

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 22nd September 2010:

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors, District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan, Sarah Wollaston MP, Mr & Mrs Dainty, Mr & Mrs Doyle and 4 Parishoners.

Open Forum: Mr J. Stevenson made mention of an area change in the Local Development Plan. Possible inclusion of an area below the Community college, known as Woodhouse. Although it is in Kingsbridge it is on the boundary of West Alvington Village. The Chairman agreed to monitor the inclusion of this area.

Welcome to our guest Sarah Wollaston MP: The Chairman welcomed Sarah to the meeting and after giving a short history of each of the retiring Parish Councillors asked her to present the retirement gifts to Mrs Gwen Doyle and Mr David Dainty. She then gave a brief talk on how she became an MP. She felt that she had been given the chance to do an extraordinary job, and as a doctor she was extremely interested in the way the Health Service is ran, particularly in rural areas, she is also a member of the Health Committee. She said she receives over a 100 emails a day on a varying range of topics. Unfortunately, MP's have no voice as regards planning issues, something that she felt was a shame especially in rural areas where the housing issue is sensitive and the need for affordable housing is great. She then welcomed questions from the meeting.

Mr M. Adams asked what her feelings were regarding the need for badger control especially as we live in an area surrounded by Bovine TB. Dr Wollaston felt that bovine Tb had been the cause of the collapse of the dairy industry in rural areas and it has cost a lot of money. Unfortunately, the Badger Trust are against a cull of badgers and feel that it isn't necessary to do so. She recalled a case of a local farmer whom she recently visited, his dairy farm has been free of TB for only 2 months in the last 7 years. It is a real issue with farmers but the problem lies with the general public and trying to persuade them that this really is a genuine issue.

As far a fox hunting is concerned she felt that as she was taking up the challenge of badger control she would step back from this topic. However, a recent poll showed that 92% were against the repeal of the ban and 8% were in favour.

Dr Wollaston held an informal poll of the meeting present and 11 were in favour of repeal and 4 were against. If we wished to submit these results as a formal poll we could do so by contacting her further. Mr Dainty ask what she felt about the need for more clinical staff in the health service and less management. She agreed that the need for more hands on staff was necessary and less management, thus making more money available for putting back in the health service. This is one of the recommendations in the whitepaper proposals.

Mr Bunting – Parishoner, asked about Social Services and the way they are run. His concerns involved his wife and the amount of money she received whilst living at

home under the Disability Living Allowance unfortunately she has now had to go into a care home 25 miles away which is costing twice the amount she was receiving before. Mr Bunting felt that his wife could have been cared for at home and would have indeed been happier, if the extra money could be paid to the carers direct. Dr. Wollaston felt that individual budgets should be given to the person to spend as they felt fit and to provide the care required. Unfortunately, in some cases the very vulnerable who require care, this money may not always be used for their best interest.

District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan asked about the future of our community hospitals, especially in this area with all the planned cuts. Dr. Wollaston said that the idea would be that G P's will hold their own budgets, so it will be down to them to spend the money where they feel it would be best used. She felt that in this area it should be fairly safe, and G P's should be made aware that a community hospital in this area is vital. She felt that the Parish Council should write to the local G P's and make sure that our local hospital is prioritised.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Wollaston for coming along to the meeting and for presenting the leaving gifts to our retiring Councillors and for taking questions from the meeting.

Community Beat Managers Report: Unfortunately, no officers were able to attend the meeting but a report was emailed to the Chairman prior to the meeting. It read:-

Since the beginning of the year we have had a total of 5 crimes reported in the Parish. 2 Criminal damage to vehicles, one burglary and a motor vehicle taken without consent. This is against total of 646 crimes for the whole of Kingsbridge Policing area this year.

The Police have recently been working with Tor Homes in respect of neighbour problems in the village and will continue to work with all parties involved to try and resolve the issues.

The Police will be attending the school during the Autumn to give the children inputs on subjects such as firework safety, road safety and Halloween safety.

Now the summer busy period has ended the Police hope to be able to spend more time in the rural Parishes and make regular attendances at the coffee mornings and hold some street surgeries in the village.

