

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 17th 2011:

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors and 1 Parishoner.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs S Howells and Mr J. Stevenson.

Open Forum: Mrs Horton, Parishoner present asked to address the Councillors regarding a pre application that she and her husband are seeking to put to South Hams District Council. She showed the Councillors the plans that are being proposed for the barns at Woodhouse Farm that they would like to convert into accommodation for holiday or long lets. After the presentation Mrs Horton raised one other issue regarding the amount of dog mess in the Village, especially in Woodhouse Lane. She had contacted the dog warden and felt that perhaps the Parish Council should put up posters to raise awareness of this serious problem, perhaps we should also lobby for a dog waste bin. The Chairman thanked Mrs Horton for her presentation and her concerns regarding dog mess.

District Councillors Report: Mr S. Wright reported that there was to be an increase of 2% in Harbour charges for users except commercial users. There is to be a review of the car park permits these will go before the scrutiny panel. It was suggested that there be a weekly permit which would be available online to encourage tourism in the towns. The local rate payers concessionary parking permit currently costs £21 it was suggested that this be slashed back to £10. At present these are only proposals and not definite measures. The back of the sports centre in the town has been tidied up. And the opening of the new affordable homes at Malborough has taken place, these will never be sold and are for rental only. The properties are very sustainable and eco friendly.

Declarations of interest: None of the Councillors present had any interests to declare.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting held on September 22nd 2011 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof being given to the Councillors prior to the Meeting. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

Housing Needs Survey: We have now received the findings of the survey. The findings were very interesting and it showed that we do have a need for some affordable housing in the Parish. We now have to approve the findings in order to go live with the report. Mr Horton asked if we considered that it did indeed reach everyone in the Village. He knew of at least three individuals who did not receive a copy of the survey and that they would be interested in taking part in the survey.

The Chairman said that as the findings clearly show a need for housing it will have recorded a need within the Village even though it may not have reached every household, although if this is the case it is regrettable. It was proposed that we adopt the findings and allow it then to move on to the next stage. It was proposed by Mr A Clarke and seconded by Mrs M. Kitt. All in favour.

Work Party: It was attempted to rectify the problems with the safety matting in the play area however it was not very successful and we will have to consider replacing it at some point in the future. Unfortunately some of the wooden play equipment is also rotting out. The benches in the Village were oiled to give them some protection over the winter.

Playing Field Gate: The conclusion to this problem is that the gate is “dead” and will need replacing.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that Devon County have assured him that a legal notice is to be issued to the owner of the caravan that has been parked in Townsend Road for years informing him of its removal. The gulleys have now been cleared. It appears that we only have two lengthsman for the whole area, so we have to wait longer for work to be completed. Our new contact for work that needs to be carried out is Adam Keay. Andy Gallagher has now left and Mike Watts is now situated elsewhere. The Chairman reported that the Clerk had arranged a meeting with Adam Keay and enrolled us into the Snow Warden Scheme. This involved the Clerk and the Chairman having to undertake “training” in order to be official Snow Wardens, they can then enlist a team of helpers should the need for any clearing or salting work to be undertaken in designated areas of importance in the Village. As we have signed up for the scheme we are entitled to upto 5 tonnes of salt, a snow shovel, a pair of gloves and a high visibility vest! A poster will be put up asking for volunteers to enlist on the scheme. Traffic lights have recently been put up near the school for works to be carried out on the school. Unfortunately they are a bit of a disaster, and cars are being gridlocked in the centre of the Village. A call to Adam Keay will be made asking him to reassess the safety of the positioning of the lights.

Parish Representatives:

Coffee Morning Club: Mrs Kitt reported that all is going well with the club and attendance is steady.

Mr Clarke reported that PC Steve Mullen is currently on holiday so he was unable to attend tonight's meeting but sent a report. There has been a spate of burglaries in the Salcombe and Kingsbridge area recently. Anyone noticing anything suspicious should always contact 999. There has also been a lot of bass poaching in the estuary, there are boats coming up from Plymouth netting mullett and bass. They are taking the mullett in vans and loading the bass up to be collected by cars later. The update

on the A381 Meeting is that another date is being arranged.

Village Hall: Ms Quinton reported that the Village Hall Committees AGM is to be held on the 24th November. However, she is unable to attend and wondered if anyone would be available to represent her.

