

Minutes of the West Alvington Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2016:

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. There was an attendance of 7 Parish Councillors and 2 Parishioners.

Apologies for absence: Mrs L. Gritton, Mr R. Gilbert – Devon County Councillor and Judy Pearce – Ward Member.

Open Forum: Mr M. Adams – Parishioner commented on how scruffy the village was looking with lots of weeds and brambles, he was also concerned about the amount of pot holes in the village and felt that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council to report them and get them repaired. Devon County are responsible for pot hole repair and any one can go on the website and report them, it is not the Parish Councils responsibility. We will however, if told where the pot holes are report them if anyone is unable to access the website. We will also sort out the problem of the weeds and brambles. The Chairman thanked Mr Adams for clearing the brambles in the Town Park Car Park it was very much appreciated.

County Councillors Report: There was nothing to report.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman reported that there has been a new leisure review and that the new provider who will take over from Tone Leisure is Fusion Lifestyle, they will take over from December 2016. The facilities should be vastly improved, however the squash courts will be removed from the Kingsbridge facility. Ivybridge is to undergo a total revamp and Dartmouth's new swimming pool is nearly finished. There will be a cost to the authority but this will be returned over the period of Fusions contract.

There is to be a Clerks training day on 3rd October in the morning and another on the 6th October in the evening.

The new SHDC website Stay Connected is up and running. It has a priorities section which enables users to stay updated by email with what's going on in the area and things that may affect them. There is to be a Council Tax Relief Scheme Survey this is done on an annual basis and the consultation results are yet to be confirmed. Salcombe Harbour have a consultation taking place on a 5 year plan, amongst items for discussion are the change in emphasis from yachting to power boating. There is to be an events policy and finish group who will discuss the assets of the council, should anyone wish to hire any of the councils assets how much this will cost and whether sites should go out to tender. The issue of Devolution is still ongoing, updates are available on the SHDC website. SHDC have agreed in principle although nothing has been set in stone and they have agreed to continue talks with the Government to create a combined authority, this will be made up of 20 smaller authorities. Street cleaning, there is to be a review in October. There have been new road cleaners which have taken over from the larger ones, these smaller machines are proving to be quite popular, however the Council welcomes feed back from residents.

Police Report: There was nothing to report.

Declarations of Interest: Mr G. Johns declared a personal interest in the planning application for Mr & Mrs Horton and wished to abstain from any discussions or voting.

Matters Arising:

Town Park Car Park: This issue was raised due to the owner at Woodlane who has seemingly taken over the car park with so many of his own cars, we have never had a policy of restricting residents parking here as there has never been a problem, however is it something that we should be considering in light of recent events. There is also the question of this particular gentleman creating an opening into the car park from his property. It was suggested that the Chairman approach

Mr Manisty or his agents about this issue and gauge their response.

Mrs A. Smith also commented about the parking issues in the small car park adjacent to the village hall, there appears to be a car that is permanently parked in this area which makes it difficult for village hall users. It was suggested that a note be placed on his windscreen asking him not to park there but to use the car park. Also the disabled bays in the car park, does a sticker have to be displayed if someone wishes to park in these bays, and are they for any particular person or household? It was felt that they are not allocated to anyone in particular.

Planning Applications/Decisions and Updates:

Heddeswell Farm Upton Cross To Heddeswell Cross Kingsbridge Devon TQ7 3JE - Provision of extension to existing agricultural livestock building – No objection. All in favour.

Mrs & Mrs D Horton - Land south of The Ridings West Alvington Devon TQ7 3PP - Construction of new dwelling with integral garaging

Mr R. Ladkin felt that this application was a gross deception by Mr and Mrs Horton.