District Councillor – Mrs D. O'Callaghan:- Reported that she enjoyed the Fun Day despite having an ill child. She thanked everyone involved. Regarding the play areas she noted that the Parish Council was not happy about having to pay the £100 fee for the current year. Finances are tight so it may be that next year the amount could be more. There is a Public Spending Work Group in October which the District

Councillor will be attending so she will report back. The Chairman commented that we objected to paying the same amount as larger parishes. Kingsbridge were given £160,000 to refurbish the recreation ground. Malborough were rejected and then they got funding of apparently £5000. Yet as a small parish we are being penalised. Car park charges are set to rise again in January, although the ½ hour and 1 hour charges will be pegged. 2 hours and over will be subject to a 6% rise. This proposal was voted through. On street meters in Kingsbridge are looking more and more likely, although there will be consultation. Clarification was still be sort on how Affordable housing grants were authorised since concerns had been raised that this was a discretionary decision unauthorised by a Council officer rather than a Council Policy.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting on the 21st July 2010 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof being given to the Councillors prior to the meeting. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

Church Wall: This is progressing well and the initial issues have been corrected. The traffic lights that were only 2 way have been changed to 3 way following complaints. There were some problems with vehicles jumping the red light, mainly taxi drivers! There was also a problem with abuse being directed at staff from frustrated car users.. There has been a problem with traffic pushing down from the Butts end of the village causing grid lock. It was suggested that the traffic lights be situated further up the road. But this is apparently not possible because of legalities and the beams that control them and the distance they can be situated.

Car Park Light: All ok. The account has been paid to Southern Electric.

Play Equipment: District Councillor was persueing the Parish Councils concerns on this matter but did confirm we were no alone with our criticisms

Hedge Cutting: This is to be undertaken on Saturday 2nd October by Mr Hallett. At the same time a work party will be formed to undertake the painting of the shed next to the village hall, bulb planting around the village and a general clean up. There has been an issue regarding the hedges leading down to the Old Vicarage the hedges belong to Mr Rogers from Charleton. Mr D Horton has offered to speak to him regarding the cutting of these hedges.

Grants for Parish Organisations: It was agreed at a previous meeting that this years Parish Fun Day money would be offered to local organisations. Letters were sent to them asking if they would like any donations. To date we have had a request from the school who would like some to money to buy some outdoor play equipment, also

the Bell Ringers have expressed an interest for some new clappers for their bells, however they will approach the Church first. Mrs Doyle expressed an interest on behalf of the Village Hall Committee as the hall is need of some roof repairs. Mr Clarke said that he had been doing a bit of research into Lottery Funding and if the amount required is under £5000 there is a good chance of getting allocated some money. Mr Clarke offered to give them a call to see if it is possible and how to qualify. Although the first step would be for the Village Hall Committee to get a survey and a costing done.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that on the 27th July he had spoken to Mr Manisty regarding the sighting of a works cabin and vehicles for the work on the Church wall. It also appears that Mr Manisty felt that he should have been consulted and given any wayleaves for the erection of the light in Town Park Car Park. The Chairman put him right on this matter.

On the 29th July he met Andy Smythe and the contractor regarding the repairs to the wall. The contractor must have an area to put his site hut and consumables, stone etc. Nothing has been offered by the Church or Mr Manisty, so the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council offered an area of the Playing Field, for which they were very grateful.

On the 18th August he met with Steve Mason from South Hams District Council Cleaning Management Officer regarding the future road cleaning etc.,

they discussed areas that we may like cleaned and an agreement was made to meet every quarter to monitor the work performed.

Road resurfacing works for Lower Street and Townsend Close will now take place on 25th October and should take two days.

On the 23rd August a complaint about the footpath between West Alvington and Kingsbridge was made about the grass not being cut. Two emails were written to Devon County Council and South Hams Council. We heard nothing from SHDC but Devon Highways responded on both occasions. The area will be cut but the "agent" has been on long term sick leave. However, we can expect six cuts per year.

The traffic lights in the Village for the works on the wall have caused a few complaints and the contractors themselves have received quite a lot of abuse particularly from local taxi drivers. The school buses were also rather a problem causing congestion, so they have now been redirected via Churchstow.

There were also reports of cars speeding at the Butts end of the Village.

A road closure notice for Woolston has been received.

