

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012:**

The Council met in the Village Hall at 7pm. There was an attendance of 9 Parish Councillors.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mr A. Clarke

Open Forum: There were no issues for discussion.

District Councillors Report: Mr S. Wright reported that the Village Initiative Scheme had now been confirmed and that there had been an addition to the full value houses now allowed within the scheme. Where there are 12 houses on a site up to 4 will be allowed to be full value, providing there is a valid reason for the increase, also the Parish must be able to benefit as a result. He also attended his first Community Life & Housing meeting, where the committee were horrified to learn that a massive 43% of privately rented property in the South Hams is below the living standard. Generally, the properties have been lived in by the same tenants for years, they don't complain for whatever reason, so the landlords don't spend any money on home improvements.

Mr S. Wright also asked the Parish Councillors present if they were still happy with the District Council and the improved communications between them and ourselves. Everyone present said they were happy.

Declarations of interests: Mr S. Wright declared an interest on item 16 of the Agenda (Planning Applications & Decisions)

Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 were not signed this evening, as there was an amendment to be made. The Clerk omitted Mr A. Palmers report as the P3 representative. This will be corrected and the minutes will be signed at the next meeting. Apologies to Mr Palmer for this error.

### Matters Arising:

a. Federation of Primary School: We sent our letter with our concerns to the Chairman of the Governors following the last meeting, but to date we have received no reply, either by phone, letter or email. It appears that the decision has already been made but we have not been officially informed. The Chairman has spoken to Mrs Luckhurst, teacher at the school and she is very keen for the children to be involved in the Parish Map and is keen for a member of the Parish Council to go to the school and give a brief history of the Village as part of their activities work. The children will then draw pictures of places of interest to go onto the map. This will be deferred until Mr A. Clarke returns from his holiday as he is organising the Parish Map.

b. Burial Site Clean up: The Chairman reported that we have spoken to the gravedigger regarding the waste spoil from the graves, and the tin that is strewn around the burial site which we have had several complaints about. The gravedigger has apologised for the mess, he was hoping that the spoil that would contain a lot more top soil that he was going to level out the ground with and grass seed. However this was not to be. He has suggested that perhaps we could ask Mrs Adams and her family if he could put the shillet into a dumpy bag in their field behind the burial site and ask if they could remove it periodically. As for the planks and tin as the shed in the old churchyard is now empty could we approach the Parochial Church Council and ask if he could use the shed. Also the grass contractor will tidy up the hedges and trim the new hedging so that we can get the whole site tidied up.

c. Super Cluster Meeting: Mr J. Stevenson reported that there were two main topics of the meeting. The first being the Localism Act and what it is likely to mean. One of the keypoints being the ability for villages and towns to nominate things of special interest to the community, then if the owner ever decided to sell the property etc, they would be required to notify the locals so that if they so wished they could put in a bid, although the owner would not be required to accept that bid and sell to the locals. It also provides the ability to challenge the efficiency of public service provision. Although this is not as simple as it seems as how can you put in a challenge without knowing how much the service is costing in the first place? The Localism Act also should give communities more say in local development eg. As regards housing and what type of housing etc; although the LDP is not up for debate as this is already been agreed. The Chairman confirmed that small groups of parishes will be involved with agents when working through the Master Planning Process.

TAP Fund (Town & Parish Fund): This will be a single one off payment available to the area clusters for them to put towards something of benefit to the community. If it works well then there is the potential for the scheme to be adopted again in future years. Mr Stevenson thought that a reinvigorated bus service would be a good idea, as the services as they stand are not at all practical. Other suggestions raised at the cluster meeting were permissive footpaths, management of footpaths, speed camera, food bank, extra services in schools, outward bound activities, mobile library service, and milk for school children reintroduced. Mrs S. Howells mentioned the idea of cycle paths. Mr M. Norsworthy felt that the streets could do with cleaning more often. However, the money cannot apparently be spent on services that have already been axed. Mrs A. Smith thought that the money should be spent on the needs of younger children, such as the Playbus scheme that used to serve the village. She also felt that we needed a common link to draw all the Parishes together, which she thought ideally, should be through children, which is something that all the Parishes will have in common. Mrs Kitt felt that the bus idea would cost a lot of money to run. Mr Stevenson said that he thought that it could run one day a week to bring people in from the smaller Parishes eg. the elderly that way they get a bus service and Kingsbridge gets the trade. Mrs S. Howells thought that the school buses could be

better and there should be extra buses and possibly free. The Chairman suggested that everyone get their thinking caps on and find something that would be of benefit to us all. He also felt that the Localism Act was a good idea but it is also very flawed. It was left that the Councillors should go away and have a think about ideas and let Mr Stevenson know so that he can then go back to Mr Roger Moore of Salcombe Town Council with West Alvingtons views and ideas.

