

Hemyock Parish Council

6th October 2010

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

Present – Mrs.H.Stallard, Mr.I.McCulloch, Mr.P.Steed, Mr.J.Edwards, Mr.L.Povah, Mrs.S.Cartledge, Mr.R.Hart, Pastor S.Reed and Mrs.L.Clist. Also present was Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor and 14 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor.

It was proposed by Mr.Hart, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge, that **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 1st September be signed as a correct record – all agreed.

Matters Arising

- 1) Matters Arising No.1 – Mrs.Stallard had attended a Blackdown Parish Network meeting at Dunkeswell.
- 2) District Council Report No.6 - the tractor had been removed from the entrance to Castle Park by the next morning.
- 3) Old School Court – In trying to find out who now actually owns the Old School Court it had been discovered that it is not registered with the Land Registry; Mr.Steed said he had filled in a form and sent it off so hopefully we will hear something pretty soon.
Mrs.Stallard said that the charity that had been set up in Hemyock seems to have gone – the original idea was that the homes were for the elderly people of Hemyock, prospective residents did not have to be on the District Council housing waiting list as now seems to be the case. Mr.Alec Smith said that he remembered that it had been handed over to Westcountry Housing. Mr.H.Thorne said that in the quest to find out who now owned the building the first move should be to the Charity Commission and see if it is still registered with them and if the original trustees had the power to hand it over to the Housing Association; it was mentioned that the Rev. Fraser at Uffculme was also somehow involved in the handover.
- 4) Highways – Mrs.Stallard said she had spoken to Anne Monk, at Ellises Farm, who would be willing to sell a bit of land where the wall keeps getting knocked down to widen the road near the bottom of Pencross Hill; but as the property was up for sale she was not sure of the legal aspect. It was pointed out that the Parish Council does not have the money to widen the road at this point and provide a lay-by for a passing place further up the hill.
- 5) Wrencon still have not tidied up the old station yard – clerk to follow this up.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond had not been able to attend the meeting this evening but had sent along a report. The big concern at the moment is the potential reduction by MDDC of grants to voluntary organisations, including the Blackdown Support Group and Villages in Action; he said a number of councillors are endeavouring to prevent or minimise such action. Nothing is decided as yet, and much will depend on the cuts indicated by the Government and how they impact on MDDC. However many members feel that it is wrong to affect front line services, but the problem is “how do you correlate these organisations' activities with MDDC corporate priorities?” Mr.Rosamond said that the more people that write in to express their concern, the more weight can be attached to
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the value of these voluntary groups.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) Keys Childcare – Mr.Radford said he had been contacted by Mr.Denman, a resident in Culmstock Road, but it's not really anything to do with the County Council, however in view of the complaint they do have the authority to close Downmead down if it's not being run properly.
- 2) In an attempt to get to grips with their finances at the County Council; since August 900 people have left, due to natural wastage, and they are not being replaced.
- 3) Libraries – due to the consultation process 3 library vans are now off the road.
- 4) Nursing Homes – the running of these homes has now been put out to private tender; 4 or 5 companies are competing at the moment; DCC have been assured that services will not be affected. In the past a lot of agency staff have been used which is very expensive.
- 5) Devon County Council have reduced their debt by £18 million over the past year to 18 months..
- 6) At the moment there are 641 children in care - costing £30,000 each.
- 7) Devon County Council have filled 150,000 potholes so far this year..
- 8) Mr.Radford still has some money left in his Community Budget – are there any worthy causes looking for a grant?
- 9) Mr.McCulloch asked if it was all the Care Homes being put out to private tender; he was concerned that whoever buys them will close them down. Mr.Radford said it was 19 homes, like Orchard Lea at Cullompton, the buildings will be leased and whoever tenders will have to prove that they can carry on the business.

Planning

Approvals

10/01078/FULL – Park View, Withy Lane.

10/01147/FULL – Endeavour, Culmbridge Road.

10/01160/FULL – Luggs, Culm Davy.

10/01166/LBC – Luggs, Culm Davy.