Fun Day: Mr Clarke gave a short presentation on the Fun Day. He reported that the gross takings for the day were £1554.01. The expenses were £124.07 leaving a nett profit of £1429.94. The Fun Day Committee had met shortly after the event to analyse the day itself and see what improvements if any, need to be made assuming there is to be another Fun Day. It was felt that the day had run smoothly and the attendees had enjoyed themselves. This success was due to those who made the day possible by building and obtaining equipment, collecting items for the auction, setting up on the day itself and attending and running the stalls.

Special thanks were extended to:

The Church for supporting and running a stall, all the income was given to the Fun Day.

The Horticultural Society and the Village who both extended the same generosity.

Terry Reeves for not only printing the programmes but for also donating £100 to the Funds.

Mr Manisty for donating the use of his field as a car park and giving £50.

Crunchy Carrot for keeping things moving.

The Ring O'Bells for the barbecue and donating their entire proceeds to the school.

Terry Reeves & Rachel Clarke for designing and printing the programmes.

Steve Mullen and the Police Cadets

Williams Ice Creams

Paul Adams and his family for the music and setting up

Simon Wright and family for setting up and running stalls

Derek Winser for obtaining and setting up play equipment , Jenga etc:

Annie and Dawn for putting up bunting around the village and face painting.

Margaret Kitt for selling programmes on the day.

Rachel Clarke for running the teas and cakes.

Arthur Palmer and John Murray and Family for supplying and setting up.

The Belly Dancers and everyone else that we have not mentioned.

Areas of improvement:

Not all the activities were completed as we ran out of time. Next year the adult activities will be dropped. These include the Band, the Bellydancers and because of the economic climate the Auction. The auction could be run if donations were voluntarily given, but it was felt that it would not be fair to ask.

The teas and coffees were in demand, and more helpers would be needed in this area, perhaps the WI would be interested.

Unsold programmes. Next time have a lesser number with lucky numbers printed on them and the remainder to be blank for handing out.

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Have a reception area in the field for handing out Treasure Hunt etc;
Car Parking to be arranged earlier to permit advertising of resource in the programme.

More childrens prizes for events.

Urgent need for more helpers, some stalls were left unattended for periods of time.

Earlier advertising of the event through the media.

What went well:

Team Work

Tug of War

Lots for children to do free of charge

The weather!

Mr A. Clarke then reported that he would be stepping down from running the Fun Day. He would continue to help, but the success of the event this year demonstrated that fresh ideas worked. John Stevenson would run the event with help from the Committee and helpers. Mr Clarke then read out a list of suggestions from the Committee as to where the profit could be allocated. A spread sheet was given to the Councillors present it read as follows:

£250 towards Playing Field Equipment

£50 to Crunchy Carrot

£100 for the Christmas Carol Event

£100 for the Queens Diamond Jubilee Event

£100 for the Village Hall

£200 for the Church

£200 for Church Bells

£50 for the Horticultural Society

£300 for the school

£45 for the Coffee Club

Leaving a balance of £34.94 from the profits of the day to be transferred to the capital account. This ended Mr Clarkes report.

Planning Applications and Decisions:

a. Mr & Mrs Fray: Householder application for proposed alteration and extension at The Witterings, Woolston, West Alvington. 5 in favour 2 against.

b. Ms. H. Bradfield: Renewal of an extant planning approval 59/1735/08/F for conversion of barn to form ancillary accommodation at Horsemans Close, West Alvington. 2 interests declared, 4 in favour and 1 against.

c. Mr S. Thomas: Replacement dwelling (alterations to planning approval ref: 59/2067/08/F Revised plans at Gerston Point, Gerston, West Alvington 3 in favour & 4 against.

Playing Field Gate: We need to look into a replacement of the playing field gate, this should cost in total £115.08. This includes the gate, post, rail and a new playing field sign. It is hoped there will be no charge for labour. The payment should come out of the Parish Councils general fund, the contingency fund of £250 allows for this expenditure. We can reclaim any VAT.

This was proposed by Ms.A. Quinton, Seconded by Mrs M. KittAll in favour.

