

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 21st July 2010:

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 7 Parish Councillors, 6 Parishoners and PCSO Dave Gibson.

Apologies for absence: District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan.

Open Forum: There were no subjects raised.

Community Beat Managers Report: PCSO Dave Gibson reported that since April 1st there had only been 2 domestic incidents and no “real” crimes. They have been liaising with the Fire Department in the schools using the speed check equipment with the children out in the village. They discussed speed issues with drivers when they were pulled over and the consequences of their actions. It was proving to be a successful scheme. He was asked if there was a speed issue in the village, apart from the fact that cars approaching from Salcombe direction appear to travel faster coming into the village. But all the evidence suggests that this is not unnatural in a village set up. Mr Stevenson asked if the police had looked into the speed that vehicles approach the zebra crossing on the hill, the visibility at the crossing is not good, especially when approaching from the Kingsbridge end of the village. Mr Clarke suggested that 30mph repeater signs be placed in the road. This was something that could be asked of highways, but it usually comes down to finances with Devon County. Mr Stevenson asked if a pedestrian bridge had ever been considered. It was thought that this had been mentioned several years ago but was deemed impractical but we could always ask again if we wished although it would probably be turned down. PCSO Gibson finished by saying that he was still hopeful the caravan would be removed and was indeed hoping that it would have been done by now, however it seems that Devon & Cornwall Police may have the powers to remove it themselves and there have been multiple complaints about it being just left there. The Chairman thanked PCSO Gibson for attending the meeting.

District Councillor – Mrs D. O'Callaghan: Apologies had been received from the District Councillor, however she had asked the Chairman to report a couple of items for her. The parks and play equipment team have been in contact with us again regarding the £100 annual maintenance plan. We have reluctantly had to sign this but it appears that there are other Parish Councils objecting to having to pay this fee, it seems unfair that small rural communities have to endure this charge but the larger towns are getting new play equipment and having a lot of money sent on them. The District Councillor is going to look into this for us.

A number of District Councillors have expressed a concern over recent idiosyncrasies regarding the payment of funding towards affordable housing. A request for the policy of S.H.D.C affordable housing funding be made available.

Election of two co-opted members: The Chairman explained that usual way to elect new Councillors is by a show of hands, however the Vice Chairman had suggested that the Parish Councillors use a different voting system, this would mean voting from 1 – 5 (5 being the favourite candidate) however the candidates themselves needed to approve this method. When asked by the Chairman all the candidates agreed to adopt the change in the usual voting system. Mr Horton did feel that it was a weird situation and an odd way of doing it. Mr Toms asked whether we could in fact co-opt all five candidates, although this would be a good idea, it is not allowed by South Hams District Councils Monitoring Office, we have already been told how many Councillors our Parish is allowed. The Chairman asked if any of the candidates would like to say a few words before the voting commenced. Mr Adams & Ms Quinton said a few words, Mr Stevenson and Mrs Kitt were happy not to. Mr P. Moore was unable to attend the meeting due to a work commitment.

Each Councillor was given a sheet of paper to put their votes on, the Clerk then calculated the figures. Mr Paul Adams and Ms Annie Quinton were duly co-opted onto the Parish Council. The appropriate forms and the Code of Conduct will be given to them to sign and return to the Monitoring Officer. The Chairman welcomed them to the Parish Council and thanked the defeated candidates for putting themselves forward and hoped that they would still continue to come along to the meetings and take an active part in the Parish Councils events and projects as their input is invaluable.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting held in November were confirmed and signed, copies thereof having been supplied to each Councillor prior to the Meeting. All in Favour.

Matters Arising:

Church Wall: Mr Andy Smythe from South Hams Council has sent us the latest update regarding the wall. The faculty sought from the Diocese had a number of conditions attached. One condition was that the contractors stonemason construct a couple of sample panels of stonework using two different sources of stone for the Diocesan Advisory committee to inspect and approve. This has now been arranged and the sample panels will be made up at the back of the footway to the east of the church access steps. The approval from Highways has been given for this on the understanding that no disruption to the flow of traffic along the main road is caused. The stonemason will commence this work on Monday 26th July. The main contract for the works to the wall will commence in early/mid September once new permissions to use the road space are sought. The only other matter to be resolved is the issue of the sloping slate steps, this has been referred back to the DAC for reconsideration because of the growing opposition to the Faculty condition that the

steps should not be levelled as part of the reconstruction works. Although the DAC have reconsidered this issue they have not changed their minds, the Chancellor will ultimately decide the issue. The Diocesan Registrar invites further comments from the Parish on this point. It was agreed that we should write to the Diocese and request that the steps be levelled.

Car Park Light: The car park light has now been installed, although nobody has seen it lit! We have received the account which needs to be settled the total amount is £2862:81 inc. VAT.

Kingsbridge Community College: Following a trial run with cones at the college, the next step forward for the college is to implement double yellow lines. After discussions with Highways and Mr Pope at the college we have been assured that everything possible will be done to reassure us that adequate parking will be provided once the cars are removed from the road. Temporary parking has been already implemented and Mr Pope would appreciate it if we could support him when he lobbies Devon County Council for decent tarmaced parking in the future. In the meantime we will continue to monitor the situation in our car park at Town Park.

Bus Bay Parking: It was felt that we need to extend the bus bay to provide a better approach for the bus when it drops off its passengers ensuring they can disembark safely. Signs will be put up and parking in the bus bay will be permitted when the buses are not running. This will in effect provide extra parking spaces overnight for residents.

Grass Cutting: Mr Brock is doing a good job so far and everything is looking very neat and tidy.