Applications

10/01425/FULL – Erection of a garage/store/workshop following demolition of nissen hut at Paddock Wood, Culmstock.

Following inspection of the plans it was proposed by Mr.Edwards, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that approval be recommended – all agreed.

10/01503 – erection of 3 dwellings following demolition of existing garage premises at Hemyock Motors, Culmstock Road.

Before reaching a decision on this application councillors decided to hold a site meeting; 7pm on Friday 8th was agreed.

MDDC – letter regarding the Burleyhayes application – an appeal is to be held on 26th October plus possibly the 27th October as well – notice to be put on PC noticeboard.

Floodplain Footbridge Update

Mr.Povah said there had been a slight hic-cup when it was discovered that the swing gate construction was too short – this will hold up completion by a couple of weeks.

The posts are to be levelled and capped.

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Mrs.P.Lowman asked what was going to be done about the access the village end of the footbridge; someone is going to step of the bridge right into the path of a vehicle; Mr.Povah said perhaps red lines or bollard similar to by the kissing gate, however we don't have any jurisdiction to do it – it's up to Devon Highways. Pastor Reed suggested an inward opening gate, but it was thought this could be difficult for people with buggies.

Pastor Reed asked if we are going to have an official opening when it is finished; Mrs.Stallard said that we would however at the moment the construction of the coral is still outstanding, Mr.Povah said he is waiting for one more quote.

Garages Update

Several meetings had been held with Tone Leisure; it looks as though it will be run as a partnership arrangement.

The village store will be moved to the other end of the building and the present store area and one bay of the building will be used for the gym.

Two grant applications for £100,000 are going in.

The area for the young people is going ahead.

DALC Conference Report

Mrs.Stallard had attended this conference on 25th September; she said she was in no doubt that local councils are in charge of their own destinations; we are going to have to do lots more which will have to be taken into consideration when we set our precept.

There is still a push for more parishes to achieve the Quality status.

Much of what was discussed was very much along the lines of “it's up to us what we do for our communities and we must look forward to opportunities.

Mrs.Stallard said that there will be elections next May for District and Parish Councillors and it might be a good idea to hold an open meeting in January to get some ideas and to get people interested in standing for council.

Finance

Seats

Some of the parish seats were repaired and treated last year and the rest need attention; however it was decided that it was too late to undertake this work this year – to be looked at in the spring.

Income

£8,617.00 – repayment from MDDC – 106 infrastructure money.

£419.37 – Pring & Son - cemetery fees.

Payments

It was proposed by Mr.Hart, seconded by Mrs.Clist that the following payments be made and one retrospective payment approved:

£20,353.50 – SWH Ltd. Floodplain footbridge (retrospective)

£15.00 – DALC conference fees

£1,706.36 – Mark Richmond Architects – floodplain footbridge

£33.00 – Hemyock Parish Hall – rent for the meetings in the Forbes Lounge

£125.00 – Hemyock PCC – donation towards the “Pump” parish magazine.

£1,236.72 – Clerks salary and expenses

£690.00 – Mark Portlock – labour charges for work on the Garages

£40.00 – Open Spaces Society – subscription

£148.50 – Mr.I.Pike – cemetery grass cutting

£6,756.25 – Devon Playways Ltd – (to be reclaimed from MDDC 106 monies)

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£2,056.25 – Devon Playways Ltd – (to be reclaimed from MDDC 106 monies)
£65.00 – C.Risdon – footpath maintenance (from P3 Scheme account)
£591.40 – Mark Richmond Architects – fees for project managing the floodplain footbridge build

Mrs.Stallard then left the room while her expenses were discussed.

The clerk reported that the council has paid Mrs.Stallard £700.00 for the last two years.

After a discussion it was proposed by Mr.McCulloch,seconded by Mrs.Clist that we leave it as it is at present, but pay her £350.00 tonight and ask for a list of the amount of telephone calls made plus a list of journeys made and mileage; it will then be reviewed when we have figures to hand – all agreed.

