

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th January 2012:

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall at 7pm. There was an attendance of 8 Parish Councillors and 1 Parishioner.

Apologies for absence: There were no apologies received.

Open Forum: There were no topics for discussion.

District Councillors Report: Mr S. Wright reported that there were budget proposals ongoing at South Hams District Council. He showed the Council a map which showed the services that the District Council provide, he explained that they had been asked to ring the services that they thought were provided. It ultimately showed 17 different services that were available. He also gave out some facts and figures of costings for certain services from South Hams District Council.

Declarations of Interest: Mr D. Horton & Mr J. Stevenson each declared an interest in item 15 (Camp-site Proposal) on the Agenda. Mr S. Wright declared an interest on item 9 (Planning Applications) on the Agenda.

Minutes of the last Meeting: Apart from one small amendment, a missed word, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof being given to the Councillors prior to the Meeting. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

a. Play Equipment – The Chairman explained that he had spoken to Mr J. Stevenson about undertaking the job of setting up a fund for new play equipment when the time arises. Mr Stevenson confirmed he was willing to take up the challenge.

b. Snow Wardens – The Chairman reported that the scheme is ready and up and running should the need arise. Bags of salt have been delivered to the areas we designated to keep clear i.e.e.: The school, the pub, the Church, Town Park, Gerston etc;

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that the traffic lights that had been in the Village had been moved following our request as they were causing problems. Since then everything seemed to work well. Mrs M. Kitt felt that they could have had a third set for residents exiting from Lower Street. Mr A. Clarke asked whether it would be possible for them to be put back for the summer months. The Chairman felt that this would be highly unlikely but he would be prepared to ask. Notices about dog mess have been put up and the dog warden is patrolling the area. Mr D. Horton felt that the problem had improved somewhat. The Chairman also mentioned that he had received 3 Christmas cards from Parishioners since becoming the District

Councillor, he felt that this was a lovely gesture and much appreciated.

Parish Representatives Verbal Reports:

Village Hall - Ms. A. Quinton said that she had been unable to attend the last Meeting and so therefore had nothing to report.

Coffee Club – Mrs M. Kitt said they had had the first coffee morning of the year and all had gone well.

Police Report – Mr A. Clarke reported that he had spoken to the Police and that they had warned people to be aware of the thefts that have been taking place recently from builders yards, they are also stealing metal and machinery.

None of the other Councillors had anything to report at this Meeting.

Mr D. Horton raised the subject of a couple of the footpaths in the Village. He has spoken to Mr McFadden from Devon County Council about improving the footpath behind the pub to Woodhouse Farm and also the footpath from the corner of Longfields through the field and over the stream. A bridge is to be placed over the stream in the spring so making it accessible for all abilities. Kissing gates will be put at the top and the bottom of the lanes to Woodhouse and at the Longfields footpath. Mr Horton will harden off the footpath to Woodhouse with help from Devon County Council. He also intends to fence off his field from the footpath.

Planning Applications:

a. Mr N. Adams

Proposal- farm access track

The plans were discussed and Mr A. Clarke gave a report following his and the Chairman's site visit. Following further discussions the Councillors responses were counted. 2 interests declared & 5 against the application as it stands at present.

b. Mr. A. Butt

Proposal – Resubmission of 59/0031/11/F for alterations and extension to include retrospective allocation for alterations to external levels

The Chairman explained that unfortunately Mr Butt did not wish to have a site visit, so he had contacted the Architect himself and arranged a meeting to discuss the application, so that he could fully inform the Councillors at this evenings meeting. The plans were discussed, it was thought that perhaps there should be some conditions put in place i.e. Adequate screening, the removal of all the vehicles and maybe non reflective glass on the east facing aspect. The Councillors were given the opportunity to add any comments that they wished to make on their planning slips. The Councillors responses were counted. 2 interests declared, 4 in favour, 2 against.

Mr J. Stevenson asked about the K5 situation. Mr A. Palmer & Ms. A. Quinton reported that they had attended a second meeting with Pegasus and that not much had been gained at the first meeting. The second meeting proved far more positive however at this moment there was nothing to report to the Parish Council for consideration. One Councillor raised concerns that it looked as if K5 was extending beyond the agreed limits of the Local Development Plan. A letter of concern should be sent to Pegasus. A number of views were voiced but it was felt no letter would be appropriate at this stage although Mr Palmer and Ms Quinton agreed to take a copy to the meetings for reference purposes. Mr Stevenson was asked to write his concerns.

Devolved Services: Each Councillor was given a summary report to decide whether this Parish Council wishes to take on services currently being provided by the District and County Councils. Both Councils are keen to gain a sense of demand of devolution of front-line services. They are interested to hear how Parish Councils may wish to be involved in developing a locally appropriate solution to any devolution model. DCC has proposed to establish a County Discretionary Fund at Cluster level with an offer of £1 per elector to spend locally. Decisions on where this is spent would be made by County Councillors but would be informed by views and priorities of the local area. During the Unitary Devon Debate this Council did not feel it appropriate to take on any devolved services but did wish to be involved in more local satisfaction surveys. It was recommended that we write to SHDC stating that we are happy with the services presently being provided but would like more input in the way of satisfaction reports. All the Councillors were in favour of this recommendation and an appropriate letter will be sent.

