

### **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011:**

The Council met in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm. There was an attendance of 8 Parish Councillors, 2 Parishoners and Police Constable Steve Mullen, District Councillor Mrs D. O'Callaghan.

Apologies for absence: Mr P. Adams and Mr M. Elliott – Planning Officer at SHDC ( Mr Elliott politely declined the invitation to attend the meeting as he felt that the subject that he was asked to comment on was not suitable for discussion at a public meeting, he will contact the Parish Council when a decision has been made about the subject of the planning at Woolston Court, Woolston.

Community Beat Officer: Steve Mullen opened by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. He reported that in 2010 there had been only a few crimes in the West Alvington area as opposed to the 820 in the Kingsbridge area. So far in 2011 there had only been 2 offences both of which were motor offences. He reported that there are going to be major changes in policing over the next few years. The Kingsbridge station is due to be shut to the public although it will be used by the investigative teams. The PCSO's will remain untouched, although they do not have the same powers as regular officers but they will still remain as a point of contact, in this way they are invaluable. On the 10<sup>th</sup> February there will be a meeting held in Ivybridge where Inspector Chivers will be discussing policing in our area. The Chairman thanked Steve for attending the meeting and updating the Parish Council.

Open Forum: There were no topics for discussion.

District Councillor – Mrs D. O'Callaghan: The Councillor reported that the plans for the proposed parking meters in Kingsbridge had been shelved at what turned out to be an exciting meeting. There are to be Traffic Management Plans but as yet no one knows exactly what this entails. The new Tesco store will be opening in Kingsbridge on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The District Council are working on a budget which is to be agreed on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The staff at the District Council are on a pay freeze. There will also be a freeze on the District Councils share of the Council Tax. There are proposals to cut the Villages in Action Arts Grants. Our District Councillor will be opposing this measure. The Council are going to introduce a closed lid policy for wheelie bins! South Hams Council and Devon County Council will be sharing a magazine to save on costs. The free concessionary parking permit idea is to be considered again, once detailed costings are in.

Minutes: The Minutes of the last meeting on November 2010 were confirmed and signed. Copies thereof having been given to the Councillors prior to the meeting. All were in favour.

Matters Arising:

Street Lighting: We are still waiting to hear what exactly the proposals are for the part night lighting. We will endeavour to speak to Devon County Council again to see what they are proposing and perhaps we could suggest a proposal of our own to see where we can sensibly cut back.

Hedge Cutting: This has been undertaken and accounts sent to the residents whose hedges were cut.

Housing Needs Survey: If we are happy to go ahead with the survey we will have to help, we will need to help in the distribution but not the collection. It will initially just be for the residents within the Parish. Everyone was in favour of this proposal.

We will also need to find out if the information gathered will be kept purely within our parish and will be private. We will copy out the forms that have been received from Sue Hitchcock and will give them to all the Parish Councillors before a decision is made. We will discuss this again.

Chairmans Report: The Chairman reported on the snow and ice problems experienced just before Christmas. He paid thanks to Paul Adams for gritting the road at Town Park. The bins were empty but have subsequently been refilled. He also reported that he had caught someone stealing grit from the bin but after they were challenged they returned it!! On the 13<sup>th</sup> January he attended the Budget at Follaton House to hear reports from Devon County Council, who need to save over £50 million over the next 5 years. Devon and Somerset Fire Brigade and Devon and Cornwall Police. Copies of their reports were to hand apart from the Fire Brigade who had no paperwork. He also attended a Parish Cluster meeting with John Hart Leader of DCC, Phil Norrey Chief Executive of DCC. John Tucker Leader of SHDC, Richard Sheard, New Chief Executive of SHDC and Alan Robinson, Strategic Director Community Localism Bill. **The localism bill could affect us enormously.** There has been a suggestion of having a new noticeboard at Woolston, Sally Howells's husband has kindly offered to undertake this job for us. We have also got a new sign at Town Park Car Park. As the District Councillor mentioned in her report there are proposals for a Traffic Management Plan perhaps the local community should get together and come up with a policy to be put to Devon County Council, this could be a reversal of roles!

Parish Reports:

Carol Singing Evening: The Chairman reported that this was all in all a very successful and enjoyable evening, despite the weather, although there was a very seasonal snowy backdrop very suitable for when Father Christmas arrived to give all

the children present their gifts. After the carol singing everyone enjoyed a warming meal of jacket potatoes with chilli, or cheese and beans followed by apple crumble and cream and warming drinks. The Christmas Tree looked good and thanks went to Paul and Luke Adams for all their help, Thanks also to Mary Wright for preparing the chilli and jacket potatoes and for all who donated apple crumbles. It was greatly appreciated and rounded off a lovely evening.