During the consultation period for the planning of the Homefield development they tried to encourage the movement of the development south to improve the visibility of the whole site. This was dismissed because of the slope. The working party also asked the Hortons what they intended to do with the land on the edge of the development, they said it was intended to be for agricultural use. The boundary line was drawn up and it was accepted that no further development would take place in that area. Mr A. Lethbridge the architect tried to introduce modifications to the site with a new boundary to remove this area from the planning application, but it was rejected. The original application clearly states that this area would only be used for agricultural purposes. Mr R. Ladkin felt that the land owners always knew that they would intend to build there and as such this application is deceptive. He felt that the application should be thrown back to the planning authority stating the technical breach, he requested that the Chairman as Ward Member should take this to the Planners and state that this should not have been presented to the Parish Council at all. The Chairman felt that the Parish Council should make recommendation to the Planners in the form of a statement. He was happy to take up the cause, and he acknowledged that the Work Party had kept a lot of notes on the subject. Mr D. Kenyons conversations were also minuted and there was a lot of substantial supporting evidence.

It was agreed that Mr R. Ladkin would produce a case to be supported by the Parish Councillors on the lines of “ A holding objection for clarity to review all previous documentation” It was agreed to review it again at the next meeting in October when we have more information.

Local Plan

Mr R. Ladkin introduced the latest Newsletter from the Plymouth and South Devon Local Plan.

This sets out a proposed "Village Sustainability Assessment".

The purpose of this is to rank rural villages on a number of factors which would indicate their suitability for building more homes. While the Joint Local Plan, as discussed at the previous meeting, proposes new house building to be concentrated in Plymouth and towns within the district, there will inevitably be pressure to build in rural villages to make up the numbers.

This proposal seeks to consult on the selected factors, such as Commercial bus service, Local employment area, pub, village hall, primary school etc., and their comparative weighting. Robin's view was that the factors and their weighting seemed reasonable and the implication for West Alvington is that we would be considered within the moderately sustainable range. On this basis, as previously discussed, we should be considering the possibility of building further homes of the order of ten to fifteen over the plan period. The council accepted this view."

Longbrook Copse: Mr R. Ladkin had an email from the new owner Mr Nigel Hutchings, who would like to come along and meet with the Parish Council in October. Along with another couple

he has put together a small woodland management plan, aiming to protect and improve the bio diversity of the area for all to enjoy. There is still the question of the caravan which Mr Hutchings says has been there for over 20 years and has been used for woodland activities. There was many years ago a caravan there but it was felt that that particular one had gone many years ago. It seems however, that there has been a few all night parties there, causing considerable noise. It was decided to defer any further conversations until we meet with Mr Hutchings in October when they hopefully join us for a meeting. Mr Ladkin will however go back and speak about the caravan on the Parish Councils behalf.

Parish Representatives Reports: Mr R. Ladkin reported that there was to be a temporary traffic order from the 10th August to the 9th February 2017 at the Ridings affecting the footpath whilst the builders required access to the building site. They will reinstate it after this time. There has been a request from a member of the public regarding the stile at Woolston to be replaced with a gate for ease of access. The land adjoins to farms Mr Helmers and Mr Rossiters, they will need to be asked if they are willing for a gate to be sited there. The Local Plan, Mr Ladkin reported that

Coffee Mornings: Mrs M. Kitt reported that the coffee club would be changing to Thursdays for the foreseeable future due to another booking on a Wednesday.

Fun Day 2016: Fun Day is to be held on Saturday 17th September beginning at noon.. All helpers will need to be there to set up at 10.00am. All is on track and hopefully the weather will be kind again and a good afternoon will be had by all.

Primary School Update: The Chairman reported the school wished to come before the Parish Council to give an update on the proposal to change the school to an academy status. It was hoped that this would take place at our next meeting in October.

Work Party: A work party needs to be formed in order to get the village hall painted before the winter months, the Chairman has promised a sum of money to cover the cost of the paint/stain but we will need volunteers to carry out the work. The Village Hall Committee are due to meet on the 5th October at 7.00pm.

The Carol Singing Evening: To be held in December a date is yet to be arranged.

A.O.B by direction of the Chairman: The Chairman informed the Council of a funding system for Village Halls called the Community Reinvest System. It is quite an exciting project and West Alvington Village Hall Committee will need to formulate a plan of improvements that they would like to see and then apply for the funding. The closing date for applications is 7th January 2017. In the meantime it would help to get estimates/ quotes for the proposed changes so that we can have a figure to work to for the application.

There being no further business the meeting closed and the date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 6th October 2016 at 7.00pm.

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