

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009:**

### **A.G.M.:**

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 5 Parish Councillors, 3 Parishoners, District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan, Dr & Mrs Morris (Planning Applicants)

Apologies for absence: Mr D. Horton, Mr B. Toms & Mr A. Palmer Mr. D. Dainty.

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

Mr S. Wright in the Chair.

Election of Vice Chairman: It was resolved on the proposal of Mr S. Wright and seconded by Mr A. Clarke that Mrs G. Doyle be elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

Appointments to Village Organisations: It was decided that as there were several Councillors unable to attend the Meeting that the appointments to the various organisations be made at the next Meeting.

Presentation of Planning Application: Dr & Mrs Morris came to the Meeting to explain their intentions regarding their Planning Application which is due to be put to SHDC. The Chairman has been to their property to see for his self their intentions. They do not wish to extend the property, but they would like to utilise the garage for extra living space, however at present it is not attached to the main building so there will be a need to attach it to the building. It was felt that there would be no visual impact issue. All the Parish Councillors present felt that they would be able to support the application when presented to them. The Chairman informed the Councillors that the neighbours were 100% in support. The Chairman thanked Dr & Mrs Morris for coming along and discussing their plans before submitting them to SHDC.

Open Forum: There were no topics for discussion.

District Councillor – Mrs D. O'Callaghan: The local Development Framework workshops for the Kingsbridge area will be held around the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June. The framework outlines potential sites for housing, employment etc, it is a long term plan aimed at building 400 new homes in rural areas, by 2016.

Two possible sites outlined for West Alvington are the land behind The Ring O'Bells and the land behind Town Park. Both sites however have constraints these being adverse visual impact, isolation from key services, poor integration and relation to adjacent land uses. These sites could be controversial as they are at present greenfield sites. The District Councils aim is that 60% of any new housing should be affordable. On June 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a Streamside Event for families with children aged between 0 – 15 years. This will involve tidying up, a barbecue, tea & cakes, games etc, the event will be free.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed and signed. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were confirmed but left unsigned as there were a couple of minor amendments which needed to be made to District Councillor Mrs O'Callaghans report. These will be signed at the next Meeting.

Matters Arising:

Car Park Light: The Chairman asked the Meeting if we could leave this matter until the next Parish Council Meeting as he has yet to speak to Mr Manisty and hopefully more Parish Councillors will be present.

Main Road Parking: The double yellow lines were put in place at Easter as promised by Devon County Council. We have however, received one letter from a resident who feels that in no way have the lines reduced the problems that occur at Woodlane when vehicles wish to turn right. Mr D. Horton had wished his comments to be put forward at the Meeting in his absence. He felt that the lines had not decreased the number of vehicles that park along the main street. He had counted 19 vehicles before the lines were put in place and more often than not there were 17 and sometimes 19 since the lines were implemented. However, some of the Councillors present did not agree with this comment and one of the Parishoners present who lives at Phoenix Place also disagreed. He felt that the cars did not park where the lines were placed, but in his opinion their presence had not improved the matter at all. The Chairman suggested that we speak to those people who may have concerns and review the situation. Mr Clarke felt that the traffic was flowing better through the village and that there was not so much confrontation. The resident felt that cars were still jamming up, but that any extension to the double yellow lines would have an adverse effect on pedestrian safety. The Chairman suggested that we invite Mr John Halliday from South West Highways to the next Meeting and ask his advice and any possible solution he may have concerning increasing safety for pedestrians.

West Alvington Hill Disabled Access: Mrs O'Callaghan had reported at the last Meeting that Mr Pope from Devon Highways had explained that there were no funds left for such work. However, he would consider the situation once the new

budget was in place.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that some new road signs had been put in place, unfortunately they are not the traditional Devon type, they are now quite modern, however they are in place. It was hoped that with the new signs in place this may stop some of the problems seen recently with large vehicles being sent down the narrow lanes after following their Sat Nav directions. Mrs G. Doyles asked if some signs could be put at the Kingsbridge end of Redford Lane as this is the road that the last “mishap” took place, when a large lorry got jammed in the lane. We will ask if this can be done. The Chairman also reported that we have written letters to Tor Homes complementing them on the re-surfacing of the car park at the Village Hall and for the grass cutting. We have received a letter back thanking us for our positive comments. We have also sent a letter of thanks, to Mr J. Halliday for his co-operation with the main road parking etc. The Chairman also informed the Meeting that we had received a Planning System Questionnaire for the Council to comment on it was felt that more consultation was needed with the Planning Department and communication could be improved. It was also reported that the Police had found a “Cannibis Squeezer” in the Town Park Car Park, there have been reports of cars up there late at night and possibly up to “no good”.

The Chairman also reported that the school wished to join a federation and amalgamate with Charleton Primary School. This is due to the dwindling numbers and the costs of running the schools. Also the Headteacher of West Alvington is leaving at the end of the term and it is hard to find a replacement. There will be a six week consultation period. It is aimed that the two schools will share a Headteacher and the teachers will become specialised and move between the two schools. They will have combined sports days and school outings. This is not a unique situation and other schools have done it in the area. It will mean the Governors of both schools resigning and then a new body of Governors will be elected. It was felt that if both these schools are to survive they need to amalgamate. As a Village we do not want to lose our school as this could have an impact on the Village Hall as well as a lot of income is generated via the school. Mr Clarke felt that it was inevitable this would be the way for the school to go, but felt it only right that each school had proper representation from its own Parish on the Governing Body when any decisions were to be made. It was agreed that we send a letter supporting the move but we would like a Parish Council Representative on the Governing Body. The Chairman also reported that the Bishop of Plymouth had been and consecrated the burial site, which is now to be called The Parish Cemetery. Also he and the Vice Chairman, Mrs Doyle had attended a dinner with the Bishop of Exeter. This was part of the celebration of the 1100th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese.