The Bowling Club had written to ask if we could help with the £3,000 needed towards their clubhouse improvements. They have applied to Uffculme Environmental Ltd for a grant but will still need to find 10% themselves. Councillors said that budget planning meetings are coming up and they will look at the request as part of our budget and see if we can assist.

Highways

The Parish Lengthsman will be visiting Hemyock in the week of 26th October it was suggested that perhaps he could help with some of the following problems:

- 1) Branches have pushed out signs at the top of Station Road – the Hall and toilets sign now point west instead east.
- 2) Several 30mph signs around the parish are obscured by foliage.
- 3) The hedge is obscuring the street light of the footpath from the kissing gate to Hemyock Motors.
- 4) There is still moss and weeds on the paths at Eastmead and Churchills.
- 5) Mrs.Gubb reported that a drain by the telephone exchange is blocked.
- 6) St Margarets stream is still causing concern over possible flooding problems; Pastor Reed said that a larger culvert under the road would help; it was thought unlikely that this would be done – Steve Densham is looking at the problem to see what he can do.
- 7) There is a blocked drain to the south of Black Aller Farm; Mr.Edwards said that there is a grating over the drain but the water just runs across the road.
- 8) Blocked drain opposite the entrance to Culm Davy Farm; water runs out over the road.
- 9) Water is coming through the road surface on Pencross Hill by Ellises Farm.

Gritting & Salting

Mrs.Stallard said she had read the 55 page DCC report on the winter roads programme. Gritting and salting of the primary network of roads will be done when there is a risk of snow or ice; this includes major roads and roads to settlements of 500 residents and over; also included extra this year is secondary schools and hospitals. Villages are able to buy more grit bins and salt themselves if they want to; DCC will provide training on how to do salting. A map had been provided showing where all the grit bins in Hemyock are situated; Mr.McCulloch to check that these bins are actually there.

Blackdown Parishes Network

A Network meeting will be held again soon; clerk to get an e.mail copy of the letter from Catherine Bass, to be forwarded on to councillors.

Cemetery

Nothing to report.

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Footpaths

We are still waiting for the Definitive map review to come to Hemyock.

Mr.Povah said that DCC was trying to source some stone for Ashculme Turbary bridleway that is suitable for use in sensitive areas.

Correspondence

- 1) MDDC – Consultative document on their Licensing Policy – clerk to e.mail link to all councillors to look at the document on-line.
- 2) Blackdown Hills AONB – Culm Valley Railway, potential multi user path.
- 3) Blackdown Hills AONB – Sustainable Development money still available for allotments.
We cannot apply for any of this money until we have site and time is running out.
The bio-diversity audits have been carried out on two of our commons but no information received yet so a decision cannot be made on the possible use of part of Shuttleton Common as an allotment.
- 4) Making it Local – training workshop at Kentisbeare on 12th October 3pm – 5pm and an evening session 6pm – 8pm.
- 5) East Devon Core Strategy document.
- 6) Society of Local Councils - “Coming Your Way” on Monday 25th October at Plymouth 10am – 4pm.
- 7) “Crash Pad” looking for people willing to give homeless young people a bed for the night until something more permanent can be found.
- 8) “No Need for Nuclear” campaign information.
- 9) Village Green magazine – several circulated to interested councillors.
- 10) 24/7 Devon Ambulance newsletter.
- 11) Keys Childcare – reply to our letter to them asking to see copies of their policies; they are not able to provide policies or procedures as they are confidential.
- 12) Uffculme School – Re: Partnership Governor vacancy. As they are now an Academy the rules covering the membership of the Governing Body are different; they are hoping to have received some advice before their next meeting in November.
- 13) DALC newsletter; course available on budgets and precepts at Kenn, Exeter on 2nd November 10am – 1pm; Mr.McCulloch said he would like to attend, Mrs.Cartledge said she would like to go as well if she could manage it.

P.R – Nothing this month.

Chairman's Business

None.

There being no further business the meeting was closed to the public at 9.55pm and the councillors went into a Section 2 meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....

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