

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014:**

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. There was an attendance of 8 Parish Councillors and 11 Parishioners.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mr M. Norsworthy.

Open Forum: It appears that some of the Minutes are not showing on the web site, this will be rectified by the Chairman who manages the site.

County Councillors Report: Cllr. R. Gilbert brought along a map of the roads in the Parish highlighting all the footpaths, private roads, easements etc; due to the cuts in the Highways budgets many parishes are getting involved in the maintenance of their roads. This map will help us with reporting problems etc, when they arise, many parishes have framed theirs and put them in prominent places such as their village halls, maybe we should do the same. He will forward a copy of the road legend and its categories and maintenance service standards via email to the Chairman and the Clerk for our future reference should we require it.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman reported that the Chief Executive was now retiring and in his place there would be the appointment of two directors. One of whom will be the Head of Paid services, the reason for this is that with the forthcoming T18 changes there will be no need for a CEO the aim is to make the workings more efficient. He had attended a scrutiny meeting today, and in the Local Government Spending review in theory the local council should be £50,000 better off. A support scheme for council tax benefit had been agreed, whereby someone had previously received 100% support they will now receive 80%. Some sectors are ringfenced eg. OAPs. On the waste collection front, South Hams were in the top 3 of the best recycling districts in Devon we are now at 54% and rising.

Declaration of Interests Personal or Pecuniary: Mrs M. Kitt declared a “possible” personal interest, relating to item 10 on the Agenda, Homefield. (she has declared this possible interest even though it has been recorded many times before in the Minutes, because her granddaughter would have liked the chance of a home in the Village but this has already been ruled out by the housing association previous to any discussions. Mrs L. Gritton declared the same interest at item 10 as it relates to her sister. Mr S. Wright declared an interest relating to item 15, Planning also on item 10, it is his intention to stay for this item as no planning decisions are being made at this stage. At this point he also clarified the situation with Mrs M. Kitt and Mrs L. Gritton's positions and how he had consulted the Monitoring Officer for her advice. This is recorded in the Minutes.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the Meeting. The Clerk asked for one alteration to be made to the figure for the Fun Day it reads £794.51, it should actually read £749.51. This was duly amended. The total for Fun Day now stands at £810.51 thanks to the raffling of the second blanket and a cushion at the Carol Singing Evening raising a further £61.00.

Matters Arising:

TAP Fund: We are pursuing a joint application with Kingsbridge for the items proposed at the last meeting. Another project proposed was the small section of footpath from the car park to Lower Street which is always muddy, uneven and dangerous is to redo this as part of the TAP Fund scheme.

Carol Singing Evening: The Chairman reported that the Carol Singing Evening was once again a

great success and everyone present seemed to enjoy it enormously. It is one of our most successful community projects and we should aim to advertise it more widely throughout the Parish for the coming year.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that over Christmas there had been an incident with a garden fence from a holiday let falling onto cars in the road, also the Christmas Tree kept falling over and had to be re-erected several times. Clive has been brilliant, and helping when needed sometimes without even having to be asked. We gave him a cash gift for Christmas which he appreciated, as we have very much appreciated his hard work since he has moved into the Village.

Representatives Verbal Reports: Mr R. Ladkin reported that he had attended a Planning Training event looking at Government changes to policy. He found this a very good and informative event, very well organised attended by well over 200 people.

Mrs M. Kitt reported that they have held the first coffee morning of the new year, and how nice and clean the kitchen was. She thanked Mrs C. Horton and Mrs J. Johns for their hard work.

Homefield – West Alvington Working Group Report: Mr R. Ladkin read through the report that the working group have been working on. (a copy of which is to be added to the Minutes book for the records) The idea of the report is to inform the Parish Council of the progress of the development of the Homefield site and to request guidance for the working group on the basis for subsequent conversations with the planning officer, developer and architect. There are still a lot of concerns, namely the process under which decisions are made. Some parishoners are against development of the sight and the working group respect their opinion. They have met with the Chairman, the planning officer, architect, estate agent, proposed developer etc on the 18<sup>th</sup> December with the plan given to the planning officer. There is to be a further site meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, the working group will then report back again at the next Parish Council meeting whereby they intend to invite Dave Kenyon from SHDC. There were a few issues regarding access, in the main, pedestrian access, disabled access and pushchair access. This was considered a sensible issue to pursue further. The subject and orchards and allotments was raised again. It was again said that a sum of money will be allocated under a 106 agreement for the use of the parish towards recreational facilities should this be desired. We all need to work with the work party for a positive way forward for everyone involved.

Highway Safety: Adam Keay from Highways as asked undertook a speed noting exercise for us. It appears that we still do not have a speeding issue in the Village. We have over the years had speed monitoring devices in the Village, we have asked the emergency services if they have experienced problems in the Village and they have all said not, in fact the police have encouraged the use of the parked cars to slow down traffic speed and use it as a safety buffer. We have however, reduced the volume of parked cars by putting double yellow lines from the pub to no.3 Phoenix Place, in return we provided extra car parking at Town Park car park. We altered the bus stop and are still currently awaiting the provision of double yellow lines in Lower Street, to ease congestion at the top half of the road as you approach the junction.

#### Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds – current account	1468.17
Lloyds - savings account	4881.46
Lloyds - parish plan account	499.68

cheques to be drawn:

Mr S. Wright - for purchases made and web site fee reimbursement	162.03
Mr N. Adams - Hedgecutting	108.00

Gazette -  
CAB – donation as agreed at last meeting

59.40  
50.00

Precept for 2014/15: The time for setting the Precept has come around again. A 2% increase was suggested for the ensuing year. This was proposed by Mr R. Ladkin and seconded by Mrs A. Smith with all in favour. It was also agreed to give the Clerk a salary increase of 5% .  
The Chairman duly signed the Precept form.

Playing Field Fence with financial considerations: The Chairman has received a revised price for just the fence on the western side of the field. This is now £336.96 plus VAT. It was proposed by Mrs G. Rossetti and seconded by Mrs M. Kitt, all in favour that this now goes ahead.

Planning Applications/Decisions/ Updates:

Correspondence: There were no items for discussion.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: There were no items of any other business from the Parish Councillors. Mr A. Clarke asked whether he could speak at this time. He wished to see the allocation of 30MPH repeater signs throughout the Village or at least the provision of one. We will approach Adam Keay from Highways about this. He also asked about the provision of disabled access to Kingsbridge on the footpath this is currently very difficult with the steps at the beginning of the footpath. Mr P. Everitt a member of the opposition group to the Homefield proposal, then asked to approach the Parish Council due to their concerns about the Parish Councils support for the development despite opposing previous applications in the past. They feel it doesn't fulfil any need in the Village and that the Village residents do not support any application on this piece of land when there is clearly no need, Mr S. Harrow said that they would consider an injunction against the Parish Council. The Chairman explained that currently no application has been made and the working party have given their report as was discussed earlier. The Chairman offered to meet with Mr Everitt if he wished to discuss things further.

Confirm the date of the next Meeting: There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.25pm. The date of the next Meeting being confirmed as Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.00pm.

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