Parish Fun Day: The suggested date for this year is Saturday 18th September. Mr Clarke suggested that we follow the same basic format as last year, with perhaps the exception of the cream teas, because of the heat and the barbecue they didn't do as well as expected. We may have a hog roast this year rather than a barbecue. It may be possible to hire a company who will provide this as a service and we will get a cut of the sales. It was suggested that we have a musician to provide background music. Mr Clarke said that a gentleman who played at the Salcombe Music Festival may be available to hire but he would need to be put up overnight. It was pointed out that our new Councillor Mr P. Adams is actually part of a group of musicians! Mr Clarke will arrange a date for volunteers to meet to get things organised. It was suggested we have bunting and plenty of signage in the village and make sure the event is well advertised.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that he had attended the Forward Planning meeting at Follaton House, to hear of the changes within the Planning Dept. as a result of the new Vanguard report. There should be a more “open style” office and more importance will be shown regarding Pre-applications and they should listen more to the Parish & Town Councils. He and the Vice Chairman also attended a pre-application meeting with the residents of No. 1 Butts Cottages to discuss what they would like to apply for planning permission for. He had also during this period received complaints of old washing machines left in the main road for four days. He informed SHDC and the Civil Enforcement Dept. dealt with the situation. This matter will continued to be monitored. On the 23rd June he met with Mr Pope, Principle of KCC to discuss the parking issues. Assurances were given that parking would be provided for up to 45 cars but funding would be needed to make this arrangement permanent. The Chairman agreed to support any claims Mr Pope may make to Devon County Council regarding this matter. On the 7th July he met with Claire Crew from Tor Homes to discuss Asset Management Appraisal. The coffee mornings on the first Wednesday of each month continue to be quite well attended. The Clerk has received an offer of an apple tree to be planted in the Burial Site in Memory of the late Mr Fletcher by his family, who may also like to contribute a seat too. Another offer of a seat by the Late Mr Brian Clays family. The offers have all been gratefully accepted.

Financial Report: The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB – current account	4.844:18
Lloyds TSB – savings account	112:38
Lloyds TSB – Parish Plan Fund	969:29
Abbey National – P3 Funds	378:74

Cheques to be drawn:

West Alvington Village Hall Committee	10:00
Southern Electric Contracting (car park light)	2862:81
Garden Competition Prizes	100:00
Mr S. Wright	

It was discussed that after last years Parish Fun Day we were to purchase a seat for the burial site. However, since then as mentioned in the Chairman's report we have had kind offers from family members of two gentlemen buried in the burial site of benches and an apple tree. So it was thought that we could instead spread a bit of this money raised from last years event and possibly this years to various organisations in the Village, ie. Horticultural Society, Church, School, Village Hall Committee etc, they have supported the Parish Council in the past and it would be nice to give something back. The Chairman suggested a Christmas Tree for the Village, other suggestions included floral displays at either end of the Village. We should think about these ideas for the next Meeting and also invite suggestions from the other organisations.

Local Development Plan: The period of consultation has now closed. We have had no results yet. It appears that other Parishes are not happy as they may now have to accommodate our share of houses.

Memories of West Alvington: A preliminary meeting was held and was quite well supported although not by a large crowd, but an enthusiastic one. Mr B. Toms started the ball rolling with this project by donating £50 to get the book started. Suggestions for the book include:

- A map of the Parish
- A history of the Parish
- Invite clubs, organisations, local farms etc, to write a history of their particular things in about 250 words and provide photos where necessary.
- A history of the Church, School, Village Hall, Bowringsleigh etc.
- War Time Memories
- Finish with amusing anecdotes from members of the Parish.

All the information will be collated and typed up by Mrs Clarke who kindly offered her help and the Clerk. We will scan photos, documents etc, and eventually produce a book to sell hopefully at Christmas 2011. Mr Toms suggested that someone speak to Col. T. Street at the Old Rectory as he is very knowledgeable about the Village, Mr Toms also mentioned that at Linham Barn there used to be a church which was consecrated in 1361.

Planning Applications:

Arqiva Transmitting station – installation of two pole-mounted dipole antennas and one 1.2 satellite dish.

SandyPark – resubmission of householders application for alterations and extension

Planning Decisions:

a. Mr M.Hill - Grant of Planning Permission for proposed stable block, roof extension and regularisation of external works at Langworthys Barn, West Alvington.

b. A.A Horton & Son – Grant of Planning Permission for erection of an agricultural building to be sited at Gerston, West Alvington.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: The Chairman informed everyone about the Garden Competition held on Sunday 11th July. Unfortunately, we didn't have any entrants. So the Chairman and the Clerk took the decision to walk around the Village and look at the residents front gardens (we did not enter anybodies property) and allocate the best ten gardens £10 each. It was pleasing to see so many nice little gardens looking so colourful. The Horticultural Society kindly donated £50 towards the prize money, the Parish Council matched this amount.

Mr B. Toms asked whether the hedges leading down to Longbrook could be cut back as they have become rather overgrown. Mr Horton followed this up by saying that the growth on the walls leading into the Village from Salcombe end has become quite thick causing a visibility problem. It was suggested we approach the appropriate people to get these problems solved.

We need to obtain a price for the clearing of the old steps in Lower Street. We will seek a couple of quotes. We also need to enquire about getting a gate for the field beside the shed.

The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors present about the purchase of gifts for retiring Councillors Mrs Doyle and Mr Dainty. We need to agree a budget for the gifts. The Chairman suggested an amount in the region of £50 and £40 respectively, he suggested silver coasters (these can be used for placing wine bottles, vases on etc) which would be engraved with their names and the dates that they served as Parish Councillors. All were in favour of this idea.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.20pm. The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 22nd September 2010 @ 7.30pm.

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