The Chairman then shared a moment of extreme concern. Cllr Stevenson had during question time at this meeting spoke out attacking SHDC's ability to listen and engage with the communities. He emphasized that he, and a number of others, thought there was quite frankly little point in talking to the District Council because "they simply do not listen." This statement appeared to be in complete opposition to the views shared by the Parish Council at Council Meetings. Was this a view shared by other Councillors? Discussion followed that showed the Parish Council are pleased with the improved line of communication and Cllr Stevenson's view was not shared by the Parish Council. The Chairman stressed attending meetings on the behalf of the Parish Council should reflect the views of the Parish and not the opportunity to share any personal views. It was agreed a letter should be sent to SHDC explaining that the views expressed by Cllr Stevenson were perhaps his personal views and not those of the Parish Council. Cllr Stevenson pointed out his views were centred around the K1 and K5 consultation process and were the result of a remarks made by some concerned Parishioners.

It was agreed we had two representatives on this steering group and we do have confidence in their ability to reflect the concerns raised by the Parish.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that the footpath from West Alvington to Kingsbridge is being cleaned up, work has started on the clean-up and hopefully it will look much better. He also reported that Mr Jack Rhymes and his wife Helen had attended the Garden Party and Cathedral Service as invited by the Lieutenant of Devon. They had a thoroughly wonderful day and were absolutely thrilled that Jack had been nominated by the Parish Council. The Gazette has been in touch with them and the Chairman so we can expect an article in the local paper.

Representatives Verbal Reports:

**Mr J. Stevenson** reported that he had attended a Kingsbridge & Salcombe Estuary Forum meeting. They have created a list of local walks and also a series of audio downloads, these can be found on the South Devon AONB website, Walk and Talk. The sewerage works have finally got around to undertaking their planned improvements at the treatment plant. There is still some illegal netting going on in the estuary and the Salcombe Harbour Office would appreciate knowing as soon as possible if anybody notices anything untoward, they have managed to stop some of this illegal netting. In Kingsbridge they are considering making some mooring changes in the estuary. It appears that they would like to get the boats away from the harbour wall and removing the ladders that are considered to be causing damage the walls. They would like to put more moorings on the pontoons rather than floating

moorings. Mr J Stevenson has concerns that this has the potential to look more like a boat yard. The ideas will be put out to public consultation and there are links on the AONB website. The Chairman felt he had concerns about the open water space at the head of the estuary as it is used by Fairweek etc; there will be provision for disabled access onto the ferry as at present there is nothing and the steps are not easy to access. However the question is does Kingsbridge want such changes to the estuary and if so what do they want it to look like? He also reported that there have been sightings of deer swimming in the estuary at Sunny Cove and also at Gerston heading towards Charleton.

**Ms. A. Quinton** said she was somewhat confused as to what to do about the Garden Competition this year. Should it follow the same vein as last year or did anyone have any other ideas. She also felt that she was totally off time scale as this time last year it was well under way. She asked what was the best time to hold the competition. Mr M. Norsworthy said that he felt that the best time to hold it would be July. Ms. Quinton, Mrs M. Kitt and Mr M. Norsworthy to liaise regarding the competition.

There were no other reports this meeting.

Financial Report: The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB - current account	970.97
Lloyds TSB - savings account	982.63
Lloyds TSB – parish plan fund	1400.39
Abbey National – P3 fund	28.83

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall	10.00
SHDC - Playground Insp.Fee	120.00
Ins. Annual Renewal	235.98
Mr J. Rhymes- new mufflers	200.00
School – grass cutting	173.54

The Clerk also asked if some extra cheques could be signed for Mr Smith (slide repairs) Jon Bell (for Jubilee BBQ meat) Tez Locke (for music on Jubilee day) the invoices have not yet been received but as we are not meeting again until September it would save time when needing to pay the invoices.

Confirm Grass Cutting Annual Contract: We now have the costs and the amount of cuts that each area will receive annually. The price has remained the same although at the last meeting we approved a sum of £30 for some extra work to be carried out in the burial site. All were in favour of accepting Mr Brocks contract again for the ensuing year.

Grass cutting in the Village Playing Field : Over the past couple of years we have reimbursed the school for the amount they are charged for the cutting of the grass in

the Playing Field. It has increased by £5.54p this year. Are the Council happy to pay the fee including the increased amount once again this year.? All were in favour of the proposal.

Diamond Jubilee Celebration Lunch: The Chairman reported that he counted !85 people sitting down for lunch on Monday. He felt that it was a great communal effort and a really good day were had by everyone. The music performed by Tez Locke proved to be a hit and we received some nice comments, the Clerk was asked to express her thanks to the Council from one lady who said she wished to thank us on behalf of everyone there on the day. The Chairman thanked everyone for all their help and hard work.

Asset Register: The Chairman provided a copy of the asset register to all the Councillors present. It showed the figures for the year and how much our assets totalled. All in favour.

