

West Alvington Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting:
Wednesday 14th April 2010:

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall, there was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors, 6 Parishoners, P.C Steve Mullen and District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan.

Apologies for absence: Mrs S. Howells.

The Minutes of the last Parish Meeting were agreed.

Steve Mullen – Community Beat Manager: The area is continued to be policed by himself and PCSO Dave Gibson. We are fortunate that we live in a relatively low crime area. In the last year the Kingsbridge area had 980 crimes 23 being on West Alvingtons patch. 16 of these crimes happened on one evening when many of the vehicles had their wing mirrors damaged. Subsequently an arrest has been made. There were 2 other incidents, one of criminal damage to a vehicle and the unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle. As far as community engagement is involved the police try to attend as much as possible the coffee mornings have enabled the police officers to be more accessible in the community. PC Mullen thanked the Parish Council for their support over the last 12 months and to look forward to working with them in the next year. As far as the caravan that continues to be an issue due to where it is parked and the fact that it rarely moves there may be some success, but we will have to await an update from the police. The Devon & Cornwall police web site shows what priorities are currently being dealt with, a list of meetings etc; PCSOs do not have the same powers as regular police officers and no powers of arrest, this in turn allows them to spend more time in the community and not spend the extra time on paperwork. The barn fire that recently happened in West Alvington is being dealt with by CID, Mr Dainty felt that it had been left in a dangerous state and should be pulled down. The Chairman asked if we as a body should contact Devon County Council about the safety aspect of it, PC Mullen thought this would be a good idea. The Chairman thanked Steve and Dave for doing a magnificent job over the past year, he was personally not in favour of the PCSO's but since working with Dave his opinion has changed greatly, Dave is always present around the Parish and is always available for advice etc. The Parish Council thanked them very much.

District Councillor – Mrs D. O'Callaghan: reported that once again the District Council had taken the decision to raise car park charges, something that she had voted against. The play areas continue to be maintained by the District Council but they wish to go into partnership with Parish Councils the District Council are asking for a £100 as a contribution towards the upkeep etc. She reported that following the chairmans letter to Devon County Council regarding the parking around KCC and the siting of double yellow lines, Kingsbridge Town Council in principle are not opposed and are looking at ways of dealing with it. She reported that she and Julian Brazil have put forward a motion to double the council tax for second home owners at present they pay 90% they feel it should 200% to help with rural expenses. A public meeting had been held regarding the land for housing and employment sites in the village and as a result of the opposition site RA35 had been withdrawn. Kingsbridge and Salcombe have still not sorted out their plans for affordable housing. There were concerns that some of Kingsbridges sites were creeping further up towards the village. She also reiterated that she has a locality budget of £1000 to help towards good causes, she has allocated some but should we need some money for a project she would be willing to help us. The Chairman thanked Mrs O'Callaghan for all her support during the past year and for taking on board all our concerns and acting on them.

Chairmans Annual Report: The Chairman reported on several issues during the past year. On May 22nd the District Councillor gave brief details of the Local Development Plan and how it may affect the Parish. We then followed that with a public meeting to look at our requirements and develop a method of acheiveing it. There were four sites suggested, behind the Ring O'Bells, Town Park, Horsemans Close and the Butts. The Parishes preferred choice was the Horseman Close site. There followed six weeks of work and the completed proposal was sent to SHDC. West Alvington was given a site below the Ring O'Bells now known as RA35 with an allowance of 50 houses. This was met with serious opposition. On the 8th May members of the Parish walked the Parish boundaries, known as the Beating of the Bounds this event was followed with a ploughmans lunch in the Village Hall. The Bishop of Plymouth came to consecrate the Parish Burial site, this was followed by tea kindly organised by the Church. There was an incident regarding the Village Hall Car Park and Tor Homes who attempted to restrict the use of the car park to residents only, they even erected a sign, which was swiftly removed! There have been some new signs and a new village sign erected. A work party undertook the job of tidying up the village, clearing rubbish, weeding and a contractor came along to cut the hedges. Several people took up the offer to have theirs cut for a small fee.

The bench on Easton Hill was in desperate need of repair, and this was undertaken and the grass cut and the whole area tidied up and made once again useable. A new noticeboard was erected at Tacket Wood with the kind permission of the gentleman whos wall it is now attached, this will enable this area of the Parish to be kept up to date with what is going on in our area. We held our first Parish Fun Day, which proved a great success and raised a substantial sum of money for future projects in the Parish.

