

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 2017:

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

Apologies for absence: Mrs L. Gritton and Mrs A. Smith.

Open Forum: The hedge on the footpath from the Ring O'Bells to Westville is now encroaching on to the main road. It was agreed that this would be cut every other year. Mr Horton said that it was getting quite bad and that he would be prepared to cut it if he was allowed. Councillor Gilbert said that he could do so if he wished, and that this wouldn't be a problem. Mr Ladkin asked about the debris in the road. This will be cleared. The Chairman added a cautionary note that should this be undertaken that the footpath would need to be shut for safety reasons. Mr Horton suggested that perhaps the hedge should be taken out and a post and rail fence put there in order to widen the road in the space opposite the reservoir at Thornfield. It was also mentioned that the zebra crossing is dangerous. Mr Gilbert reported that Kingsbridge Town Council had undertaken a safety audit and were very conscious that there is a major problem. Mr Gilbert also said that there are some considerable sized pot holes in the Easton area again and we should go ahead and report them. He said he was also sorry to hear that the Clerk was leaving her position within the Parish Council. The double yellow lines in Lower Street are now complete. There is a Parish Highways Conference on November 15th, the venue to be announced.

He gave the Council some statistics for the Devon area.

19.5% of the population have a disability, 11.6% of the population in Devon are carers, 61.5% are Christian, 2.5% are of an ethnic minority, 6-10% are non hetero-sexually orientated.

The Devolution process is back on.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman welcomed Councillor Pearce to the meeting. Mrs Pearce reported that there is to be an 20% increase in the planning fees in February. Suggest use of this increase is on enforcement, strategic planning, pre applications. There is to be a Business Rates Pilot Scheme this will last for 1 or 2 years and the District Council will retain 40% of the business rates. However they will lose the rural sparsity funding of £250,000.

The Joint Local Plan examination is to start on 29th January 2018 and will last for 2-3 weeks, there will be extra information to follow on dates etc. After a month there will be a better idea of how the examination is going, its hoped that this plan will be adopted towards the end of June 2018.

The Chairman reported that they have started building the new primary school and the opening will be in the autumn of 2018. The plans suggested for the redevelopment of the quay area have gone back to the drawing board and there is nothing further at this stage to report.

Police Report: There was nothing to report this evening.

Declarations of interest: There were none declared.

Approve the Minutes of the last Meeting: the Minutes were confirmed and signed, copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to this evenings meeting.

Matters Arising:

a. Double Yellow Lines Update: These have now been done.

b. Phone Box Update: Apparently Mr A. Clarke has now adopted the phone box and is to maintain it.

c. Advertising for a new Clerk: The Clerk will arrange for this to be done.

d. Rusting Play Equipment: The bolts are rusting on the new play equipment and this needs sorting.

Planning Applications and Updates: The Council discussed the planning application for Mr Horton
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Parish Representatives Reports: Mr R. Ladkin reported that ploughing and seeding time was underway and that in about a months time it will be time to begin the new survey. The verges and access are fine. He has yet to check South Milton. New route at no. 11 is fine.

The work on the Village Hall is due to start on the 25th October, so will not be available for at least 4 weeks. Our next meeting therefore will have to be in a different venue, it was suggested that we hold it in the Church. We will approach Sylvia to ask if this is possible.

Chairmans Report: There was nothing to report as all topics have been covered earlier.

One Council Proposal: The Chairman and Councillor R. Tucker have attended over 27 events so far on the proposal. He assured the Councillors present that this was by no means 'a done deal'. The idea is to consult with Parish Councils and Town Councils. There is an online questionnaire but there seems to be nowhere for any one to object to the proposal, so how do you propose to evaluate the responses and to give the public the opportunity to object? There are many ways to do so. Everyone has the opportunity to give their opinions and everyone should do so, Parish Councillors should as representatives of the Parish and also as individuals. Mrs M. Kitt felt that we would all be worse off by merging the two together, it would mean an increase in our council tax. Mr R. Ladkin asked what our liabilities would be and was curious to know what the general feeling in the room was. The general conscientious was that it would be a mistake to merge with a council that has considerable financial liabilities.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: There were no topics for discussion.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm, and the date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 7.00pm in the Church. (if it is free)

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