

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th January 2016:

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7:00pm. There was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors, and 4 Parishioners.

Apologies: Mrs L. Gritton, Mrs J. Stevens.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year, he also introduced Mrs J.Green, Parishioner present as the new caretaker of the Village Hall.

Open Forum: There were no issues for discussion.

County Councillors Report: Mr R. Gilbert did not attend tonight's meeting.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman reported that once a year the homeless figures are published, there have in the past have been 8 homeless people in the whole of the South Hams this year there are 9. Mr D. Horton Parishioner present reported that there is a gentleman in the Kingsbridge area who is camping out in various locations, when he moves on he leaves all his rubbish etc, behind. The Chairman asked if he knew the person and where he was at present, Mr Horton did not know. Devolution, there have been no decisions made as yet. Our Plan update, it has been agreed in principle, there are plans to perhaps amalgamate with Plymouth, they are quite receptive to the idea and the infrastructure in Plymouth can accommodate more houses, this will also take the pressure off the smaller parishes. Freedom of Information requests have increased and have cost the Council £391.000 to produce the responses. 10% of the requests come from the South Hams. South Hams District Council website has changed dramatically and over 2.5 million documents have been loaded over the Christmas period. If a planning application is made on the National Planning Portal it is automatically downloaded to the SHDC website. In the future any reports or complaints lodged with the Council you will be requested to register, this will then enable the Council to inform you of any future problems in your area. ie. Should the bin collections be delayed for any reason, etc; this will enable the sharing of information and save extra calls to the Council. On the 17th December 2015 the finance settlement from the Chancellor was worse than anticipated, over £300.000 less than was budgeted for, however, it is expected that in the short term this can be overcome via other forms of budgeting. The budget consultation process started 2 weeks ago and it would appear that Council Tax will increase by 2%. There is no cap for Parish or Town Councils.

Police Report: Mrs G. Rossetti reported that she had been in touch with PCSO Dave Gibson and informed him of tonight's meeting.

Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations made tonight.

Approve the Minutes of the last two meetings: The minutes of the last two meetings, November and December were signed and confirmed. Copies of each being given to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising:

a. Playing Field New Equipment: The cheque has been sent to the suppliers for the deposit for the new equipment. We are still hoping it will be ready for installation in February half term. But we will check on this.

b. Gate Post: The school are to pay for the repair which will be undertaken when the fence is done. We are to pay 50% for the fence, but this has been put on hold until we have sufficient funds.

c. Double Yellow Lines: These as we know have now been removed as a result of a complaint, they will however be reinstated once the appropriate TRO has been issued.

d. Village Hall Committee: A new committee has been found, thanks to Mrs M. Kitt and Mr S. Wright and their efforts over the Christmas break. The post of Treasurer is still to be filled, but until that time Mrs M. Wright will keep the books in order. It was established at the meeting with the new committee that the two parties, the VHC and the PC will work together in the future to eliminate the previous “them and us” scenario. All in all the meeting was a very positive one and we all look forward to a good working relationship. There has also been an offer of a defibrillator for the VH.

Parish Representative Reports: Mr R. Ladkin gave his report as the P3 co-ordinator. He has walked the footpaths in the Parish and all the agreed work in 2015 has been undertaken as regards the replacement of the stiles with gates in the Easton area of the parish. There is one more to go at the top of Wallace Lane. He is satisfied that the remainder are in good condition at present. There was one issue for consideration, that being the unmetalled roads in the parish, they are unmarked, Ros Davies is to check with highways about this and then we can see about them being marked where appropriate. There are a couple of footpaths that differ from the map, Mr Ladkin is happy with the footpaths and felt it would be easier to have the map changed rather than change the footpaths to co-ordinate with the map.. There are also a couple of footpaths (11 and 13) that have been ploughed too close to the edge, there should be a 2 metre gap. He felt that they should be passed this time but perhaps a word with the farmers would be in order before they plough next time. Mr Horton said that because the vegetation tends to grow up on the edge that is left, people still tend to walk on the crops. In summary, Mr Ladkins proposal is to have a gate put up at Woolston, sign posting of unmetalled roads, make sure the map and the footpaths correspond. All the other footpaths to be passed. The Chairman was happy to second this proposal, all Councillors present were in agreement. The Chairman thanked Mr Ladkin for his efficiency in being the P3 co-ordinator and for his very full in depth report, this was echoed by the rest of the Council members. Mr Horton asked about the trees that fall on the estuary in the Tacket Wood area and the clearing of them, to enhance the walking for those wishing to access the area. Anything above mean high water level it was assumed would be the landowners responsibility.

Mrs M. Kitt reported that the Coffee Mornings continue to be well attended.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that the TAP Fund requests are to be considered at a meeting next week. It appears that requests are under subscribed so hopefully our request will be met and we will get the full amount for our new salt bins. He also showed the Councillors a draft copy of the map which is a work in progress, so far it looks really good and has a lot of historical village information.

Planning Applications and Updates:

a. Ms. B. Tsang: Householder application for extension and alterations to dwelling at Creekview, Tacket Wood, Kingsbridge. All in favour of supporting this application.

b. Mr V. Taylor: Householder application for construction of detached double garage with workshop under, replacement store and greenhouse, ancillary attached store and associated external works. All in favour of supporting this application with the condition that the works remain ancillary to the main house.

The application for the porch at Evandon House was passed by the planning officer. The building was not listed and there was existing evidence of a building having been there before.

Mr G. Johns commented on the way that the applicants Mr and Mrs Carson of South Barn, Collapit had been dealt with during their application process, he felt that it had been long winded and also that Highways were contradicting themselves with their comments against the application. (their comments can be seen on the SHDC website)

Mrs M. Kitt said that she had been approached by concerned residents who use the car park at Town Park, as the gentleman in the property in Woodlane seems to be barricading off part of the car park for his work men to use whilst he is having alterations made to his property. With the forthcoming road closure the spaces in the car park will be needed by those who park on the main road, besides this factor it is not in order for this resident to commandeer the car park for his own use.

Mr Horton reported that there is still fresh water running at the entrance to Longfields, it is also causing pot holes further down the lane and the tarmac is also beginning to lift around the leakage site. This will be reported.

Financial Report: The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds C/A	3209.42
Lloyds S/A	5001.36
Parish Plan a/c	499.68

Dog Poo Bins: The need for the bins is still required, but as to whether or not they will be used is another matter. The cost is £330 fitted and a £2 per week charge for emptying. The Chairman suggested we ask if it would be possible to have a second hand one to see whether it would actually be used before we spend out the money on a new one. All in favour of this proposal.

To Agree the Annual Precept: The Clerk and Mr G. Johns left the room whilst the Councillors discussed whether the Clerk should have a salary increase. It was decided to offer the Clerk a £50 increase in her salary, which she duly accepted. It was also proposed by Mr R. Ladkin and seconded by Mrs G. Rossetti and unanimously agreed by all Councillors present that the precept should be increased by 3%.

Correspondence: All items of correspondence were sent by email to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman:

To Confirm the date of the next Meeting: There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52pm and the date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 4th February 2016 at 7.00pm.

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