

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st July 2011:

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors. There were no Parishoners present.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mr A. Clarke and Mrs S. Howells.

Open Forum: There were no issues for discussion.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman reported that as a District Councillor he had attended on the 2nd of June the twinning celebrations at Quay House. On the 6th June he chaired the West Alvington Traffic Management Safety Meeting on the A381 following concerns from various parties about the amount of accidents on this stretch of road and what could be done about it. On the 9th June he attended the Kingsbridge Traffic Strategy Group, the 18th June he attended the Medieval Farmers Market, the 21st saw him visit the Gerston Sewerage Plant, this was an informative tour in which the “journey” of the sewerage was explained. At present the facility is not working 100% due to salt water entering some of the machinery, this is being attended to so that it will be working fully again soon. On the 5th July he took a member of the Parish to Follaton Huse to discuss a planning issue. This was deemed a success and the Parishoner concerned was more than happy with the experience, on the 12th July there was the annual inspection of the Harbour, on the 13th July there was the Super Town and Parish Cluster Meeting. He also gave from his funding a £130 towards our Best Kept Garden Competition. He has also been involved in the removal of a caravan from a field following complaints. As a District Councillor he has been allocated “jobs” his most recent acquisitions include being a member of the Scrutiny Panel, his particular area is Car Park Charges and the use of the car park areas as key assets. The second being “What preparations are we planning for this winter to keep the car parks open” He has also is on the Innovation Panel. There are key areas of work within the District Council, amongst these are new policies for closer co-operation between West Devon Council and South Hams Council, there are to be more changes within the Planning Dept. to give more say to Town and Parish Councils, the topic of 2nd Home owners Council Tax is under discussion, all in all better communication is to be achieved. Finally he ended with a note to say that if any Parishoner or Parish Councillor would at any time like to visit the Council Offices he would welcome this and arrange to give them a tour.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 19th May 2011 were confirmed and signed following two minor amendments. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the Meeting. This was proposed by Mrs M. Kitt and seconded by Mr D. Horton. All in favour.

Matters Arising:

Housing Needs Survey: The surveys have been delivered to the Parish, Mr Horton and Mr Palmer pointed out that they had not received copies, Mr Horton also thought that a Parishoner at Longbrook had not received one either. We will make sure that all properties receive one before the final date.

Village Car Park MarkRing: The car park has been well marked out with clear defining spaces, the path to the school has also been marked out and it is looking good. Everyone seems happy with the end result.

Street Lighting: It was proposed that this particular issue be shelved as a suitable solution seems hard to come by.

Parish Map: This topic will be deferred until Mr Clarke returns from his holiday.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that the grass and hedge cutting on the footpath leading to Kingsbridge plus a small section at the Butts had been completed. On the 27th May he and the Vice Chairman had attended the Ring O'Bells Opening Ceremony. He had received a letter of thanks from Mrs Joy Adams following her request to allow her to put a gate in the corner of the burial site to allow her easier access to visit her husbands grave.

Representatives Reports:

Salcombe and Kingsbridge Estuary Forum: Mr J Stevenson reported that he had attended a recent meeting which he found very informative. He said that there was a website of which he will get the address for our information on which there are interviews with locals regarding the history of the Estuary. This could be of interest to some members. There are also plans to promote the Estuary and Beaches to the schools. There were discussions about sewerage issues. There were also some concerns regarding radioactivity levels in the Estuary, this was also reported recently in the Kingsbridge Gazette. The Forum was assured that the levels of radioactivity reported were of no consequence, infact they were the equivalent of having a banana.. There were concerns about the amount of illegal netting in the Estuary, however it is hard to actually catch anyone in the act. If anyone sees this going on they should report it and measures will be taken to try and stop it in the future. Apparently, HRH Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall who is the actual owner of the Estuary, removed the rights of the Salcombe Harbour Authority to control any fishing in the Estuary it was believed that they are asking that the right be given back in order to licence fishing and so to prevent illegal fishing. Finally, the National Trust are preparing a map for canoeists to show suitable areas for canoeing and how they can be accessed.

Coffee Club: Mrs M. Kitt reported that the Coffee Mornings continue to be quite well attended, in fact she felt that there were more attendees at the last one held this month.

Best Kept Garden Competition: Ms. A. Quinton reported that the event had been quite well received and that there were 12 or 13 entries. The judges started visiting at 10am and finished at 4.30pm. Lunch was held at the Ring O'Bells. All in all it was a good day. The standard of the gardens was high and it was nice to see all the hard work that had been put in. The results were put on the noticeboard along with the scoring. Mr T Reeves took photographs on the day, and Ms Quinton proposed that we put them on the website. Mr Horton asked whether the entrants would be happy with photos being put on the website? Ms Quinton said that she would ask the entrants prior to anything being done to clarify this point. She will also provide us with the names of the judges so that as a Parish Council we can send them our thanks. The Chairman finished by thanking Ms Quinton, Mrs Kitt and the rest of the team for their hard work and for a successful day.