Mr Clarke proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for attending these functions.

Parish Reports:

a.Church: Mr Dainty had sent his apologies and so there was no report. Although it was noted that the Church clock was still not working, awaiting spares.

b. School: Again Mr Dainty was not present. Although the main issue regarding the school had been discussed.

c.Village Hall: Mrs Doyle reported that one of the partitions that had previously been repaired was again coming away from the building, and will need repairing again. Structurally the hall is looking rather sad. Mrs O'Callaghan asked if we had looked into any forms of funding to help. She offered to make some enquiries with the CVS for potential funding.

d. Parish Beating of the Bounds Event: It has been arranged to meet at the Village Hall Car Park at 10:00am. There are two routes, one shorter and easier than the other. After the walk there will be a ploughmans lunch in the hall. So far there are 22 people interested in taking part.

e. Parish Fun Day: Mr A. Clarke reported that plans for the event were going well, he ran through a few of the proposed ideas. He has also approached the WI about preparing cream teas, and running a cake stall. The idea is that any associations that run stalls will split their takings between themselves and the Parish Plan Fund. The idea for the fancy dress is naval history. We will need a PA system, certificates for the childrens events, and prizes. There will be events outside in the field and the hall will be utilised as well. Further updates will be given at future Meetings.

f. Parish Allotments: The parcel of land that we hoped may have been suitable for allotments is unfortunately not, mainly due to the problem of access. However, we hope to revisit an alternative site, which looks promising at present. Further investigations are needed, and further updates will be given at future Meetings. We do have volunteers to help with the organising should the project get up and running.

g. Parish Web Site: The web site is running well and we have an average of 350 hits each month. We have started selling advertising space to local businesses etc to generate a small bit of income to go towards the running costs. Each business link costing £20

h. Best Kept Garden Competition: Mr Dainty has sent out the letters announcing the competition and within the next month the entry forms will be delivered to those interested in taking part.

Planning Applications: There were no applications in this period.

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Planning Decisions:

a. Mr & Mrs P. Watts: Grant of Planning Permission for amendments to listed building consent 59/2215/08/LB for extension and conversion to garage to games room.

b. Mr & Mrs P. Watts: Grant of Planning Permission for amendments to Planning Approval 59/2216/08/F for extension and conversion of garage to games room.

c. Mr M. Dowie: Grant of Planning Permission for installation of 2 X 3KW domestic wind turbines.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that when applications are sent out they have a date of return on them. If we do not get them back until after the date given then our statement cannot be accepted at the Planning Department and we have lost our opportunity to comment on applications that affect our area. One application was returned one month later than requested !!

Correspondence: Various letters etc, had been received from organisations mostly for information purposes. These were available at the Meeting for the Councillors to acquaint themselves with.

Financial Reports: The Annual Accounts and the bank balances as they stand as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 were available for inspection. Copies of the spreadsheet were given to each of the Councillors present. The accounts were presented to the Council and it was resolved that they be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the years transactions for funds under the control of the Parish Council and that they can now be sent to the internal auditor for conformation.

The Annual Insurance premium is again due. The total this year being £257:42p. It was agreed that this was an acceptable price and that the premium should be paid. All in favour.

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB - current account	2.240:44
Lloyds TSB - savings account	112:33
Lloyds TSB - Parish Plan Fund	647:55

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Cheques to be drawn:-

West Alvington Village Hall Committee	10:00
Mrs J. Johns – Clerks salary & expenses	1.068:20
Mr S. Wright – Parish Council expenses	51.53
Community First Insurance Premium	257:42

Annual Budget: The Chairman gave all present a copy of the 2009 Precept and our expected annual budget for the year ahead. A copy will be kept on file.

Asset Register: The Chairman gave all present a copy of our asset register, outlining the assets that the Council have. This years total assets amount to £1.603:00 each year the figure is decreased by 5%. A copy will be kept on file.

Health & Safety Report: The Chairman had prepared Health & Safety Reports for the Parish Burial Site, the Parish Car Park at Town Park, and the Parish Playing Field. A copy of each will be placed on file.

The Minutes: It was agreed that the Minutes could be placed on the web site when ready. They would not be the official Minutes as they would not have been ratified.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman:

The fence in the playing field is in need of repair, it looks as if it has been cut and the children are pushing their way through it. It was suggested that we obtain a quote from Timberjack – Andrew Rhymes for the repair. This is a matter of safety. We will also obtain a quote for the repairs required for the seat at the top of the field at Easton Hill.

Mr Clarke commented that the warning sign next to Porch House is covered with growth and is not visible. The Chairman thought that this had been cleared, but will check. Mr Clarke also asked whether the drain had been cleared opposite the well area. The Chairman believed it had. Mrs F. Newsham thought that there were a lot of weeds in certain places in the Village and that the roads looked a mess, and there was a lot of rubbish about. We will look into this.

The Chairman reminded Councillors present that as Parish Councillors they have a legal duty to attend the Meetings and if for some legitimate reason they cannot, apologies must be given. An attendance register is kept and officially if a Councillor misses three consecutive Meetings they can be dismissed from their position.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.28pm. The date of the next Meeting being confirmed as Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

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