

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 23rd January 2009:

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 8 Parish Councillors, District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan and Community Police Officer Steve Mullen.

Mr S.A.E. Wright in the Chair.

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

Open Forum: There were no topics for discussion.

Community Police Officer: PC Steve Mullen had nothing to report concerning the Village, but welcomed questions from the Meeting. Mr Clarke commented that he had witnessed a bit of an obstruction in the Village which was attended by police officers from Dartmouth. PC Mullen replied that usually this type of incident would be attended by local officers from Kingsbridge but they must have been out on other enquiries. The Chairman asked if there had been any reoccurrence of the problems in the car park at Kingsbridge Community College, PC Mullen said that that particular problem had been resolved and the youths were now congregating again on the Quay car park. The Chairman thanked PC Mullen for attending.

District Councillor – Mrs D O'Callaghan: Reported that the Residents Car Parking Scheme whereby residents can purchase a annual ticket for £10 per year and this will then enable them to park from 4pm to 10am in one of the towns car parks for free. This will start on the first of February and will be a pilot scheme. On the 5th February S.H.D.C will be having their Budget Meeting where it is expected that Council Tax will be pegged at the same rate as last year, car park charges will also be frozen. She also reported that a new mechanical sweeper is to be introduced, mainly for the rural areas, this will be at a cost of £46,000 per annum. She had also spoken to Mark Seymour regarding the Chairmans request for a breakdown in the costings of the services provided for West Alvington, he said he was unable to provide an exact breakdown, but could provide a guideline. The Chairman had received this and would elaborate further in his report. She reported that the Gerston Planning issue had been deferred and that she had received confirmation that the application for the canopy at the school had been approved, something that we had not yet been informed about. Mr Toms asked Mrs O'Callaghan if there was any news regarding the Councils money that was invested in the Icelandic Bank. Mrs O'Callaghan believed that the Council were fairly confident about getting their capital of approx. £1.3 million back but was unsure about any interest accrued. Mr Toms asked how the Council hoped to make up any loss. Mrs O'Callaghan felt that things were not too disastrous as there are substantial reserves and the Council would be able to whether any losses without it affecting resources or services.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting held in November were confirmed and signed, copies thereof having been supplied to each Councillor prior to the Meeting.

Matters Arising:

Lower Street Car Park: We have received no response to our questions from Tor Homes despite their promise to get back to us. The Chairman felt that he should speak to the school about the possible creation of a small pavement outside the flats to make access safer for the children, since the closure of the area by the noticeboard if they felt this was necessary then Tor Homes could be approached.

Street Light for Town Park Car Park: We are still awaiting a reply.

Main Road Parking Update: Following the legal procedures the double yellow lines should be in place by summer. Apparently in Devon the paint used for the yellow lines is a calmer shade of yellow and the width of the lines is 50mm rather than 100mm so they should not look too imposing.

West Alvington Hill – Disabled access: Mrs O'Callaghan said she was still awaiting a follow up reply.

Parking Spaces – Village Hall Car Park: The Chairman has spray painted parking bays alongside the fence and put a sign on the gate. However, not all cars are parking within the marked bays!

Parish Plan: Mr A. Clarke reported that all the households in the Parish have now received their copies of the plan. It was now time to hold another Meeting to move the plan forward. We need to get members of the Village on board to help with the initiatives. A Meeting date of Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm has been arranged. Flyers and public notices will be put in place to advertise this event.

Burial Site Grass Cutting: The P.C.C. Thanked the Council for their donation of £50 towards the upkeep of the machinery and Mr Rhymes has been paid for his work for the year.

Councillors Reports:

Church: Mr Dainty gave his thanks on behalf of the P.C.C. for the donation as stated above. He reported that the Church continues to hold its own, despite the general downturn in congregation numbers and an inability to replace retired clergy. Lay people are taking part more in the day to day running of the Church of England. £7.500 has been spent on the Quinquennial Survey Work and the common share paid by West Alvington Church this year is now £11.000. The contributions from these

common shares does not cover the Clergy stipends.