Fun Day Proceeds:

The Parish Council has sought grant requests from various Parish organisation. The coffee club should be given £45 as float money to keep it running for the ensuing year. It was suggested that Mrs M. Kitt be given the money allocated to purchase items required. All were in favour.

A payment of £50 to be made to Crunchie Carrot for work carried out at the Fun Day. All in favour.

The Church to be allocated £200, divided as follows: £50 towards the floodlight upkeep. £50 towards their Fun Day costs. £100 towards new equipment for the new kitchen. All in favour.

The Village Hall is to be allocated £100 towards their costs. All in favour

The Christmas Carol Singing Event to be allocated £100. All in favour

The Horticultural Society £50 towards next years show. All in favour

The school has been given £300. This was the amount raised by the barbecue run by John and Vicky at the Ring O'Bells, they specifically asked that this amount be donated to the school for the purchase of a new piece of equipment.

Replacement play equipment fund to be established with a £250 donation to kick start it. Mr J. Stevenson to head up the fund and seek alternative qoutes for new matting and equipment in the future. This was proposed by Mr A. Palmer and seconded by Mr A. Clarke with all in favour.

Financial Report: The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB current account - 1.279.50
 Lloyds TSB savings account - 812.46
 Lloyds TSB parish plan fund - 1.869.23
 Abbey National – P3 fund - 378.83

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall 10.00
 Audit Commission – Audit fees 174.00

Craig Brock – Grass cutting 255.00

Frequency of Meetings: It was suggested before that we increase the number of meetings that we have per year. The Chairman and the Clerk have discussed this at length and it was suggested that we opt for 9 meetings a year instead of the present 6. There will be no meetings in July, August or December unless there is a matter of importance that needs to be discussed. The new meetings will be shorter than present They will start at 7pm and finish at 8.30pm. It was thought that the present meetings run on rather late.

Social Events:

Carol Singing Evening: This is booked for Friday 16th December. The Clerk is making the tickets for the Councillors to sell. Mrs Wright will prepare the food for supper after in the hall. Tickets will cost £2.50 for adults, children under 12 will be free. We will also have a visit from Father Christmas who will give the children presents. The Chairman maybe able purchase the Christmas Tree from his District Councillors fund.

Queens Diamond Jubilee: The Chairman suggested that we think about what we would like to do for this event. He suggested that perhaps we could close Townsend Road put out tables and chairs and have a ram/pig roast with bread rolls, salads etc; We should aim to keep it simple so that everyone can enjoy the event without all working too hard.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: The Chairman reported that he and Mr Clarke and Mrs Kitt had attended the Parish Cluster Meeting. He noted that some Parishes dont have work parties and are not interested in helping theirselves. It is proposed to employ Link Officers within South Hams District Council which will be partly funded by Devon County Council whereby Parishes can go for help. It was felt that many people would go straight to their District Councillors in the first place so the Link Officers could be a non starter. Clerks are more than happy to go to South Hams District Council for help when it is required rather than go through a third party. It was also thought that the Cluster Meetings were not really worth much but are a good way of communication. There are also a “mammoth” amount of questionnaires on the South Hams District Council web-site unfortunatley these appear to also be a non starter and there seem to be no responses to the questions asked. Mr Clarke commented that there was a lot of negative feelings around the room at the meeting, a lot of complaints about the bus services etc; he felt that it raised the question “What have you done well in your Parishes?” The Chairman responded that West Alvington is a very pro-active Parish Council compared to a lot of other Parishes in the South Hams, something we should be proud of.

Ms Quinton said that she had attended the meeting at the Community College held by Pegasus on the 15th November. Mr Palmer was invited but subsequently had his

invitation revoked. Ms Quinton said that there were not as many people there as she had first thought there would be. The outcome of the meeting was that a steering group would be created in order to have collaborative communication from various groups in the area. She felt that West Alvington would have to have a lot of input as it will affect the Parish. As an individual she raised concerns about the amount of input that would be required of her if she were on the steering group. It seems that Pegasus have to prove to SHDC that they have interacted with all parties in order for the plan to move forward and be supported. The plan must formulate around the comments from the steering group. It is expected if things do move forward the plans will be available from mid 2012 and work would commence mid 2014. It was noted that the K5 seems to have increased considerably in size.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:20pm.

The date of the next meeting being confirmed as Thursday 5th January 2012.

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