During the year we had received 42 concerns from the public ranging from car parking, pot holes in the roads, speeding, planning concerns and a possible breach of planning, refuse collections, mud on the roads, fly tipping , flooding & street cleaning. Regular coffee mornings are held and whilst not always overwhelmed with Parishoners, they are a chance for people to meet and express any concerns they may have either with the Parish Council or with PCSO Dave Gibson who also attends. As for the future, well we still have the matter of the Development Plan to sort out. It would be nice to have some allotments, either as part of any future development or as a seperate scheme. Parish Council meetings will continue to be held every two months, although for planning issues it was a suggestion that we change this to monthly, this is something to discuss in the future. We must look at the Village Hall and see whether we should have a survey conducted on it and its state of repair. We need a salt bin in the car park. The idea of the West Alvington Memories book is something that we would be keen to follow up whilst there are still some “local characters” in the Village. Finally there is still the suggestion of a by-pass!!

Clerks Annual Report: The Clerk reported that financially we have had quite a good year. We had received the annual precept which was set at £3.100. A cheque for £2.400 had been received from DCC thanks to Sir Simon Day, this money is to help with the purchase of a new street light in the car park at Town Park, this is to be installed within the next 2 -3 weeks. We undertook the annual hedge cutting around the village and collected £68 in fees this helped towards the contractors account. We had 3 new burials in the the year and generated an income of £690. The Parish Fun day made a profit of £531.74 and this money was put into the Parish Plan account for future projects.

In the year we spent money on the usual outgoings including insurances and subscriptions, hire of the hall and clerks salary. We also had to pay a half share towards the consecration of the burial ground along with the PCC. The accounts will be ready for inspection again at the AGM in May.

Annual Reports Covering the Following:

Beating of the Bounds: This was organised by Councillor Sally Howells, there

was a good attendance and there were two different routes covered. On the return to the hall there was a lovely ploughmans lunch for the weary walkers.

Burial site: As reported there were 3 new burials. Unfortunately due to illness Jack Rhymes will be unable to attend to the grass cutting at the burial site, so tenders will be sought for a suitable person to undertake this task and a few other areas in the village.

Best Kept Garden Competition: Councillor David Dainty undertook the organisation of this event. There were 18 households who entered and it was a successful event, the only concern was that the judges were very professional and overzealous. It was not quite what was expected. It would be nicer and less formal to have a well known amateur gardener to act as judge this year and to inject a bit more humour into the day. The Chairman thanked Mr Dainty for his hard work.

West Alvington Church: Congregation numbers remain very much the same with busy, well attended periods at Christmas and Easter. The Loop system has been agreed and will be installed this year. Plans are well underway for a kitchen and toilet area.

West Alvington Horticultural Society: Mr Terry Reeves reported that this had been another successful year for the society. This year had seen the 10th Annual Spring Show, although the entries were down on other years. This year will also see the 68th Annual Show which is held at Malborough Village Hall, this event costs between £2000 and £3000 to run and boasts between 500 and 600 entries and is one of the best local shows in the county. This is funded by money that is raised throughout the year. If anyone would like any information about the society or any of the fund raising events or the shows themselves they can contact Terry or Keith Steer. The Chairman thanked Terry for attending the meeting.

West Alvington Short Mat Bowling: The clubs secretary reported that the club had been using the hall for 19 years and were going to be celebrating their 20th anniversary next year. The club has 24 members to date, only four of these actually come from West Alvington and they are always ready to welcome new members. It is good fun and very enjoyable, they meet every Tuesday throughout the summer. The club has just received a grant for an electric winding machine for the mats. The club also contribute between £600 and £700 per annum through hall rental. They are currently in the middle of the 2nd division and are very happy about it. The Chairman thanked her for attending

223

the meeting.

Parish Web-site: This continues to receive more hits at present we are averaging 350 – 400 per month. We are looking for sponsors to help finance it and we already have a few. We will invoice them for an annual fee of £20 for advertising on the site.

School: We have no report from the headteacher but we do receive a regular weekly newsletter. The school had an outstanding offstead report recently which was great news.

Village Hall: The Chairman had asked Mrs Doyle to find out about the age of the Village Hall after some concerns about its condition, it appears the hall was 20years old when the Village Hall Committee got it from SHDC it was once one of their office buildings, she also reported that it should go on for many more years if it is properly maintained.

There being no other reports the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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