Link Officer: Each Councillor was given a summary report to read. It stated that SHDC provides a Town Council or Parish Cluster with dedicated support, enabling timely solutions to local issues concerning District or County Council operations, to act as a point of contact through regular communication. Our "local Cluster Group" are not in support of this idea as they feel the work of the District Councillors already provide the link. Adding an additional link would only confuse the present position. It was recommended that the Parish Council notifies SHDC they are not in support of the Link Officer idea and as a result the money being saved should be made available to the smaller Parish Councils. All the Councillors were in favour of this recommendation and an appropriate letter will be sent.

Precept for 2012/13: Each Councillor was given a summary report to decide the Annual Precept for the ensuing year along with a copy of the proposed figures. The Council last year trimmed back all expenditure to a point that perhaps we have become very dependant on the uptake from the Parish Burial site. Last year our Clerk requested no increase in wages. It was decided that the Clerk would be paid monthly rather than bi-annually this was to reduce our tax liability. It would appear that wages of Local Government employees remain as a whole frozen. As we decided at our last meeting to increase the number of meetings, this will inevitably increase our Clerks workload, and with the implementation of the new Localism Act

more “local say” will involve more of the Clerks time. It was therefore recommended that we raise the Clerks salary by 1.5%. We are confident that we are on target to meet last years budgeted figures. The Precept was proposed to be set at £3930.00 an increase of £60.

All the Councillors present were in favour of the sum to be submitted. The Chairman was authorised to sign the Precept form which he duly did.

Queens Diamond Jubilee: Each Councillor was given a summary report to enable them to decide whether or not to hold a Jubilee event in the Parish and in what format this should be. The Parish Council has a history of holding events to commemorate Royal occasions. There is no doubt that these Royal occasions draw communities together and perhaps we should emulate previous events. The Fun Day Committee suggested a donation of £100 being put forward and the District Councillor has suggested an additional £400 from his Community Fund. A pig roast was suggested in Townsend Road, with a third party being employed to undertake this task. Mr Clarke then came up with another suggestion, this would involve the pub who would be willing to erect marquees in Mr Hortons field behind the pub, lay on a barbecue etc, it was also suggested that one of the marquees would be a beer tent to house a beer festival, the other for food etc; Mr Stevenson was against the idea of a beer festival being held at the same time as the Jubilee event. Perhaps it would be better to separate the two events. It was decided that Mr Wright and Mr Clarke should find out more about what was being proposed and report back at the next meeting. All in favour of this proposal.

Camp-site Proposal: Although Mr Horton and Mr Stevenson had already declared their interests, Mr Horton asked the Chairman if he could outline the proposal for those present who did not know anything about it previously. He said the proposal involved creating a small camping/caravan site in the field below the Ring O' Bells. It would be run through the Caravan Club for their members. At any one time there would be a maximum of 5 caravans or camper vans and up to 10 tent pitches. There would be one or two flat areas and some hard standings for the caravans, they would be sited in the mid to lower section of the field and there would be landscaping. There are no plans for a toilet or shower block, it is possible that the pub may agree to sharing their facilities. There will be a water supply and refuse bins. He also commented that the pub is looking to create a play area which could be arranged. Although there are no official plans at present. He would also be willing to provide additional car parking for the residents of the terraced houses, this could be accessed by the footpath. So far there have been 8 representations from residents who are not happy about the situation. The access it seems is acceptable and the caravan club like the facilities available in the area. Mr Harrow, Parishioner present asked if there were any other sites suitable. Mr Horton replied that there were not really any other suitable sites as anything situated too close to the farm represented a Health & Safety issue. Mr J. Stevenson expressed that he was very disappointed to receive a letter indicating Mr Hortons intentions and felt

that a presentation would have been far better. He also thought that the site plan showed that all the field would be used, this would mean that caravans etc; would be close to residential properties and in some cases very close to their windows. He felt that usually camping sites are sensitively located. He has received a lot of concerns from Parishioners and feels that it is not a satisfactory site and he has written a letter of representation to the Caravan Club, a copy of which the Parish Council now has for their records. Mr Horton asked whether Mr Stevenson would be any happier about the proposal if it were to be situated on the side of the track. Mr Stevenson still felt that a caravan site anywhere there would not look very good. Mr Horton said the sighting was purely down to access and location. The date for any representations has been extended due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Mr Horton and Mr Stevenson were then asked to leave the room whilst the remaining Councillors and the parishioner present discussed the proposal. Each of the Councillors expressed their opinions and following the discussion the Councillors decided that a letter should be drafted by Mr A. Clarke, (copies of which should then be emailed to each of the Parish Councillors for their approval and then sent to the Clerk who will in turn send it to the Caravan Club) expressing their concerns.

A.O.B by Direction of the Chairman: Ms. A. Quinton asked about the new entrance that had been created at Longbrook. Do they require Planning Permission? Do they have to block it up again? Mr D. Horton felt that they could be within the law if another entrance is blocked up and a new one created. The Chairman said he would find out about this and report back. Mr A. Clarke asked whether the street light outside his house could be fixed. It is coming on and off all the time. Mr Clarke to let the Clerk have the number of the light so that she can arrange for the repair. Mr D. Horton reported that there are some branches and growth overhanging the cottages at the top end of the Village which need cutting back. It is OK for cars but higher vehicles are being affected. He also asked the Chairman whether in his capacity as a District Councillor he could do anything about the hedges etc; on the road from Aveton Gifford to Modbury, he feels these need attention and are a safety issue. The Chairman felt that this maybe a Highways issue but would try and look into it.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The date of the next Meeting being confirmed as Thursday 2nd February 2012 @ 7pm.

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