School: Mr Dainty reported that Bill Crispin had won 3rd place in the Lollipop Person of the Year. He is a very popular gentleman with the children and staff alike. The children had an Egyptian week whereby they produced some excellent work. They also had a trip to Buckfast Abbey. The Community Christmas lunch was well attended by children, parents and friends. The numbers at the school are gradually increasing and there is much talk of Federation – schools getting together to share resources and thereby money. The new awning recently approved, will hopefully add to the childrens school life.

Village Hall: Mrs Doyle had nothing to report.

Parish Fun Day: Mr A. Clarke and Mrs L. Lawrence had had a meeting to discuss what sort of events they should have for the Fun Day. They thought along the lines of a B.B.Q, bran tub lucky dip, hook a duck, coconut shy, welly wanging, darts, bowling for a pig, egg & spoon races, sack races, 3 legged races, possible fancy dress for the children. It was thought that this could be held in September at the Cricket Club (this would depend on whether there are cricket matches on at the time) It was hoped that following the Meeting on the 5th February extra help could be obtained to run it through members of the Parish, possibly the clubs and associations in the Village. The Chairman thanked Andrew and Liz for their excellent ideas.

Best Kept Garden/Hanging Basket Competition: Mr D. Dainty had approached Keith Steer about the running of such a competition and very generously he had given a £50 donation to help towards the prize fund. It was suggested that 1st prize be £50 2nd £25 and 3rd £15. The rules should be kept fairly simple and information regarding the competition should be sent out in March. Posters, flyers etc; It was proposed to have the judging in June and entry forms to be sent out 2 weeks prior to judging.

The Chairman thanked David for such a positive start to the competition.

Allotments: The Chairman had spoken to Helen Bradfield about the possibility of h allotments. She seemed keen on the idea but there was the problem of access, also the property is currently up for sale. Kingsbridge Town Council currently have 35 mixed sized allotments and are currently oversubscribed and have a long waiting list. They charge £20 a year for large plot and £10 for a smaller one. It was decided to see at the Meeting how many people would be interested in having an allotment.

Village Hall Initiatives: Mrs S. Howells gave everyone present a copy of some proposed ideas she had had for getting the Parish together. She firstly thought about arranging for the Beating of the Parish or Parochial Bounds, this would commence with a walk and returning to the hall for refreshments. There could be a shorter route

for the less abled or for children. Her second idea was to hold a Gardeners Question Time in the Village Hall with a panel of experts, possibly staff from Avon Mill Garden Centre or local gardening enthusiasts who would be prepared to come along and give a talk. The next idea was a Parish Quiz with simple refreshments and an entry fee to cover some of the costs. We must look into the licencing laws and see if the Village Hall holds a current alcohol licence. Her next idea for next January was Wassailing this would involve a walking tour of apple trees at various local gardens and giving thanks for the previous harvest and asking for a plentiful harvest in the next season. The touring group could then return possibly to the hall for mulled cider and apple cake. Additional ideas included a seniors coffee morning, a book club and a youth film group. She also suggested that we have some talks in the hall, such as a flower arrangement demonstration, apple pressing day etc. The Chairman thanked Sally for her enthusiastic contributions.

Parish Open Spaces: Mr D. Horton was unable to attend the Meeting so his report could not be given.

Parish Web-Site: The Parish web site is doing well and each month it receives more hits. We are currently averaging 300 hits per month. On the site we have news & events, clubs, village hall news, events diary, primary school reports, church reports and photo library. The agenda is put on it and once the minutes have been approved they too are put on. It was hoped that later we could sell advertising space to help with the cost of the site.

Parish Maps: These have been ordered but have not yet arrived.

The Chairman announced a successful grant application amounting to £585:00 being payable from Devon County Council via Sir Simon Day. This money will go towards funding the Parish Plan initiatives.

Correspondence: The following letters etc. had been received from the following mostly for information purposes – these were available at the Meeting for the Councillors to acquaint themselves with:-

Society of Local Council Clerks Magazine
 South Hams Directory
 DAPC newsletter 2009
 SHDC Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 8th January 2009
 Executive Forward Plan January 2009
 SHDC – Devon Home Choice
 SHDC – Agenda & Minutes of the Council & Its Bodies November 2009

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that he had attended a Saltstone Meeting at which discussions continued regarding the possibility of a Unitary Devon.

