

Hemyock Parish Council

1st September 2010

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Forbes Lounge under the chairmanship of Mrs.H.Stallard.

Present – Mrs.H.Stallard, Mr.P.Steed, Mr.R.Hart, Mr.R.Brooke, Pastor S.Reed and Mrs.L.Clist; Mrs.S.Cartledge arrived during the meeting. Also present was Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor and 12 members of the public.

Apologies - were received from Mr.I.McCulloch, Mr.L.Povah, Mr.J.Edwards and Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor.

It was proposed by Mr.Brooke, seconded by Mr.R Hart that **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 4th August be signed as a correct record, all agreed.

Matters Arising

- 1) 7th July meeting – No.2 – Blackdown Parishes Network; Dr.Catherine Bass, from Culmstock has been appointed to pull the whole thing together, to find what the common issues are for the Blackdown parishes and take them forward. It is hoped this will be done by the end of March 2011.
- 2) 7th July meeting – M.A. No. 3 - “Empowering Community” meeting at Frogmorton Hall, Dunkeswell on Friday 17th September.
- 3) Mr.Calcrafft said he had re-erected the BMX track sign and it was still in place today.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report:

- 1) There is an Executives meeting tomorrow – looking at the possibility of the Council building homes again.
- 2) There is a group looking at maternity services – on going.
- 3) Budget – going well – salary increases have been stopped.
- 4) District Council budget consultation, clerk to e.mail electronic copy to all councillors; Mrs.Stallard said we need to know what the running costs are for the public toilets.
- 5) Mr.Rosamond said the District Council had received a letter from a minister congratulating them on being out of voluntary engagement.
- 6) Mrs.Stallard asked Mr.Rosamond to find out about a tractor that has been left at the entrance to Castle Park ever since the re-surfacing work was carried out in South View, nobody seems to know who it belongs to.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford was not able to be present to give a report.

Mr.Steed suggested we write to Highways to thank them for all the work they've done around Hemyock recently; Mrs.Stallard said we should reserve judgement on the flood relief work until we have had a lot of rain to see if it works or not.

Planning

Approvals

10/00951/LBC – Culmbridge Farm, Culmbridge Road.

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10/00948/FULL – Culmbridge Farm, Culmbridge Road.
10/00931/FULL – Hemyock Bowling Club
10/01009/FULL – Ingledale, Culmstock Road

Proposed Non-Material Amendment

07/01757/FULL/NMA/refuse – The Old Telephone Exchange, Culmbridge Road.

Application

10/01208/FULL – Erection of an extension at Rosedale, Culmstock, Road; after careful inspection of the plans it was proposed by Pastor Reed, seconded by Mr. Brooke that approval be recommended, all agreed.

Flood-plain Footbridge Update

Work has commenced, the concrete footings have been laid and this morning men were seen on site with surveying equipment; the work is due to be completed in 8 weeks.

The old raised walkway has not been removed yet as the landowner wants it left there to keep the cattle in; it was suggested that as it's on council land they could take it down anyway; it is the landowners responsibility to fence his own land.

Riverbank Upstream of Millhayes Bridge

The Environment Agency has accepted that it is their responsibility to do repair work to the river bank which has eroded to the point where an inspection chamber which used to be in the river bank is now well out in the river bed. An e.mail had been sent asking if the Parish Council would be willing to contribute either funds or man-power to this work; it was agreed by all present that with our present commitments we could not contribute financially. Mrs. Clist suggested we could possibly contribute some man-power but it was thought that large machinery would probably be required.

HeLiC and Millhayes Hall

The Parish Council had held a meeting with the HeLiC Committee during the month at Millhayes Hall. Mr. Brooke said HeLiC needed a decision fairly urgently as the Garages were now at a crucial point and they needed to know how to go forward.

The proposal is to run both Millhayes Hall and The Garages projects under one overall committee to share resources.

Tone Leisure have been out and looked at the buildings with a view to providing a gym; they would be looking at both areas; Mr. Brooke said that if it was decided to put the gym in the garages it may take just over one bay which would still leave a huge space for a large hall, Tone Leisure want to do work with the youth. Mrs. Stallard said that they had taken a group of young people into Wellington Youth Gym yesterday and all had been very impressed with the equipment offered; if they go ahead with a gym for Hemyock it is the youth they want to target.

Mr. Brooke said they would still concentrate on the Cubs, Scouts and music provision; he said the Scouts only want the hall from October to Easter, after that they do outdoor activities.

Mrs. Cartledge said she thought the idea of combining the two projects was a good idea but that there might be a problem with the perception of the idea.

Mrs. Stallard said that we would be handing the day-to-day running of the garages over to HeLiC but there would be a Youth Committee with a Parish Council representative on it.

Mrs. Cartledge proposed that we hand the day-to-day running of the Garges over to HeLiC to promote savings and efficiency, seconded by Mrs. Clist; all agreed.

The Parish Council has a 25 year lease on the Garages and HeLiC has a 25 year lease on Millhayes Hall.

Pastor Reed said that there is £2,527.37 in the HELP account, as at 2003 so it may be a little more now with the interest added on.

Mrs.Stallard suggested this be transferred to the Garages.

Mr.Brooke said that there is still a lot of technical things to go through but the Parish Council has the responsibility of developing The Garages.

Clarification of the finances is needed; £30,000 was put in from the Parish Council plus a further £10,000 this year; clerk to see how much has been spent so far.

Sally Hill is meeting with Mrs.Stallard next week to see what grants are available from Viridor.

Mr.Brooke confirmed that money for this project is very tight; it's all about match funding, we have to keep some of our money for this.