The mobile Library will also no longer be attending West Alvington due to cut backs and a lack of use.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyd TSB	Current Account	1.793:87
Lloyd TSB	Savings Account	112:38
Lloyd TSB	Parish Plan Account	969:96
Abbey National	P3 Account	378:83

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall Committee	10:00
Craig Brock – Grass cutting services	390:00
Nicola Fox – Internal Audit	40:00
King Sign – Parish Fun Day Signs	131:13
Mr S. Wright – Expenses for PC	73:42
SHDC – Playarea Invoice	117:50
Mrs J. Johns – 6/12 Salary	1030:00

Parish Fun Day Report: Mr A. Clarke gave his report of the Fun Day, he felt that it had been a good event and for the second year running the weather had been kind to us. It was nice to see the children having fun in the races and the rosettes awarded went down a treat. He thanked everyone individually for all their hard work not only the people present on the day but everyone that worked hard behind the scenes getting ready for the day. He felt that it was a day that we should be proud of and the number of parishioners who came along made it a real success once again.

The total takings for the afternoon amounted to £419.73 after any expenses taken out this being slightly down on last year. But as it is a non profit making day it was felt that this was a fantastic amount of money to be shared out between local organisations. There will be a follow up meeting on Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall to discuss ideas for next year.

The Chairman thanked Mr Clarke once again for his hard work and also to his team of volunteers.

Street Lighting: We had received an email regarding Part night lighting in the Village in order to save money & energy. Are we interested in taking part in the scheme? Kingsbridge is off in many areas for a vast part of the night. It was felt that the lights in the car parks should not be turned off for any length of time at all. Although it was possible to turn off some of the lights through the main street but not the footpath leading to Kingsbridge. It was felt that we should continue discussions and ask questions of Devon County Council.

Clearing of the steps in Lower Street: A price had been sought regarding the clearing of the unused steps. It amounted to £104 and was submitted by Craig Brock the grass cutting provider. It was questioned what the point of clearing the steps was. The Chairman said that it was looking untidy and that it had become a dumping ground for everyone's rubbish. In particular decorators recently had dumped their empty paint pots in there. It was decided that the work party should undertake the clearing of the rubbish and not to spend the money unnecessarily.

Parish Christmas Tree & Carol Singing: It was suggested that the Parish Council should arrange for a Christmas tree in the Village, next to the Village Hall and organise an evening of carol singing and supper after in the hall, which may also include a visit by Father Christmas. Many people have expressed an interest in the event, we will discuss it further at the next meeting, but in the meantime a possible date will be sought and some arrangements made.

Parish Working Day Party: This is to be arranged for the first weekend in October that date being the 2nd. We will meet at 9.00am in Town Park Car Park. The contractor has been booked and we will aim to plant bulbs in various locations around the Village, paint the shed and have a general tidy up. The issue of the Well area came up again, it would be nice to have it tidied and we have asked the Rossetti Family but to date we have not had an answer from them. It was felt that we would need to be careful about what we defined as a "tidy up" and that we did not upset the family. We will not proceed without permission.

Memories of West Alvington: A meeting will be scheduled soon to start collecting information for collating. Some items have already been handed in.

Planning Reports and Updates:

South Barn, Collapit Farm Kingsbridge – householder application for first floor extension – All in favour

Sandy Park, Old Salcombe Road Kingsbridge – Resubmission of householder application for alteration and extension – in favour but with recommendations

Arqiva Transmitting Station, Easton farm Kingsbridge – installation of two pole mounted dipole antennas and one satellite dish – All in favour

Discharge of conditions for the following :- Warren Cottage West Alvington
Peelers Peace West Alvington

Land at Gerston – agricultural building – approval notice received

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: It was asked whether we could ask the owners of the Ring O'Bells be approached to ask if they could tidy up the site and perhaps give the building a coat of paint, it does make the village look untidy. It was felt that we could not demand that they undertake this as we have no legal powers, we can only lobby them. Mr Horton said that where would this sort of thing stop, would we demand that all the untidy houses in the village were painted.? Mr Stevenson felt that commercial properties had a responsibility to be properly maintained. District Councillor O'Callaghan said she would ask at South Hams if this was the case.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm. The date of the next meeting being confirmed as Wednesday 24th November @ 7.30pm. (This has since been changed to **THURSDAY 25th NOVEMBER.**)

Signed..... Dated