

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 17th March 2011:

The Parish Council Meeting followed the Annual Parish Meeting as recorded.

Apologies for absence: Mr A. Palmer and Mr D. Horton.

Open Forum: There were no issues for discussion.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last meeting held on January 20th 2011 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the meeting. All were in favour. There was one small amendment to District Councillor O'Callaghans report.

Matters Arising:

Street Lighting: This was following the proposal to cut down on usage overnight. It has been suggested that the lights in the main street through the village remain on all night and that the roads in Lower Street, Town Park, Townsend Close, Townsend Road and Longfields a total of 15 street lights be reduced. This could be from 12.30 -5.30am when they would be switched back on if necessary. Mr Stevenson asked if the time could be change, it was felt that it probably wouldnt be possible to do this once it was agreed. Ms Quinton felt that with the more uneven ground in these streets it may not be such a good idea to reduce the lighting periods. Mr Stevenson felt that although we do need to be more proactive if the street lights are to be turned off, why not the ones on the hill.? The Chairman reported that it is a legal requirement to light an A road. Mr Stevenson felt that we should put the proposal out to more of the Parishoners, especially those who will be most affected. The car park lights will remain on. The light in the Town Park Car Park is our light so this one will not be considered in the proposal. It was decided to defer the decision to the next meeting. It was agreed that we need to guage the opinion of the parishoners. All were in favour.

Tor Homes: This has become a long running saga. The car park is apparently owned by Tor Homes and it is funded by the residents rents. A meeting was set up which involved the School, Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, Tor Homes and South Hams Councils Communities Director. The history of the car park was discussed and the Parish has had unstricted use for the last 36.6 years, thus the Parish Council strongly objected to Tor Homes restricting the parking to residents only. At the meeting it was agreed a resolution needed to be met and one duly was. All parties involved agreed and it was put in writing. To such end that no sign would be put up banning parking for non residents, bays would be marked and one disabled bay would be issued but not where the disabled person parks at present as it was agreed that this causes an issue whereby the access is blocked should an emergency vehicle be needed. It was accepted that the Village Hall Car Park could accommodate 4

parking spaces and not the present 3. Tor Homes offered to make good the path and tidy up the hedge and bank area to provide better access to pedestrians. However, when the Village Hall Committee met in their own meeting they threw out the proposal on the grounds that “they want nothing to do with Tor Homes”. The Chairman explained that Tor Homes had the legal right to close the car park, this would then mean that the Village Hall would cease to operate. He further more expressed how disappointed he was with the Village Hall Committee as a lot of work had been put into achieving a reconciliation to suit everyone. Mr P. Adams who along with Ms. A. Quinton are members of the Village Hall Committee explained that they were not given the full facts of the matter and that Ms. Quinton had simply been given the statement “Hands off our car park” and was only the messenger. Mr Adams said that the bays had been marked out as a gesture of goodwill by the Village Hall Committee, this was challenged by the Chairman who told Mr Adams that he had marked out the bays himself on request of the Village Hall. Ms. Quinton said that she believed that because the space directly outside the door was a prime off loading space and that the Committee did not want this as a designated disabled space. The Chairman explained that the Committee had a legal obligation to provide at least one disabled space. This did not necessarily have to be directly outside the door, it could be in the car park next to the other one being provided by Tor Homes. There were options. Both Mr Adams and Ms. Quinton felt that they needed to go back to the Village Hall Committee and present the facts given by the Chairman.

Housing Needs Survey: Following the last discussion copies of the survey have been given to each Councillor. The Chairman suggested that we invite the parties involved to the next meeting and we can then decide where we go from there. If we do not have a survey undertaken the chance of us getting any affordable homes is unlikely. The results of the survey will be private and not put in the public domain. It will be purely for our knowledge only.

Local Development Plan: The LDP is now out along with the inspectors report. The industrial estate to the north of Kingsbridge has been thrown out. There is nothing on the report for West Alvington.

Employment Status of our Clerk: New rules from HMRC now state that Parish Clerks can no longer be self employed. By the 6th April all Clerks have to be employed by the Parish Council. The Chairman asked whether the Parish Council would be in favour of the Clerk setting up the new PAYE scheme with help from Mrs M. Wright. The Clerk would then be paid monthly rather than bi-annually in order to keep in line with the PAYE regulations and under the NIC and TAX bracket. The Councillors present were in favour of this proposal. The Clerk was instructed to go ahead and set up the scheme.

Additional Funds for the School:(Royal Wedding Celebrations): The school wish to purchase gifts for the children to commemorate the forthcoming Royal Wedding. The

Parish Council at this time have no spare funds. Although a cheque from the Fun Day has been given to the school, but Mrs Perkins wishes this money for another project. Since then the Friends of the School have offered to provide the necessary funding. We will be prepared to contribute some funds when we have some available money, probably after the next Fun Day.

Burial Site Rates: After a review of the finances for the forthcoming year, the Clerk and the Chairman had a discussion about the possibility of increasing the burial site fees. Suggested amounts were put to the Parish Councillors present. Mr Clarke proposed the increases and this was seconded by Ms. Quinton. All in favour. The new rates will be applicable from 1st April 2011. Copies of the new rates will be sent to the Funeral Directors and the local Monumental Masons.

Planning Applications/ Decisions and outstanding issues:

a. Mr D Horton: Retrospective application for conservation roof lights in a listed building, barns 1 & 2 Woodhouse Farm, West Alvington – In favour of support.

b. Mr P. Howard: Householder application for extension to main house and conversion of part of outbuilding to studio/ancillary accommodation at Albemarle, Woolston, West Alvington – In favour of support.

c. Mr T. Butt: Alterations and extension to include retrospective application for alteration to external ground levels to form extension to garden area at Yarnacombe Farm, West Alvington – Not in favour of support. **This application has subsequently been withdrawn.**

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB – current account	1.251.49
Lloyds TSB - savings account	112.38
Lloyds TSB - parish plan account	789.29
Abbey National – P3 account	223.83

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall - 1 session plus hire of hall on Carol Singing Evening £20

Clerks salary – 6/12 - £1.030

We will also need a new Minutes book, this will be ordered and invoiced at the next meeting.

A.O.B by the Chairman: The Chairman reported that the bus stop has now been extended. There is a sign up in the bus stop that now makes it illegal to park cars in the bus stop during certain periods of the day. Mr Clarke reported that he would like to start work on a kite flying day in April 2012. This could be held in the Cricket Field and kite flying clubs could be invited to come along. We could have a BBQ, ice cream van, candy floss stall etc. There is also a man who is based in Durham who visits schools and brings along kit for the children to make kites. This is also an

educational experience teaching aerodynamics, design and physics. Mr Clarke asked if the Council would be in support of such an event. The idea was warmly accepted by the Council. If anyone wishes to support or has any ideas please feel free to contact Andrew.

The Chairman finished by thanking the members of the Parish Council and wished those standing for election the best of luck. He felt that the last four years had been productive and hopefully the future would be even better.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.33pm.

The date of the next meeting being confirmed as Thursday 19th May 2011, this being the date of the Annual General Meeting.

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