He and the Clerk had attended a full planning committee site meeting at Gerston Point regarding their planning application and the size of the proposed building and the surrounding wildlife and environment. This site meeting was followed by a planning meeting at Follaton House the following week. The outcome of this was to defer any decision until Natural England and the A.O.N.B have had a chance to finalise their reports. The Chairman thanked District Councillor Mrs O'Callaghan for her support against this application and all the hard work she has put in on behalf of the Parish Council in fighting it.

The Chairman had also been approached about the visibility at the entrance to the road at Langworthys Barn and the safety issue of it, the Chairman subsequently asked for a road safety report for the stretch of road from the Butts to the lower end of Pinhays Hill. This came back as 1 fatal accident, 3 serious injuries, 20 slight injuries, 19 damage to vehicles only, this totalled 43. The stretch from Malborough to Salcombe only totalled 13 accidents. The Chairman had also approached South Hams District Council following his attendance at an earlier meeting regarding the services provided in West Alvington. We were told that we couldn't be given exact amounts and the following were guestimates. £4.354 spent on Ground maintenance, this includes grass cutting and footpaths, that is for 16 times a year and includes Devon County Council cutting highway verges 6 times a year. £4.739 spent on street cleaning, £3.680 spent on recycling, £11.597 spent on household waste. Outdoor recreation ground maintenance re: play equipment in play areas £1.130. A comment was made that we have not received any maintenance to our play equipment for the past couple of years or so and we have not even received the annual report as to the state of the equipment for a least two years either. He also reported that there had been an issue with flooding in Woolston at two different locations, Mrs Howells said that one area had been cleared, but wasn't sure how long it would last due to the amount of mud and water that gathers there.

Planning Applications:

- a. Mr & Mrs P.C. Watts: Application for extension and conversion of garage to game room at The Pound House, Longbrook Farm, West Alvington – All in favour
- b. Mr & Mrs P.C. Watts: Application for listed building consent for extension and conversion of garage to games room at The Pound House, Longbrook Farm, West Alvington – All in favour
- c. Mr S. Wright: Application for conversion of existing single storey detached games room to self contained annex for disabled person to include erection of single storey rear extension at Oldaway Barn, West Alvington – All in favour
- d. Mr & Mrs P. Hodges: Application for alterations and extension to dwelling at Swans Cottage, Collapit, Kingsbridge – 7 in favour 2 undecided due to lack

of information on the plans.

e. West Alvington Primary School: Erection of a bespoke steel framed and stretched PVC fabric canopy structure within the school playground to provide protection from

sun and inclement weather at West Alvington C of E Primary School – 1 in favour 5 against and 1 interest declared.

Planning Decisions:

a. Mr & Mrs White: Appeal decision regarding Application for extension and alterations to dwelling at West Haven, Tacket Wood, Kingsbridge – **Appeal granted.**

b. Mr M. Patrick: Appeal decision regarding Application for extensions and alterations to property at Sandy Park, Kingsbridge - **Appeal refused.**

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB	Current Account	865:17
Lloyds TSB	Savings Account	112:26
Lloyds TSB	Parish Plan Fund	12:55
Abbey National	P3 Account	374:37

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall	10:00
Chairmans Expenses (sign for gate, paint)	24:41

Setting of the Precept for 2009/2010: After careful consideration of the likely expenditure for 2009/2010 the Parish Councillors assessed the approximate figures and the precept request was calculated for submission to S.H.D.C. With the sum being the same as last year. The precept was set at the same as last year £3.500 The Clerk also requested that her wages be capped for the coming year. All the Councillors present were in favour of that sum being submitted. The Chairman was authorised to sign the precept form which he duly did.

A.O.B. Mr A. Clarke reported that there were two cars in the Town Park Car Park that were untaxed. These will be reported to the relevant authority and also have notices placed on them by the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.26pm.

The date of the Parish Plan follow up Meeting to be held on Thursday 5th February @

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7.30pm.

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 25th March 2009, this will also be the date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

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