

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th June 2015:

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7:00pm. There was an attendance of 6 Parish Councillors, County Councillor Mr R. Gilbert and 5 Parishioners.

Apologies: Apologies received from Mrs. J. Stevens, Mrs L. Gritton, District Councillor Mrs J. Pearce.

Open Forum: Mr D. Horton wished to raise the subject of the Homefield site. He reported that the rest of the application has been signed off and the project is ready to go, the hold up is due to the 106 Agreement. This is because the Hortons have asked that the open spaces and recreational money be ringfenced and put back into the parish under the Parish Councils control. Mrs Horton said she would like to see some of the money put to the play equipment and some to the village hall. The Chairman reported that he had been asked for a one months extension to the decision. Mr Horton wished to know whether it was the legal department that asked for the extension, the Chairman said that he could not say whether it was the legal department for sure, it could have been the planners, but whoever they wanted a one month extension. Mr Horton said the legal hold ups were at South Hams end, the legal secretary only works 3 days a week and with the election or people away things have not been moved on by South Hams and not the developer. It should have taken 8 weeks after the approval for things to have got rolling, South Hams are not reaching their targets. He said the village was anxious to know when things are going to start regarding the development. Mrs Horton said that the Parish could expect to receive around £70,000 from the 106 Agreement, once the agreement is reached the work could start as soon as possible.

County Councillors Report: It was reported that the gulleys along the village are due to be cleared in July. We will need to ensure that all vehicles are removed from the road in order for this to be done. The bus route that covers South Milton, Thurlestone, Loddiswell etc has been saved from closure.

District Councillors Report: The Chairman reported that he had had a change of role in some of his allocated jobs at SHDC since the election. There is to be a safeguarding guidance programme for victims of bullying, abuse etc. It will require people to be the "eyes and ears" in the community and report to the Parish anything or anyone they feel could be in a vulnerable position. This could then be reported to SHDC and the proper channels.. It would be best in the first instance for anything to go through the chairman. There are to be 8 new locality officers, they will deal with putting up notices, dog fouling issues etc. Perhaps we should invite to our coffee mornings. The District Councillors sustainable community fund has been increased from £1500 to £2000 per annum, to help worthy causes in the Parish.

Declarations Interest: There were no declarations to be made this evening.

Minutes of the last Meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising:

Playing Field Gate Latch: This has been tightened considerably and there is no chance of children trapping their fingers in it now. Mrs Horton asked if the school knew that it has been done? The Chairman said he hadn't told them. Mrs Horton didn't seem to think they would be happy with what had been done.

Playing Field Debris: Sorted.

Sand Bag in the Road: The Chairman had called on the people responsible but had yet to catch anyone home.

Van Parking: Again the same people seem to be responsible.

Crossways: The owners are happy with the proposal.

Planning Applications/Decisions and Considerations: There were none for this meeting.

The Alston Gate appeal was dismissed, and there were no fines or costs allocated.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported that the TAP Fund bid for an interactive board for the village was now going to be funded and will go ahead as planned.

A birthday party is going to be held on the 14th June in the village hall and will spill out into the playing field, were there any objections? No. It was suggested that we liaise more regularly with the Police and Mrs Rossetti was asked if she would become the main contact with them for regular reports, inform them of the dates of meetings etc. The Clerk to get the contact details for her.

Representatives Verbal Reports: Mrs Kitt reported that the coffee mornings were still a success and that a few new people had come along. The book lending is also doing well, although they could do with a few new books.

Financial Report: The Clerk had not done the report, but will email the Councillors with the up to date balances when she has them. The Councillors present were happy with this.

Playing Field Fence: This is the new piece of fence proposed for the playing field. We have had one price from Timber Jack but the Councillors felt that we should obtain further quotes. A few names were suggested and these are to be followed up.

Village Hall Lease: The Chairman reported that the Solicitor has advised that the Council cannot ask the school to take on any of the responsibility for the fence in the future as they do not have any legal obligation to. However, it is the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee to now maintain the fence. Mrs Horton said that as the fence that was put there was not a like for like but a larger more improved version, that the Village Hall Committee should not have the responsibility of maintaining it in the future as they had not been consulted prior to the fence being erected about costs etc. Mr M. Adams said that the fence had been put in place by volunteers in the first instance and the Village Hall Committee should have been able to get volunteers to sort it out. We have trouble getting volunteers on the clean up days, let alone renew a fence!! The Chairman said that had a decision not been made the playing field would have been closed due to Health and Safety issues as determined by the annual play inspection officer. The Village Hall Committee were only asked to contribute £500, the rest being paid by SHDC community fund and the Parish Council, they could have received an invoice for the whole amount! When asked what would happen if they did not sign the lease, the Chairman said that it was possible to dismiss the present Village Hall Committee and appoint a new one or the Council could take over the running, Mrs Horton said that the hall belonged to the VHC, to which she was told by Mrs Kitt and Mrs Smith that the hall belonged to the Parish and that the VHC only managed it. Mr Ladkin felt that a compromise should be sought, in theory the fence serves to protect the Village Hall and the Playing Field so should we not agree to pay 50/50 for any work required in the future? Mrs Horton said she would consult the Village Hall Committee before making any decision. We await their reply.

Correspondence: There were no items this evening.

A.O.B: Mrs Kitt expressed concerns that the school had decided what items of play equipment were to be put in the playing field. She was concerned about this as some members of the Parish Council had worked hard to raise the £6000 that we have and should be consulted about their choice as after all it is not the school field but the Parish Playing Field!! She felt they needed reminding

that it was a joint effort. It was agreed that a meeting should be held with Mr Medway to discuss this further. A time to be arranged.

The first Fun Day Meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 10th June at 7.30pm in the Ring O'Bells.

The Chairman suggested that as so much money had been raised for the play equipment it would be nice to have a target chart, like a thermometer etc to show everyone just how much had been raised at each event. The Clerk to look into this.

Mr M. Adams asked when the footpath to Kingsbridge was going to be cut. This has already been done. Also why is the Church playground no longer in use, why can't it be used for the children or if not turned into parking for church goers. We will ask the Diocese about this and see what their plans are for it. We will also ask Mr Medway.

Mrs Smith said she had been approached about our burial site and that it needs cutting. The Clerk said that this is due to be done any day now. It was also mentioned about the path leading up to the burial site. This is not our responsibility since the Churchyard closed but the contractor cuts this too. We have a cutting schedule but obviously it depends very much on the weather and sometimes needs more than has been allocated.

Woodhouse Lane is once again full of dog mess and it really is a problem. We can contact the dog warden again but nothing seems to improve the situation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 2nd July 2015. (This is not a regular meeting date as July, August and December are non meeting months) This meeting will only be held if there any matters arising that need our attention. Councillors will be informed.

Signed.....Dated.....`