Coffee Mornings: The coffee mornings continue to run as usual.

Parish Fun Day: Nothing further to report at present. Plans will resume later on in the year.

Parish Shed: The Chairman gave a brief history of the shed and the furniture within. ( a copy of which is in the back of the minutes book) It was proposed that as the Parish Council have paid the insurance for the shed and its contents and for the maintenance of the shed for many years, apart from a couple of years when donations were requested from the Church and Horticultural Society to help towards the premiums, until the Parish Council appointed a new insurance company and the annual premiums fell dramatically. The Parish Council will take on the day to day administration of the Parish furniture, all bookings to be taken through the Clerk and appropriate charges will be set. No charge will be made when a booking is taken from any West Alvington Parish Organisation. However any Parish individual wishing to hire the equipment will be charged. If any Parish Organisation wishes to provide a donation this too would be warmly welcomed. The general shed maintenance and insurance will remain the responsibility of the Parish Council. Any furniture repairs or replacement will be the responsibility of the main users on a shared basis, however all parties would be able to decline to contribute if the necessity arose.

Caravan in Townsend Road: Unfortunatley there is no change in the situation.

Tor Homes: The saga with Tor Homes continues as to the ownership of the car park. There has apparently been some complaints from Tor Homes residents about the parking situation, this seems to be from some of the residents who have reported that they have been subjected to verbal abuse from people visiting the village hall and school, but unfortunatley Tor Homes were unable to supply us with any names due to the data protection act, so that we could speak to them direct to guage their feelings. Tor Homes feel that the abuse is as a result of the lack of clarification over ownership and use of this area. A survey undertaken by Tor Homes suggests that it is mainly affecting blue badge holders. Six out of seven residents report that they have been subjected to various incidents relating to parking. South Hams Council say that the old Rural District Council provided the car park It is clearly our car park although Tor Homes still insist it is theirs as it was transferred to SHDC in the 1970's in its entirety. And so it goes on!! The Chairman suggested to the Councils present that

we offered to purchase it from them at the cost of £1. It was agreed that we could ask if this would be feasible.

Planning Applications: There are still plans in circulation.

Planning Decisions: Nothing in this period.

Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the following balances:

Lloyds TSB – current account	1.219.11
Lloyds TSB - savings account	112.38
Lloyds TSB – parish plan account	1.389.29
Abbey National- P3 account	223.83

Cheques to be drawn:

Village Hall	10.00
Mr S. Wright – reimbursement for purchases for the Parish eg; Carol singing evening, tree etc. -	230.53
Mr P. Mingo – electrician -	355.23
Mr C. Brock – grass cutting services -	150.00

Considerations for Church Tower Light and Grass Cutting of Playing Field:

We usually contribute £50 to the cost of the running of the light. The Chairman asked the Councillors present if we were happy to continue to do so this year. It was agreed to do so.

Last year the grass cutting bill for the playing field was £168 which we paid for the school, the Chairman asked the Councillors present if we were happy to continue to do so this year. It was agreed to do so.

Annual Precept: The Chairman went through the figures from last year and what the figures should be this year. Copies were given to each Councillor present. We need to increase our precept slightly this year to cover costs, an increase of £275 was suggested, this would equate to an increase of 3.5% for a band D householder. After careful consideration of the likely expenditure for 2011/2012 the precept was calculated for submission to SHDC. (The Parish Clerk requested a “pay freeze” for the ensuing year. She felt that as the Council had a limited budget for the year and that the Chairman also undertakes a lot of duties for no remuneration at all it was only fair that her salary remained the same as last year.)

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.

A.O.B. It was suggested that a Get Well Card be sent to Mr Claude Solomon who has recently been in hospital, he is a much respected member of the community who has contributed a lot to Village life. A Sympathy card has also been sent to Mrs Brown and her family from the Parish Council after the sad loss of Mr Michael Brown of Lower Street.

It was reported that the tarmac on the upper section of the footpath on West Alvington hill has cracked and is in need of repairing, it is near the edge of the path and could end up falling into the road.

It was suggested that we hold some events to try and generate some more revenue. There will be a Beating of the Bounds Event on the 21<sup>st</sup> May, this is held 5 weeks after Easter. Details to be confirmed.

A date for the Fun Day is to be confirmed, possibly the 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> September.

A date for the Carol Singing Evening was set as the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Other possible ideas for fund raising were Cinema Club, a Blossom Picnic, a street party for the Royal Wedding.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011 @ 7.30pm. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting.

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