

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012:**  
**A.G.M:**

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7pm. There was an attendance of 8 Parish Councillors, 2 Police representatives and 5 Parishioners.

Apologies for absence: There were no apologies for absence. All Parish Councillors present.

Election of Chairman: It was resolved on the proposal of Mr A. Clarke and seconded by Mr J Stevenson that Mr S. Wright should be re-elected as Chairman. All in favour. Mr S. Wright was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr S. Wright in the Chair.

Election of the Vice Chairman: It was proposed by Mr S. Wright that Mr A. Clarke should be re-elected as Vice Chairman. Mrs M. Kitt and Mr J. Stevenson seconded this proposal. All in favour. Mr A. Clarke was duly elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

Guest Speaker Mr Reg Rew: Addressed the meeting, he explained the proposal for West Alvington, Charleton and Thurlestone to join together to create a new federation as from September 2012. Mr Philip Medway is currently the head teacher at Thurlestone and it proposed that he become the executive head of all three schools. The structure will remain the same as concerns the day to day running of the schools. There were concerns that perhaps West Alvington School could be treated as the "poor relation" Mr Rew felt that was unlikely and Thurlestone certainly don't think of the other schools as the poor relations. There will be a good representation from each of the three schools. As far as the budget for the schools is concerned the money currently comes in separately to each school depending on their criteria. Mr J. Stevenson wished to know if it was possible to defederate at any time should the need arise? Mr Rew believed that it would be possible should it ever be felt necessary. The Chairman asked whether it would be possible that with the federation consisting of three schools was there a chance that two of the schools could vote against the third, possibly the weakest one when decisions need to be made. Mr Rew said that there was always the potential for that to happen, but it would show something majority wrong with the Governing Body. Mrs A. Smith commented that when the shared headship was split 50/50 it worked well, how will this work between the three schools? Mr Rew believed that Mr Medway aims to split his time as evenly as possible and to be seen at all three schools. There are already good heads of teaching and learning, and in his opinion he thinks it will work well. Mr D. Horton asked what would happen if the other schools were flourishing and West Alvington has been struggling for a couple of years, at what point does a school become unviable. Mr Rew said that the key to small schools is minimum funding for 53 pupils. This adds protection for smaller schools, should this ever be removed then it may prove to be a risk for all smaller primary schools, federating the schools should make no difference at all. The Chairman thanked Mr Rew for coming along and informing the Parish Council of the proposals.

County Councillors Annual Report: Unfortunately, Sir Simon Day did not attend the meeting so there was no report.

Police Report: PC Steve Mullen and Sergeant Dave Green attended the meeting, they gave their apologies for PCSO Dave Gibson as he was unable to attend. Steve thanked the Parish Council and the Community for their continued help over the last year. There were 18 crimes in the Parish for this period, these consisted of 3 burglaries, 7 items of theft, 3 of criminal damage, 2 for drug offences and 3 miscellaneous crimes. The crime figures for the whole area was 1,115 this equates

to 2% for our Parish. There was however an increase of 3 crimes on the previous year. They reported that they had met with the Parish Council to monitor the speed of traffic on the road through the village towards Salcombe, this has been a concern due to the number of accidents over the last few years. At last years Fun Day they attended along with some of the Police Cadets, it was felt that everyone had an enjoyable day. Dave Gibson has been teaching Tag Rugby one day a week at the primary school, the children are enjoying this. They also had a day when they took the police cars into the school, this went down very well with the children. Steve reported that he will be retiring in June 2013. He was especially pleased that he is going to Dorset for 3 weeks whilst the Olympics are on as part of his job. Sgt. Green reported that he had taken over from Sgt. Jane Corkhill. He praised Steve and Dave for the work that they undertake in the community. He felt that 18 crimes for the Parish over the year was exceptional, compared to Kingsbridge who had 11 in one night. But it would be nice to reduce that figure even further. He also said that there were no plans to cut the numbers of officers in Kingsbridge and Steve will be replaced when he leaves, although we all know he is irreplaceable!! He also said that the new Chief Constable has declared his vision for the future of Devon & Cornwall Police, that is for it to be the best combination rural, urban and coastal division in the country, this shows the continued commitment to good policing in the south west. The Chairman thanked both officers for their reports and also for their continued support to the Parish.

Open Forum: Mr D. Horton said that he had received a complaint about the state of the Parish Burial Site from a member of the Parish who was considering using it for her late husband. She felt it was unloved and uncared for and unfortunately decided against using it. We had also received another complaint about the spoil from the graves and some galvanised sheets lying around. We will contact the gravedigger and ask him to tidy this area and perhaps we could provide some screening etc, also we will ask Craig to tidy the hedges etc.

District Councillors Report: Cllr. Simon Wright wished to end his first year as District Councillor by thanking everyone and welcomed the words of support expressed by Andrew Clarke ,delighted to hear communication between the two Councils had improved.

