

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013:**

### **Annual Parish Meeting:**

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. There was an attendance of 5 Parish Councillors, Sir Simon Day, 4 Parishioner's and PC Steve Mullen.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Ms A. Quinton & Mrs A. Smith

As the Council were one member short to make them quorate Sir Simon Day was co-opted for the evening.

#### Parish Organisation Reports:

PC Steve Mullen: reported the crime figures for 2012 – 2013. There were 11 crimes in the parish out of a total of 870 for the whole area. The previous year there were 17 so the number of crimes has dropped which is encouraging news. There were no significant incidents to report and only a couple of accidents. PC Mullen is due to retire at the end of June after 28 years, he said it had been a privilege to serve the community and that he would be staying in the area following his retirement. The Chairman thanked him for his continued interest in the community and for his long standing service, he also expressed his thanks to PCSO Dave Gibson who is also a very important member of the team.

Village Hall Committee: Mr Terry Reeves reported that the Village Hall had had a good year, bookings were up by 15% and were looking good for the coming year. The roof is a big problem, it needs re-roofing and serious funding will be needed around £20.000 – £25.000. It appears it is very hard to find funding these days and especially in Devon. It may be possible to get some kind of match funding and perhaps the Parish Council, the School and the Village Hall Committee should work closely together.

Horticultural Society: Mr Terry Reeves reported that the Society had had a successful year, and despite the terrible weather, although entries were down by a quarter. He said the Society was indebted to the vice presidents whose contributions bring in between £1.200 and £1.400 per year, the Committee also raised approx. £3.000 with their sweet and savoury luncheons, cream teas etc; There will be another luncheon on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, Cream Teas on 10<sup>th</sup> August and the Summer Show on 24<sup>th</sup> August. He also thanked the Parish Council for the new cup that had been donated out of the Fun Day Fund.

County Councillor Sir Simon Day: reported that he was stepping down after 47 years of service as a County Council. He has served on many committees during this time and has enjoyed his time at County Hall. The Chairman thanked Sir Simon for his long service to the community and for the money he has provided over the years!

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that this year had seen a change in the format of the meetings. Instead of 6 meetings a year, they had increased to 9, the aim was to shorten the length of the meetings and to cover any issues quicker. It seems to be working well so far. We had been asked to send a member of the Parish to Exeter Cathedral for the Queens Diamond Jubilee, Jack Rhymes and his wife Helen were chosen and they thoroughly enjoyed their day out. We held our own Jubilee Celebration Lunch in the hall and playing field, the attendance was really good and the sun shone. A photo of all present was taken and we should have it framed. The Best Kept Garden

Competition was held again with Mr M. Norsworthy and Mrs M. Kitt both reporting the event a great success. The primary school was federated once again this time with both West Charleton and Thurlestone, Mr Philip Medway is once again the Head teacher. Two members of the Parish Council were chosen to join the steering group for the proposed K1 & K5 developments. The Fun Day was once again a success, the takings were down a bit on the previous year but the weather was good and everyone had a great time. The new Code of Conduct was adopted and signed. As a consequence of this we sadly lost 2 members of the Council and another for personal reasons. We received Business rates bill for the car park at Town Park, we appealed against it and got it reduced to a nominal sum. The affordable homes steering group once again put out a call for sites and 2 were put forward.. The land below the Ring O'Bells (Homefield) and the Butts Site. The Carol Singing Evening took place again and was enjoyed by many. The hedge cutting has been done. A cup was purchased from the Fun Day Funds for the Horticultural Societies Spring Show. Mrs M. Kitt held a table top sale and raised £228.80 for the play equipment fund. There are going to be challenges ahead, with affordable housing issues, we need to make sure the village hall remains in good condition and remains viable. We also need more community involvement, this is also a concern of the Church, as a Parish Council over the past few years we have achieved a great deal but we still have a long way to go.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed and the Parish Council Meeting followed....

## **Parish Council Meeting:**

Attendance and Apologies as before:

Open Forum: There were no issues for discussion.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Sally Jones to the meeting. She has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor, she said that she had lived in the village for 2 years, has 4 children , works in the Community College, and cares about the community that she lives in.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman reported that as from the 1<sup>st</sup> April new welfare reforms came into effect. If any councillor is asked about any problems anyone may be facing with the new measures, they should point them into the Chairmans direction and he will try and help. Changes to the Boundary review will be made by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

Declaration of interests, whether personal or pecuniary: Mrs M. Kitt declared a personal interest in item 5 – appointment of co-opted Parish Councillors.

Mr S. Wright declared an interest in item 12 – Planning at Parish Council level.

Appointment of co-opted Parish Councillors: There are 3 interested parties, unfortunately due to illness 2 were unable to attend this evenings meeting. However, Mrs Jones was present and she was proposed by Mr J. Stevenson, seconded by Mrs M. Kitt, all in favour. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Jones to the Council, all relevant forms will be given for completion.

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

### Matters of Arising:

a. Horticultural Cup:- As previously reported this was purchased and given to the Horticultural Society and we have received their thanks.

b. Affordable Housing Update:- The public meeting for consultation has been confirmed as the 25<sup>th</sup> April and TRAND will print the leaflets for us to distribute.

c. Planning Training Update:- Mr M. Norsworthy reported that it had been a very informative event It was the first of five training sessions. The sessions will evolve from the questions raised at meetings. The meeting covered the pre-planning application process and how applicants are being encouraged to follow this route prior to applications, this should speed up the whole process. It would also be helpful if Parish Councillors were more specific in their comments when considering any applications presented. The Chairman thanked Mr Norsworthy for attending on our behalf.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman had nothing further to report.

Representatives verbal reports: Mr J. Stevenson reported that he had received a price in the region of £3.700 just to dig up and dispose of the problem tiles in the playing field. Although just replacing some may bring its own problems later rather than hitting the whole area in one go. National Lottery Awards may be able to provide us with some funding upto £10.000 but this will need further investigation. The Chairman suggested that we follow up the company in Ashburton, ask them for a price and see where we go from there. Perhaps we should speak to the school when or if we put in a bid for funding and approach it as a joint venture? This proposal was suggested by Mrs M. Kitt and seconded by Mrs S. Jones, all in favour.

The Fun Day has been provisionally booked for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

Parish Grass Cutting: Three tenders had been received this year. The successful applicant was Mr Adrian Mundy a local Monumental Mason based in Kingsbridge.

Planning Applications/Decisions & Updates:

a. Mr A. Bullen – Householder application for proposed new dormer window above detached garage and domestic workshop building. The dormer window is proposed on the north facing pitch of the existing roof. 1 The Bungalow, Lower Street, West Alvington. 3 in favour 2 against.

Financial Report:

Correspondence: There were no items for discussion.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: Mrs S. Jones said that she would be keen to see the Village Hall utilised to its maximum. Mrs M. Kitt said she was still concerned about the services which lie under the tarmac path leading to Wayside and the cars driving over them.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.00pm, this will be the AGM. (the date has been changed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> because the hall will be used as a polling station.)

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