

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd January 2013:

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

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mr A. Palmer and Mr J. Stevenson.

Open Forum: Mrs C. Horton addressed the meeting, she explained that TRAND were going to attend this evenings meeting but the Chairman had asked them not to. Although this item is on the Agenda for later it was agreed to bring the matter forward. She explained that they had been approached by TRAND regarding their site. It was deemed by them to be the most appropriate site and there was a lot of positivity about it. TRAND would like to come to a meeting and explain and have a discussion. They felt that it would be suitable for somewhere in the region of 16 units with One being freehold, 15 housing associations owned with the possibility of up to 80% ownership. This would be confirmed by the housing association and TRAND. The Chairman thanked Mrs Horton for her report.

District Councillors Report: The Council are busy with the forthcoming budget, this seems to be changing all the time. On Monday there are to be pre budget discussions. The Council Tax Support Scheme means changes for the Council Tax Benefit system. This could mean that tenants could have to pay at least 20% of their tax the rest to be topped up by the Government. Although this could change again. Also the second home council tax rebate of 10% to be removed to cover the shortfall in any benefits.

Chairman's Report: Unfortunately, we have been unable to do the hedge cutting this last year because of the red diesel laws. So we are in discussions with South Hams District Council regarding the cutting of hedges, the state of the roads etc, and how much it may cost us, although Town Park Car Park may be cut for free, we await the figures. The web site has received 7486 hits from the 1st May to December 2012, it appears it is being used regularly and is a good investment for the £70 per year we pay. The school are concerned about the state of the matting around the play equipment. We will ask Mr J. Stevenson for some costings from companies; this will need to be done sooner rather than later.

Representatives Verbal Reports: There were nothing to report. Although it was mentioned that the Carol Singing Evening was once again a success and everyone old and young seemed to enjoy themselves.

Fun Day Proceeds: The Chairman had drawn up a few figures regarding the allocation of the monies. He suggested the following:-

Church --- £125.00

Carol Singing Evening --- £100.00

Horticultural Society --- A Prize Cup was suggested at a previous meeting and this had been put to the Horticultural Society and they have accepted. A total allocation of £150.00 to be given

Village Hall Committee --- £150.00

Playing Field Equipment Fund ---- £250.00

School --- They have already received £100

W.I --- They received £50.00

All present were in favour of these sums and it was resolved to issue the amounts agreed.

Declaration of Interests: No interests were declared.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 1st November 2012 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising:

a. For consideration – absence of two Councillors: As the situation stands at present Mrs S. Howells and Mr A. Clarke have not yet signed the Declaration of Interests document as required by law, we need to consider what steps we take next. Ms Quinton felt that perhaps we should make the wider public aware of what exactly the Councillors are being asked to do, are they reasonable conditions or should we make a stand? The Chairman felt that this could lead to the question “What have you got to hide?” Mr Norsworthy felt that if you wished to stand as a Councillor and are not then happy to sign the declaration, you should leave.. The document is put in place to protect the Councillors and the public. Ms Quinton questioned whether personal particulars should be put on the web etc; should we therefore address it. The Chairman said if they wished to oppose it perhaps a more suitable suggestion would be to lobby our MP rather than write to the gazette..

It was suggested that the Clerk write to Mrs Howells and Mr Clarke asking them for an update on the situation or ask for their resignations if they are still unhappy about signing the declaration, the 28 day period has well and truly lapsed. All present were in favour of this, we will then need to inform the election officer at SHDC.

Kingsbridge Masterplan- Steering Groups report following the work on K1 and K5- The report was considered. It was felt the report was well balanced and showed a high level of regard to the concerns raised by both Kingsbridge and West Alvington residents. The Chairman thanked Councillor’s Quinton and Palmer for all their hard work on this subject. Few would appreciate the amount of time and effort that was applied to this project.

Consider the report from SHDC regarding The Call for sites: The Chairman explained the procedure that had followed since TRAND attended the meeting and put forward the site at the Butts. A call for sites was issued and as a result three sites were looked at, the Butts, Horseman’s and the site at Woodhouse behind the Ring O’Bells. As a result of the reports from the senior planning officer, landscaping dept. and Devon Highways the Ring O’Bells site came out as the strongest of the three options for various reasons. Tonight the Councillors present need to consider the sites and as we have heard the owners of one site have come forward with their presentation, it is only fair that everyone has a fair hearing. Ms Quinton asked whether as a Parish Council dealing with this sensitive issue are we suggesting that we put this one site forward or are we still considering the Butts site? She felt that both sites should have plans and that at a public meeting both sites can be shown side by side. The Chairman said the reason that TRAND had been asked not to come tonight was that the Parish Council needed to consider what was the best way forward first. Mr Horton stated that TRAND have actually pulled out of the Butts and that they can only support one site. The housing associations tend to go with the most favourable site and at this present time the Ring O’ Bells has come out as the best. It was proposed that we ask the landowners via their agents to put forward their plans for a public meeting. We will formally invite the Parish to an open meeting to gauge what is being proposed and look at the plans. This was proposed by Ms A. Quinton and seconded by Mr M. Norsworthy, all in favour. We will aim for the third week in January.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB current account	2275.07
Lloyds TSB savings account	982.75
Lloyds TSB parish plan account	1864.80

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall £30 (The Clerk suggested the Village Hall be paid for in full for the year, as the financial year comes to an end in March, it was agreed to pay £30 now and the balance in the new financial year.
Carol Singing Expenses £200.55
Mr S. Wright Parish Expenses £102.64
Cheques as agreed for various organisations from the Fun Day Proceeds.

TAP Fund with recommendation: The Chairman reported that various ideas had been put forward by different Parishes. It seemed that most Parishes got what they wanted. We successfully supported South Milton in their bid for money for a handyman scheme. We received a cheque for £922.21 to cover the cost of hedge cutting, weeding etc;
The joint initiative with Kingsbridge Town Council also proved successful although a short fall of £400 was reported. Kingsbridge Town Council helped make up the short fall by agreeing a payment of £300. This left a short fall of £100.
It was agreed the remaining £100 short fall should be met by this Parish Council.
All were in favour.

Planning Applications & Decisions:

Consider the Precept for 2013/14: The time to set the precept has come around again. The Chairman reported that himself and the Clerk have looked through the accounts and have set some figures for consideration. For us the car park is a major consideration, last year we were presented with business rates for the car park, and although we were lucky enough to receive a substantial reduction this is not going to be the case for ever. The Clerk will not be requesting a pay increase this year. A suggestion of a 2% increase was made by the Chairman so increasing the Precept by £80.00 to £4,010.00. Mrs M. Kitt proposed, Mrs A. Smith seconded, All in favour. The Chairman was authorised to sign the Precept form which he duly did.

Correspondence: There were no items for discussion.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: Mrs M. Kitt reported that she had been approached about the dog mess again in Woodhouse Lane, it is disgusting, the dog warden must be contacted again. Mr. M. Norsworthy reported that there was dog mess and vomit regularly on the pathfields. Reports of the car parked on the corner of Lower Street by the bus stop and obstructing the view of the entrance to Lower Street have been raised again.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 7th February 2013 at 7.00pm.

Signed..... Date