Declarations of Interest: The Chairman declared an interest in items 13 (Affordable Homes Steering Group) and 22 (Planning Applications)

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof being given to the Councillors prior to the Meeting. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

a. Town Park Sign: The Chairman reported that he had not taken down the sign as yet as he wished to confirm that this was what the Parish Councillors had agreed upon.

Appointment of sub-committee representatives:

a. Village Hall Committee: The Clerk volunteered to stand as the representative for the Village Hall Committee.

b. Coffee Club: Mrs M. Kitt will continue to run the Coffee Club.

c. Footpaths (P3) Officer: Mr A. Palmer

d. Best Kept Garden Competition: Ms. A. Quinton & Mrs M. Kitt

e. Work Parties: Mr A. Palmer

f. Parish Fun Day: Mr J. Stevenson

g. Entertainment: Mrs A. Smith

- h. Parish Map: Mr A. Clarke  
i. Police Liaison: Mr A. Clarke  
j. Open Spaces:  
k. Web Site: Mr S. Wright  
l. Salcombe & Kingsbridge Estuary Group: Mr J. Stevenson  
m. Affordable Homes Steering Group: Mrs S. Howells, Mr A. Clarke & Mrs A. Smith  
n. K1 & K5 Steering Group Representatives: Ms. A. Quinton & Mr A. Palmer  
o. WAHS & Church Representative: Mrs S. Howells will liaise with Mr K. Steer to receive updates.

K1 & K5 Update: There was a public consultation at the Rest Centre in Kingsbridge. The steering group has not met since to be made aware of the feedback slips. All in all there was a good attendance in the region of 160 people. Mr J. Stevenson felt that the websites were not clear as to where residents could provide comments. He also felt that West Alvington residents should have been leafleted as they are going to be strongly affected by any development. Ms. A. Quinton said she had suggested a banner at the roundabout to advertise the event. Ms. Quinton and Mr Palmer had also been omitted from the emails informing the steering group. It was also felt that the Pegasus website is not upto date factually therefore the public are not being given the correct information to act upon and comment. Mr Palmer felt that the more input from the public the better as the steering group can then go back and say what they feel. The comments date has been extended. There were a lot of concerns especially from the residents of Westville and a lot of them were not leafleted either. The Chairman suggested that he arrange to hold a public event of our own in the Village Hall to explain things a little better. It was thought this would be a good idea.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that the trees that needed cutting back in the Village following concerns have now been done. He attended the Church AGM recently, he felt that the general message coming across was that they were trying to engage more with the community and that they also needed to cut costs. At present the Parochial list stands at 30 and is dropping. The Feoffees help them to keep going, as do Parish donations. One positive note is that Mr Butt seems to have drawn a truce and has even welcomed the Chairman into his home.

Representatives Verbal Reports:

**Mrs M. Kitt** reported that the coffee mornings seem to be increasing in numbers and there has been a request for them to be fortnightly rather than monthly.

**Mrs A. Smith** had nothing to report this meeting.

**Mr J. Stevenson** reported that they have held the first Fun Day Meeting at which it was discussed as to what the Fun Day money should go towards this year. It was generally felt that the whole Village should benefit, so it should be spent within Parish organisations at per other years.

**Ms. A. Quinton** had nothing to report this meeting.

**Mrs. S. Howells** reported that the Call for Sites proposal was now live and had been since the 25<sup>th</sup> April, posters have been put up in the Village and it is also on the website. The deadline for interested parties is the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Mr A. Clarke** had nothing to report this meeting.

Consider Response regarding Federation of Primary Schoo: Mr J. Stevenson felt that it was generally a good idea and that any pitfalls are going to be there regardless of whether we are a federation or not. We should support it and get behind them. Mrs S. Howells agreed and felt that it should go ahead and be given a chance. Mr A. Clarke was concerned that should West Alvington prove to be the “weakest” school, could it be closed? Mrs. M. Kitt said she for one would fight for

the school to remain open and that perhaps the Parish Council should have a member on the board of Governors. The Chairman said that we could discuss this proposal at another meeting. The question for now is should we support it? Mrs A. Smith proposed that we should support the move and this was seconded by Mr J. Stevenson. All were in favour. It was also suggested that the Community Governors should report back to the Parish Council or at least give us some kind of a link that we can refer to .

Financial Report & Accounts for 2011/12: The Clerk had prepared the Annual Accounts and a copy was given to each Parish Councillor present for their approval. All in favour.

Confirm the internal Auditor for the year end accounts: It was proposed that Nicola Fox once again be asked to undertake the auditing of the accounts, before they are sent to the Audit Commission.

