

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

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. There was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors, 2 representatives from TRAND and 3 Parishioners.

Apologies for absence: There were no apologies, all Councillors present.

There then followed a 1 minute silence in memory of the Late Mr Claude Solomon. He was a member of the Parish Council for many years and a much respected member of the community. He will be sadly missed, a letter of condolence has been sent to the family.

Open Forum: The representatives from TRAND attended the meeting as a follow up from the public meeting held last month. They reported that now planning and highways have given advice, that it seems both sites have some issues, mainly highways concerns. Mr Stevenson commented on a section of the last minutes that stated that TRAND would only support one site, this was proved to be incorrect and TRAND would support more than one site if necessary. Another meeting to discuss the merits of each site should be held, perhaps the planning officers and highways should come along so that the public could put questions directly to them. Proposals for each site should be available before the public meeting for the public to look at the plans etc, this should be followed by a formal meeting and questions put to the appropriate departments. A mini referendum is also another option to gauge what the whole parish thinks of any proposal. Any proposal has to have parish support. Mrs Smith asked if highways could veto both sites? The planning dept. makes the final decision and can over rule highways. Mr Stevenson asked whether there was any scope for change in the amount of houses proposed in the plan. There were still concerns about whether or not these houses could one day be sold off on the open market. It was stated that the over the years things do change, but any planning obligation on the sites can not be easily broken. Ms Quinton asked what would the new bedroom tax mean to any development proposed. Anybody on housing benefit could be subject to the bedroom tax to be implemented in April. The members from TRAND were thanked and we will liaise with them about a future public meeting.

District Councillors Report: There have been discussions regarding the closure of some of the public conveniences, especially those on the beaches that are not used regularly during the winter months, a lot of these are targets for vandalism and grafitti and it is recommended that some, not all be closed for up to 3-4 months. Salcombe are already willing close two of theirs during these months. Parish Councils are asked to submit their thoughts on these proposals. There is to be a planning evening on the 28th February at 6.30pm with the senior planning officer about agricultural buildings, all are invited to attend. The budget is to be decided next week at SHDC. Second home owners will have their remission cut from 6 months to 1 month for empty properties. Council tax will increase by 3.4%, special authority from central government has been given as we are a low taxing authority. SHDC are currently consulting over the recently improved "Housing allocation" policy.

Declarations of Interest: The Chairman declared an interest on item 14 (Planning Applications and Decisions and item 9 (Consider the outcome of the presentation by TRAND and agree a forward plan) Mr J Stevenson also declared an interest on item 9.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 3rd January 2013 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising:

a. Councillors Resignations: The Chairman reported that regrettably we have received the resignations of Mrs S. Howells and Mr A. Clarke as they felt unable to sign the new Code of Conduct. We have also received the resignation of Mr A. Palmer who due to the pressure of work etc; felt he had to leave. It was agreed to write to each member and thank them for their support over the years that they had served as Parish Councillors. There were still some concerns that members felt that they had to resign over the signing such a document and should we write to our MP about these concerns?

b. TAP Fund: The stretch between Nordon Lane and Station Yard has been tidied up and is looking much better.

c. Outstanding monies for table hire: We have received a cheque from South Milton for the outstanding money owed.

Chairmans Report: We received a price from SHDC for the hedgecutting this came in at over £200 we will look for alternative prices elsewhere. We now have a nice sum of money thanks to the TAP Fund to enable us to clear up areas, the weeds on the the footpaths, roads etc, the Chairman asked the Councillors to come up with ideas for any areas that they think would benefit from some work for the next meeting. We will contact Craig Brock again this year for a price for the work that he currently undertakes. SHDC have agreed to do a car park tidy up for us at Town Park.

