

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2013:

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. There was an attendance of 5 Parish Councillors & members of the Parish.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs L. Gritton and Mrs A. Smith.

Open Forum: Mr A. Clarke, Parishoner, asked “At which meeting did the Parish Council decide not to pursue the Village Housing Initiative?” He felt that Homefield was not a VHI site but an exception site and that the proposal for Homefield was not an affordable housing scheme. He stated that when he was a member of the Parish Council he had spent some considerable time working on the VHI, which came about as a result of the Parish Plan and the needs of Parishoners. He offered to carry on working on the VHI in a hope to see it to fruition. The Chairman said that the housing should be affordable and fulfil the needs and desires of the this Parish. Mr Clarke felt that the Homefield site would not benefit the needs of the people in the Village. Mr J Stevenson said that a VHI site should be pursued and not an exception or departure site. The Chairman said that he would come back with a clear answer to Mr Clarkes question.

The new owner of Horsemans Close asked if anyone had any information about the water system there, as when it was raining recently the water at Mrs G. Rossettis property turned brown. It was suggested that he ask Mr M. Adams who would probably have some knowledge of this. He also asked advice on the trees along the edge of his property, they need sorting out. It was suggested that Adam Key from Devon Highways to contact him for advice. The Clerk was asked whether the Register of Interests was up to date, our records are and SHDC have been advised on changes and will update their records on the website. There was also a complaint about a car that keeps parking at the entrance of Lower Street, next to the bus stop making visibility difficult. We will ask the parking enforcement officer to monitor this. Speeding through the Village was raised again, 30mph repeater signs are not a possibility, neither are traffic lights. We will look into this again with DCC.

County Councillors Report: Cllr. R. Gilbert was unable to attend tonights meeting.

District Councillors Report: Consultations are ongoing regarding the public toilet closures during the winter months. This will mainly affect villages and no the towns. The new Boundary Commission report gives a few changes. SHDC are also undergoing a boundary review of District Councillors. The Council Tax Support Grant Consultation is still ongoing. There is to be a Leisure Review, the current contract for the centre comes to an end in 2 years time and it needs to be looked at carefully before deciding in which direction to proceed.

Declarations of Interests: Mr J Stevenson declared an interest in the Homefield Development site should it be raised. Mr S. Wright declared an interest in any Planning Issues at Parish level, item 14.

Approve the Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 6th June 2013 were signed and confirmed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

However the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 11th July 2013 were disputed by Mr J Stevenson who felt there were a lot of inaccuracies, he also complained that the Minutes were distributed only the day prior to the Meeting. The Clerk apologised for this, as it was entirely her fault. The Minutes were not been off tonight and we will wait until the next

meeting once the other Parish Councillors who were absent tonight can also voice their opinions on the Minutes

Matters Arising:

West Alvington Hill Footpath: After struggling with DCC to get the footpath cut and complaints from Parishoners about the state of it, we undertook the cutting ourselves. We will sort out with DCC regarding the payment of this. There was an offer of help with a work party if needs be in the future.

Dog Mess: This is an ongoing issue and we will continue to monitor it.

Clerks Report: The Clerk reported an issue that had arisen following the 11th July Extra Ordinary Meeting. Mr J. Stevenson reported 3 of his fellow Councillors, the Chairman Mr S Wright, Mrs M. Kitt and Mrs L. Gritton for possible breach of Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer and SHDC Solicitor and an independent person, each read the Minutes and the statements of the 3 Councillors involved and they decided that there was no evidence of any breach of the Code of Conduct against the named Councillors and it was therefore her decision that no further action would be taken and that was to be the end of the matter.

Chairmans Report: A new fence has been erected by the owner of Cross Cottage, which backs onto the playing field with prior consultation with the Chairman. The old one was in a dreadful state and the new one looks great. We are still waiting for the sign for the gate. Laminated ones seem to disappear very quickly once pinned on the gate.

Appointment of co-opted Parish Councillor: We have 2 vacancies, one of which is hopefully going to be filled again soon by a former Councillor who is reconsidering his position. Mr Robin Ladkin who lives at Osborne Cottage expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor. He gave a brief outline about his connection with the Village and felt that he would like to offer some service to the community. Mrs S. Jones proposed that Mr Ladkin be co-opted onto the Council Mr J Stevenson seconded this. All in favour. Mr Ladkin was welcomed to the Council and will be furnished with the appropriate forms as required.

Representatives Verbal Reports:

Mrs S Jones reported that the Beating of the Bounds event had taken place on Saturday 6th July. It was well attended, & a lovely sunny day for a walk finished off with a lunch in the hall. Much enjoyed by all and raising at the same time a small sum of money for the Play Equipment Fund. Mrs M. Kitt reported that the Coffee Mornings were continuing, although in future she will not be leaving the tea, coffee etc in the cupboard in the kitchen as it was pinched. The sponsored knit and the coffee morning raised an amazing sum of £800 again for the Play Equipment Fund.

Parish Fun Day:

Fun Day is on track and the WI who help with the refreshments will not be asking for any money this year, instead they asked that their share be put in the Play Equipment Fund. We are seeking prices still for the equipment the latest has come in at £34,000! Different areas of funding will be sought to help pay for the equipment such as Lottery or Match Funding.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB current ac	1.721.77
Lloyds TSB savings ac	3.721.02

Planning Applications/Decisions & Updates:

Preston Cottages, the barn that appeared on a 28 day notice and which had received 46 letters of objection has now been given permission for a temporary dwelling despite the Parish Councils objections because it met the necessary requirements agriculturally. It will stay for 3 years, after that a permanent dwelling will probably appear, unfortunately SHDC's hands are tied.

K5 was refused on the grounds of over development in an AONB area. They have 6 months to put in an appeal. We will be informed when they do so. K1 is to go through. The opening in the wall at Thornfield should be closed in November.

Village Hall Concerns: The Chairman said he had been trying to speak to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee for some time but she seemed reluctant to agree to a date and time to do so. He wished to speak to her about the condition of the hall roof and also about some leaflets that had been distributed in the Village regarding the possible closure, if albeit temporary of the hall because of the state of the roof and the concerns that had been put to the Council about this. The Parish Council are the landlords of the Village Hall Committee and they really should be communicating with us.

The Chairman also said there were a number of issues within their lease that need looking at. Mr A. Clarke made a comment that if the Committee are failing then the Parish Council would have to take over as they are the landlords. Mrs C. Horton suggested that as there were 3 members of the Village Hall Committee present, one being the Clerk, the Chairman should put any concerns and comments in an email to the Clerk and she could in turn forward it to the members of the Village Hall Committee. This was agreed.

Correspondence: There were no items for discussion.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: There have been several sightings of a man exposing himself in the woods. There has also been reports of a couple who have been "caught in the act" in the fields behind the woods. The Police have been informed. Mrs G. Rossetti raised traffic issues again, things have been particularly horrendous this summer. The pedestrian crossing at Westville is a nightmare and there have been 3 accidents there this year. 20 mph limit has been ruled out. The turning from Town Park has also had concerns raised. Mrs Rossetti has asked for a kerb to be put outside her property at Elmfield, but this has been turned down. It was suggested that the Parish Council meet with a representative from Devon Highways during the day to express their concerns. Mr J Stevenson requested that an item be added to the Agenda regarding the Code of Conduct at Meetings. The Clerk will make enquiries as to how much copies of the Good Councillors Guide cost with a view to purchasing some or sending a link to the Councillors so they can read them online and have it to hand to refer to if needs be.

Confirm the date of the next Meeting: There being no further business the meeting closed at The date of the next meeting being confirmed as Thursday 3rd October 2013 at 7pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....