Consideration of donation to West Alvington Horticultural Society: Following concerns from the Horticultural Society that they had incurred additional costs as a result of supporting the Fun Day. All the committee members had given raffle prizes and an additional £60 came from society funds. This on top of the kind donation made annually towards the Best Kept Garden Competition amounts to £110. We have currently made a donation of £50, they also currently spend £225 on the hire of the Village Hall. It was recommended that the Parish Council make an additional payment covering their additional costs. Whilst realising the importance of keeping Parish organisations in the the Village, should we give an additional sum towards the hire of the hall amounting to half the annual charge? Mr Clarke wasnt so sure it was right to subsidise just one section of the community. But he felt it was right that they be reimbursed for their costs for supporting the Fun Day. Mrs S. Howells felt that we should aim to help keep the Spring Show in the Village Hall. That was generally agreed but not necessarily that we pay for their hire charges of the hall when they hold their fund raising events. It was therefore resolved that we give the Horticultural Society £150 in total. This was proposed by Mrs S. Howells, seconded by Mrs M. Kitt. All in favour. Mr A. Clarke felt that this should be seen as a goodwill gesture.

Confirm Grass Cutting Contract: As time was spent on a lot of other items it was decided to defer the decision until the next meeting.

Consider additional works to Burial Site: There have been a couple of complaints about the state of the burial site at present, mainly shillet from the graves that have been dug and the spoil that has been left over, also the tin sheets that are supposed to be covering it, these are strewn around the site and it is looking very unattractive. Also the hedges need trimming including the new hedge that was planted. We have been quoted £30 for the extra work from Craig Brock. It was decided to ask him to go ahead with this extra work and to contact the gravedigger about tidying up the mess.

Town Park Car Park: At the last meeting it was suggested that we take the sign down as a trial measure. We have received a business rates account for the car park that has been back dated 3 years. The Chairman has appealed against it on our behalf and for the year 2010 we have received a 50% relief. However any bill for future years will be sent at the rate of £500 per annum. This means that the car park will cost us with the rental as well over £800 per annum. Car park spaces in the South Hams are rated at £40 per space. Do we consider a permit scheme to recoup some of charges. This is something that we are going to have to consider in the future, or some other way of raising the funds for next year. Mr M. Adams – Parishoner felt that the Parish Council had an obligation to provide the Village with a car park. The Chairman worked it out that if we were to put the extra cost onto the Precept this would equate to approx. £3 per household. Mr A. Clarke asked whether we could approach Mr Manisty about a rental reduction? This will need to be discussed

further, in the meantime we will remove the sign and see how things go.

Repairs to the Play Equipment: Mrs A. Smith reported that her husband had looked at the repairs that are required. He is hoping to get the base plates in on Sunday, the mats need lifting and he will also need a source of power to operate his equipment. It was suggested that we liaise with either the school or Terry to access some electricity.

Planning Applications & Considerations:

a. Ms J Martins- Householder application for single storey extension to rear of house at 8 Longfields, West Alvington – 3 in favour 4 against.

b. Mr R. Carpenter - Householder application for new entrance porch to existing dwelling. Existing pedestrian access from road/pavement moved west to accommodate new porch at 2 Butts Cottages, West Alvington – 5 in favour 1 against.

c. Mr J. Gooch - Householder application to build a new uPVC conservatory, together with all base works, at the side of the property at 4 Greenfield Cottages, West Alvington – All in favour.

d. Mr R. Lewis – Householder application for proposed parking bay and associated visibility splay at 1 Butts Cottages, West Alvington – 5 in favour 2 against.

e. Mr R. Helmer - Resubmission of planning application 59/2942/11/AG for new agricultural building to cover existing cattle feeding area at Woolston Court, West Alvington – 3 for 1 interest declared 3 site visits requested before committing.

Consider appointment of co-opted Parish Councillor: Mr M. Norsworthy expressed his wish to stand as a member of the Parish Council. It was felt that as he was born and bred in the Village he would be a valuable asset to the Council. He was proposed by Mrs. M. Kitt and seconded by Mrs A. Smith, all in favour. He was welcomed by the Chairman and Councillors present and will be given the appropriate paperwork to complete.

Correspondence: Nothing this meeting.

A.O.B. There is a Super Cluster Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at Rattery Village Hall 7pm – 9pm. Mr J. Stevenson & Mr S. Wright to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Mrs S. Howells reported that the Cricket Club were looking to rebuild their club house at some stage. Could perhaps a sports facility be incorporated into either the K1 or K5 schemes, could funding become available for such a thing. Could the idea be put to the steering group at one of their future meetings? The Chairman also asked if any of the Parish Councillors have any issues or items that need attending to if they could let either him or the Clerk know prior to the next meeting they can be dealt with sooner and an update can be given at the meeting. It was also mentioned that the drain at the old well is blocked again and needs cleaning out, this will be attended to.

Confirm the date of the next Meeting: The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

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