambulance service a few months ago. The Devon Health and Well Being Board has been set up as part of Devon County Councils 19 priorities to ensure healthy lifestyles etc. There is to be a talk held at Kingsbridge School on care for the elderly with Dr. Sarah Woolaston MP tomorrow evening. Mrs M. Kitt asked why the new signs on the hill are called Westville Hill rather than West Alvington Hill. This appears to be an error partly due to the fact that a few houses in Frogmore Terrace have the postal address Westville Hill. It is to be amended.

Declarations of Interest: The Chairman declared an interest on item 14 (Planning Applications and Decisions) and item 10 (Affordable Housing).

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 7th February 2013 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising:

a. Update regarding new Councillors: There will be no election of new Councillors as a need has not been met. We can however, co-opt three new Councillors this will be done at the next Parish Council meeting. We have so far received two interests.

b. Hedge Cutting: This has been undertaken again this year, albeit a bit of a last minute organisation. There was a lot of mess left but this was cleared by the Chairman and a Parishoner as there was no time to organise a work party. There was however, one resident who was upset by the severity of the cutting of her hedge. We had a different contractor this year so the cutting was different.

c. Dog Fouling: The dog warden has been contacted again and is putting up some more signs, he is also going to contact Mr & Mrs Horton about some signs for Woodhouse Lane. The Chairman has also put up some signs around the village.

d. Horticultural Cup: The Chairman and Mr M. Norsworthy have purchased the cup and it has been engraved as the West Alvington Parish Cup, this will be given to the Horticultural Society. It cost £106.30p.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that the school crossing light had been left on for several weeks, but it has now been fixed. The school have been in contact regarding the Parish Map which we thought had been completed, they would like to put their ideas on it, we will follow this up. We have also been given permission to take some photographs of the Well at the Rossetti's property (Mrs Rossetti said that it isn't actually a well but more of a water collecting tank) when they look inside to keep for historical reference. We have had a play equipment inspection, whilst the equipment is ok at the moment the wooden frame is rotting just below the base. A rough estimate to replace all of the playing equipment in the field is £30.000.

The Clerk and Mrs Kitt have some brochures of play equipment suppliers but there are also some local play equipment suppliers so it may be worth contacting them for prices too. Mr J. Stevenson is looking into Lottery Funding and is also working on suppliers and prices etc; Malborough have just had their play equipment replaced, so it may worth taking a look at theirs and finding out how much it cost. We have £2298.80 in our fund to date. (£1500.00 of this is not actually in our account but is promised funding)

Representatives Verbal Reports: Mrs Kitt reported that the table top sale that she arranged in February raised £228.80 for the play equipment fund. She was thanked for her hard work.

Agricultural Planning Update: Mrs Kitt reported that she had attended the event and learnt a bit more about the 28 day rule for agricultural buildings. The Chairman explained that there are occasions when a farmer can apply to have an agricultural building erected under this rule, SHDC can make suggestions but have no authority to oppose. It is a strange anomaly but there is nothing that can be done.

Affordable Housing – Village Initiative: Following the last meeting when there was a request that we contact the senior planning officer and the highways officer to attend our meeting and answer questions about the proposed sites for housing, they have both declined to attend as they feel that they cannot provide any different information than they have already given. We now have to decide where we go from here, should we arrange an informal drop in session at the village hall, look at both sites and have comments slips for Parishoners to fill in? All were in favour of this and a date will be arranged. The time slot suggested is between 3pm and 8pm to attract as many people as possible.

Parish Clean Up & Grass Cutting: We have been unable to contact Craig Brock our usual contractor regarding a price for the work this year, we will raise the matter again at the next meeting. Mrs Rossetti asked whether we could put some wild flower seed around to brighten the village up? The Chairman said that was a wonderful idea and thanked her very much.

Financial Report:

Lloyds TSB - current account	1812.45
Lloyds TSB - savings account	1461.55
Lloyds TSB - parish plan account	1041.98

Cheques to be drawn:

Mr S. Wright (for the purchase of Horticultural Cup)	106.30
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Best Kept Garden Competition: Mr M. Norsworthy was happy to organise the event again this year, along with Mrs M. Kitt. It was thought that it would be nice to let anyone interested look around the gardens as well as the judges. This however, could bring problems of its own and may put off anyone wishing to enter.

Planning Applications, Decisions & Updates: There were nothing this month. Although there is one set of plans still circulating. There is a planning training event on 27th March to be attended by Mr M. Norsworthy .

Correspondence: We have received a letter of thanks from Mr Keith Steer for the Fun Day donations in respect of the Church, the Village Hall and for the pending cup for the Horticultural Society.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: Mrs A. Smith raised concerns about the speed of the traffic travelling along Townsend Road, it is becoming very dangerous and there are a lot of children that live there. She was also extremely concerned about the vehicle coming and going from Wayside, they just “shoot” out of the entrance and don't look, it is an accident waiting to happen. Mrs Kitt still felt that this was never a vehicular access, Mr M. Adams said that his late brother when he used to live there drove a car along the lane and that was more than 10 years ago. Mrs Kitt was also concerned about the services along the lane and the fact that they are not very far underground, the weight of vehicles going along there could damage the surface and what happens if the gas pipe gets broken? The Chairman said that we should look into this again and see what we can find out. The Chairman reported that the appeal against the development for 100 houses at Totnes had been passed, out of the 100 houses only 7 are affordable. SHDC had refused support on access issues, but the inspectorate had passed it because it was felt that SHDC were out of order and also levied charges on them. It is worrying as it could have serious implications for K1 & K5 should that go through and the amount of houses that could be erected. It was generally felt that our whole infrastructure needs seriously looking at.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 4th April at 7.00pm, this will also be the Annual Parish Meeting.

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