Insurance Policy: Following the last Meeting when the insurance policy was due for renewal, it was decided we should go through the schedule and make sure it was still meeting our needs. The Chairman and the Clerk have subsequently done this and all seems to be in order.

Asset Register: Copies of the 2011 were given to each Parish Councillor. We will continue to depreciate annually by 5%. We have added in the cost of the new bench, although we did not actually purchase it it is owned by us and is therefore an asset. A copy of the register will be held on file.

Planning Applications:

a. Mr & Mrs R. Hodgson: Listed building consent for alterations and refurbishment of east wing of dwelling at Longbrook Farm, West Alvington. 5 in favour 1 against.

There is still one outstanding issue, this regards Woolston Court and the apparent breach of planning on the extension of a agricultural building. This is still being looked at. The Chairman had also received “an apology” regarding an application for the same address involving outline planning for a new dwelling. This was because the officer involved disregarded comments received from the Parish Council and did not consult the District Council. Mr Stevenson asked what measures would be taken to ensure that this does not occur again. The Chairman said that he “was on his case”...

He also reported that the Planning Application regarding 2 Myrtle Court for Mrs P. Baker had been approved. The Parish Council had voted against this but in his role of District Councillor, the Chairman had voted for it. This said he had taken Ms Quinton to Follaton House to meet with the Planning Officer and she had been able to put her case across and was subsequently happy with the result achieved. We have

not yet received the official notification from SHDC.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB - current account	1715.33
Lloyds TSB - savings account	112.38
Lloyds TSB - parish plan account	739.29
Abbey National P3 account	378.83

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall	10.00
Mrs J Johns (reimbursement of Garden Competition prize money)	130.00
Nicola Fox - internal audit fee	40.00

Following the report the Chairman suggested a couple of changes to the way the accounts are run. Firstly we have no noticeable contingency fund and a very small amount in the savings account, it was thought that we should at the end of the financial year empty the current account of any available cash and put it in the savings account. On the 1st April we receive the first half of the precept so the account will not be empty at any time. Any items that have been budgeted for in the financial year but have not yet been paid this money will be taken into consideration and only the remaining “spare cash” will be transferred. The other change is to the Abbey National Account which contains the P3 funds. It has become hard to access this account mainly due to the fact that most of the signatories on the account are no longer Parish Councillors. To close this account the Clerk will meet with past Councillors and get the account closed, the money will then be put into a new account in Lloyds TSB so making access easier all round. All were in favour of the changes.

Correspondence: There are no new issues of correspondence. The only outstanding issue regards Mr Butt from Yarnacombe Farm.. All communications sent and received from him have been given to the Solicitors who have been asked to retain the information. Should Mr Butt come back to us again, we will have no further communications with him and the solicitors will be instructed to act on our behalf. Any suggestion that the Parish Council should meet with him for “informal chats” have been disregarded. All were in favour of the proposal.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: The Chairman reported that we have had the annual inspection of the playing field equipment. The only issue raised was the fact that the rubber matting surrounding the equipment has started to lift and that the wood holding it in place has worn and shrunk It appears that when it has lifted leaves, dirt etc; have got underneath. The quote we had to sort this problem out is £800 this

seems rather excessive. It was suggested that we organise a work party and try and sort this out ourselves, with the help of a carpenter to undertake the wood fitting. The metal climbing frame with the slide attached has an anticipated life expectancy of another 7-10 years, the estimated cost of replacement is £10.000. Mr Horton asked whether there would be any money from a 106 regarding the proposed developments. The Chairman thought this would be unlikely as the works would not directly affect us.

It was agreed to have a work party during August , once the children break up for the summer holidays. All in favour.

The Chairman also reported that the gate going into the field had broken. He had been and repaired it but was unsure how long this would last. It was suggested that we look into the price of a new gate and 2 new gate posts, we will look at this again once quotes have been obtained.

We have had an enquiry about our website from a Council in Dorset and would we like to do theirs! We politely declined.

The Chairman also brought to the Councils attention the proposed application at Higher Torr for a windfarm. It will be a publicly owned farm and shares will be able to be purchased. This is a different application from the last one proposed at Buckland Tout Saints. There could be a lot of Parishes interested in this should it go ahead, and could be something to look out for in the future.

Finally the Chairman asked Mr J Stevenson about the Fun Day, the meeting had been postponed because Mr Clarke is on holiday and the requirement for rosettes as these have to be ordered soon in order to be here on time.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.51pm. The date of the next Meeting being confirmed as Thursday 22nd September 2011.

Signed.....

Dated.....