Renewal of Insurance Policy: The Chairman and the Clerk went through the Policy earlier in the day to make sure that it still met all our requirements. Mrs M. Kitt asked if it covered fireworks being let off in the Playing Field. It was felt that this should be covered by the Village Hall if it is part of their booking. ie. Someone hiring the hall and then using the field. It was asked that the Clerk in her new role as Parish Representative on the Village Hall Committee mention it to them at their next meeting. The renewal of the insurance policy was confirmed and all were in favour.

Play Equipment Update and consideration: The Chairman reported that the slide had now been repaired and asked Mrs A. Smith to pass on our thanks to her husband. In our license agreement with the school we are able to ask them for a 50% payment toward any maintenance charges to equipment that we incur. Shall we send them an invoice for 50% of the charges? All present were in favour of invoicing the school. They will be sent a bill for £30. The swing seat that was damaged has been removed but unfortunately it cannot be repaired. We however, have been awarded £1.500:00 from Devon County Council for funding towards new play equipment. Mr J.Stevenson asked whether he should look into getting costing's for a new swing seat. It was agreed he should.

Planning Applications and Decisions:

a.Mr & Mrs D. Horton – Listed building consent for conversion of barns to form four units (three holiday lets and one permanent letting unit) at Woodhouse Farm, West Alvington – 7 in favour 1 interest declared.-

b.Mr D. Doyle - Householder application for extension to dwelling at Primrose Cottage, West Alvington – All in favour.

c. Kingsbridge Community College – Application for new science building with 6 teaching labs at Balkwill Road, Westville, Kingsbridge – 7 in favour

d.Kingsbridge Community College – Application for new innovations and skills

centre containing technical kitchen and conference room at Balkwill Road, Westville, Kingsbridge – 3 for & 4 against.

There were concerns regarding the amount of traffic in Westville and the parking difficulties. Taking this into regard the Parish Council will oppose the above application as there is no traffic management scheme.

There has also been criticism about the lights proposed in Westville. It is difficult to work out where exactly these lights are being positioned. They will badly affect one resident in particular. The planning officer has now pulled the plug on the application until the school can confirm exactly where the lighting poles are to be positioned. With the school continuing to develop, parking is becoming a real issue and is absolute chaos. The school continues to gain funding for projects if their planning applications are successful. Other considerations, Mr Helmer at Woolston has undertaken the planting of over 700 trees for screening around the barns. He has also had to put in retrospective planning for another building that he did not have planning permission for. Also the application for an extension at no. 8. Longfields is being looked at as the owners have been putting up sheds to the rear of their property.

Correspondence: There were no items of correspondence for this meeting.

A.O.B. By direction of the Chairman: The Chairman reported that Mrs M. Wright had an oak tree sapling which she would like to give to mark the Diamond Jubilee, Mrs A. Smith reported that she too also had one. We must decide where to plant it/them. Mrs M. Kitt asked whether we could approach the Village Hall Committee about the mens toilet in the hall, it smells rather bad and it was noted on the Jubilee lunch day by several people. Mrs A. Smith & Mr M. Norsworthy expressed concerns about something that they witnessed on the Jubilee day, it involved a vehicle that belongs to the residents at Wayside, it shot out of the entrance at speed and could potentially have serious consequences for pedestrian safety. There should be some signage at least. The entrance is concealed by other cars that park in the pound and outside the cottages to the higher side of it. Ms A. Quinton asked whether any of the other residents along the lane ever mention it? Mr M. Norsworthy felt that one lady was not happy about it, but has never actually said anything to the people concerned. Should we consult highways about this matter? Mr J. Stevenson said that as he knew the residents personally he would have an informal word with them, rather than consult highways at this stage. Mrs A. Smith asked if anything further had been done with regard to the caravan still parked in Townsend Road. The police reported many months ago that an order was being prepared for its removal. She felt that there was a law that enabled a vehicle to be parked on a highway, but it had to be removed for 2 weeks a year, this clearly hasn't been the case with the caravan. She also mentioned that water had been running down the road at the far end of Townsend Road for some time and that the drain outside no. 6 was blocked and the water could not flow away. Mrs M. Kitt thought that the drain cleaner had been last week and cleared the drain. Mr M. Norsworthy expressed concerns about the hedge on the

church wall. It appears that it is the responsibility of SHDC since the churchyard closed. However, nothing ever seems to get done. The Chairman felt quite strongly about this and said that even though £70.000 had been spent on repairs to the wall there had been no words of thanks from the church! They even complained that last year berries had fallen off the hedges onto the pavement and were dangerous. He will mention the hedge cutting to SHDC but he felt that the church could surely find volunteers who could help do something about it... Ms. A. Quinton said that the wall prior to the footpath leading to the field behind the Ring O'Bells was looking a bit "iffy" it appears to be bowing out into the lane. Mr A. Palmer to go and have a look. Mrs M. Kitt reported that she had received a complaint about the trees leading down from Stockwell and up to Vicarage Lane were very overgrown and could do with cutting back. The Chairman will speak to Mr & Mrs Watts whose land the trees are on.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.09pm.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

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