Mrs.Stallard said that a bid was being made to the Making it Local Scheme for some funding towards the gym.

Mr.Brooke said that "phase one" was getting the building up and running; Mrs.Stallard asked if the building was high enough to put in a second floor. Mr.Brooke replied that the village store would be the best place for a mezzanine floor as there was an outside staircase to access it, the space beneath it could be used for showers and the village store could be moved to another area.

Old School Court

Mrs.Stallard said that about 25 years ago the old school had been purchased, it had been turned into a charity. It had been set up as 11 homes for the elderly people of Hemyock and Clayhidon, their relatives and personal friends.

It had been agreed to run it under the auspices of an Uffculme company which also ran "Markers" but it had been understood that Old School Court was a separate charity.

It is now being run by the Westcountry Housing Association and they appear to be trying to get all the tenants out; Mrs.Stallard said she was not happy about it; if we let this facility go it will be gone forever. Old School Court offered semi-sheltered housing, there has never been a warden there but a more active resident would make sure the others were all alright.

The Westcountry Housing Association has not said what their intentions are for the building;

Mr.Bowden said he had been approached by several parishioners who were worried it might be turned into another "Downmead".

Mrs.Stallard said that no one knows what the Westcountry Housing Association want to do but there is a meeting tomorrow at 2.0pm in the Forbes Lounge to discuss it; we need to know the legal set-up, someone must hold the charity deed, what are the caveats?

It was agreed that there is nothing else like it in the village and we must fight for it.

Mr.Brooke asked if Mr.Jim Elliott would be prepared to look into things.

Mrs.Clist asked if it could be used for single peoples accommodation if it cannot be filled with older people.

Pastor Reed asked if it could be run by a Village Trust.

Mrs.Stallard said she was not sure how many were flats and how many were bed sits.

Mr.Steed wondered if they needed to put in lifts if the building was used as sheltered housing and perhaps WHA did not want or could not afford to install them.

Mrs.Stallard was not able to attend the meeting tomorrow but Mr.Steed said he would go and Pastor Reed was hoping to go as well; Mr.Rosamond said he was planning to go along with another District Council representative.

The main things to find out is a) who owns it? b) who is responsible for running it?

AVM Attlee said that Mr. Francis Welland, Uffculme's Parish Clerk, might know the answers.

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Finance

The clerk reported that the external audit had been completed and the certificate had been received; also the necessary posters had been posted on the notice board for the required length of time.

Income

£80.70 – Fine Memorials – cemetery fees

£113.78 – Pring & Son – cemetery fees

£172.00 – Richard Grant Memorials – cemetery fees

£34,694.00 – Blackdown Healthy Living Centre – grant money for The Garages project.

Payments

It was proposed by Mr.Hart,seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that the following payments be made:
Retrospective permission for payment, to come out of the grant money from the Blackdown Healthy Living Centre:

£21,150.00 – Brookridge Timber - 1st interim payment for works on The Garages.

£505.25 – Ashculme Tree Surgeons – removing ash tree from site of raised footway

£470.00 – Audit Commission – external audit

£306.53 – Longmead Management Group – balance owing from 2009/10

£14,100.00 – Brookridge Timber - 2nd interim payment for works on The Garages

£609.00 – MDDC – Building Regulations for The Garages

£84.00 – Mr.R.Taylor – strimming and tidying the BMX track area

£231.50 – Mr.I.Pike – cemetery and village grass cutting

£108.00 – Mr.R.Calcraft – grass cutting at Millhayes

The Longmead Management Group had asked if the Parish Council would be willing to pay the insurance costs for the Longmead Sports and Fun Day.

Mrs.Stallard declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion.

It was decided not to pay this amount but to tell the Management Committee that they could draw down from this year's £5,000.00 if they needed to.

Highways

The “Give Way” sign by the Post Office is bent over.

Mr.David Graham had written about the problems on Pencross Hill where vehicles often become held up when 2 lorries meet on the hill and cannot pass each other.

Mrs.Stallard said that Anne Monk had offered land for the road to be widened by Ellisses Farm several years ago but as it is not a classified road Highways are not interested.

Mrs.Stallard suggested we get the County Councillor in charge of Highways out for a site meeting;

Mr.Brooke suggested that all the businesses write a letter to go to Highways about the problems encountered on Pencross Hill, Mrs.Stallard said she would speak to Anne Monk about it

Cemetery

The cemetery policy has been looked at and it was decided to up-date it.

Mrs.Stallard suggested we have a special meeting to up-date all our policies; clerk to copy all polices to all councillors in readiness for the meeting. It was also noted that we do not have a Health & Safety policy so that could be sorted out as well.

If the Forbes Lounge is available it was decided to meet on Wednesday September 15th at 7.30pm

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

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Correspondence

- 1) DALC AGM on Saturday 25th September; Mr.Steed and Mrs.Stallard both hoped to be able to go along.
- 2) Mid Devon Talk – distributed to all councillors
- 3) Royal Devon & Exeter Express
- 4) Playing Field newsletter
- 5) Reply from the Halifax regarding the closure of the Hemyock branch
- 6) MDDC- “Parish on Line” there has not been enough interest shown in this so will not be going ahead at present.
- 7) Devon & Cornwall Police, Liaison Meetings, there will be no meetings for the next 12 months.
- 8) MDDC, Development Management Development Plan – to be copied to all councillors.
- 9) MDDC – information on next year's census day - 23rd March 2011.
- 10) Mr.Magor – letter sent to Highways regarding a disabled parking space outside of his home.
- 11) John Scott – Affordable Housing – possible survey in January.

P.R

- Old School Court

Chairman's Business

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed.....

Date.....