Representatives Verbal Reports:

Mr J Stevenson- Kingsbridge & Salcombe Estuary Conservation Forum: reported that there was an ongoing petition to try and prevent the Government from scrapping the Rescue Tugs, these are used to prevent large shipping in distress from ending up on our coast lines. The development plans were being closely watched, due to their potential effect on water quality etc; Discussions are to be held when any applications are received. There have been a couple of incidents of vandalism, and people are being asked to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. There is a lot of interesting information on the AONB website.- <http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk> The information boards have also been updated. A review is underway looking at possible sites for renewable energy installations. There is a potential for underwater turbine in the tidal race between Start & Prawle Point. No proposal to investigate any other options yet. Work has started on the Fish Quay in Salcombe, phase one started in mid January and phase two will commence in mid May. The increased pontoon areas agreed on the estuary are balanced by the loss of moorings, hence a number of water craft remain largely unaffected.

Consider the outcome of the presentation by TRAND and agree a way forward: It was suggested that we invite TRAND back and look at both sites individually. If possible get the planning officer and highways officer to attend. Mr Tony Head has offered his services to set up a steering group if we so wish. This group should consist of a wide range of people and not just those opposed to the sites. It was agreed that a date should be set for the reconvening of a public meeting. Mr M. Norsworthy and Ms A. Quinton to put out flyers advertising it.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB current account	1.437.43
Lloyds TSB savings account	982.75
Lloyds TSB parish plan account	1.389.25

Cheques to be drawn:

Crunchy Carrot (Fun Day payment which was overlooked)	50.00
Kingsbridge Town Council (TAP Fund shortfall)	100.00

Allocation of Fun Day Funds: At the last meeting amounts were agreed for the organisations in the Village and the cheques sent. We did not however, decide on a cup for the Horticultural Society Spring Show. The Chairman now had a catalogue and it was agreed that Mr M. Norsworthy should take this and choose a cup for them, which we will have suitably engraved. It was also agreed that Crunchy Carrot should have a cheque for £50 for all his hard work on the day, keeping everyone, not just the children amused and entertained.

Playing field- The agreed works regarding a new gate had not been carried out. Concerns were raised over the long term solution. An alternative but more costly suggestion was presented. This would involve providing two smaller gates and replacing the post and rails towards the western fence. The cost being £560 but in the long-term this may prove more prudent. It was resolved to approve the two gate proposition. _

Mr J. Stevenson reported that the matting around the play equipment had “had it”, it no longer conforms to standard. Mrs M. Kitt said that she had had some information about play equipment from Play Quest in Wales who specialise in schools, she would bring in the information she has. It was felt that the wooden framed play equipment was ok as it had passed inspection last year, although the slide and the swing are a bit “iffy”.

Tidy the Village: It was agreed that we should have a work party in the spring. The main noticeboard needs repainting and a few repairs, the Chairman will do this. Mr M. Adams said that any hedges that need cutting will need to be done so before March as it is not allowed after that as birds will be nesting.

Planning Applications/Decisions: There were no new applications or decisions this month.

Correspondence: The Chairman reported that he had had some communication from Jon Bell from the Ring O'Bells. The concerns being raised centred around the leaflet being distributed around the village regarding the meeting with Trand and the proposed development under the Village Initiative Scheme. The leaflet may have misleading and possibly could have been read that the Ring O Bells were closing. The Chairman spoke with all parties concerned and was satisfied no one had intended any misleading of information while referring to the Land below the Ring O Bells. This was historical however better naming of the site could be used in the future. A subsequent meeting with Mrs Bell satisfactorily concluded things may have been blown a little out of proportion.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: The Chairman said that we are now going to officially advertise that we are short of Parish Councillors and we legally need to put up notices for 3 new councillors.

Since the resignation of Mr A. Clarke we are also a Vice Chairman down. It was suggested that Mrs M. Kitt be nominated for this role. It was proposed by Mr. M. Norsworthy, Seconded by Mr J. Stevenson, all in favour. Mrs Kitt was duly elected Vice Chairman.

Mrs A. Smith said that she had received two more complaints about the amount of dogs mess in the Village. Could we provide bags? If we do where will they be disposed of? We will contact the dog warden again. This is becoming a serious problem.

Mrs M. Kitt reported that she would be holding a Coffee Morning/Table Top Sale on Tuesday 19th February at 10.00am and the proceeds would be going to the Play Equipment Fund. All are welcome to attend. The more the better!

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm. The date of the next meeting was confirmed at Thursday 7th March 2013 at 7.00pm.

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