

Hemyock Parish Council **7th July 2010**

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

Present – Mrs.H.Stallard, Mr.R.Brooke, Mr.J.Edwards, Mrs.S.Cartledge, Mr.L.Povah, Mr.I.McCulloch and Mrs.L.Clist. Also present was Mr.R.Radford and 17 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Mr.P.Steed, Pastor S.Reed and Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) The hedge to the south of the surgery entrance was again discussed; it still has not been cut back – it needs to go back at least a metre.
- 2) The highways defect report had been distributed to councillors.
- 3) A letter had been received from Devon County Council informing us of the “part night lighting” which will be implemented in Hemyock in this current financial year. Lights on A and B roads will be left on; we have to let them know if there are any vulnerable areas in the parish where lights should be left on.
- 4) Inside Track from Phil Norrey – Devon’s Review Funding. 3.1 million is being cut from Childrens' and Young People’s Services in this financial year, there is a very real possibility of redundancies.
- 5) HATOC meeting – Mr.Radford had asked Meg Booth about the funding for the continuation of the pavement past the Spar shop; she said the funding was not in place the County Council had no money set aside for it and it was not in this year’s programme. Councillors were not happy about this; Mrs.Stallard said it should have been on the June agenda and discussed. Mr.Radford said there was a finance meeting in the autumn and it will be discussed and considered then; Mrs.Stallard asked him to make sure that it does come up for discussion.
- 6) The street lights at the top of Logan Way are still out; Highways say the road was never adopted by the County Council, Wilcon, the developer, is no longer around. Mr.Radford said that the procedure is that the developer deposits a bond of 10% of the development with the County Council to cover such things as the road not being built to a certain standard etc. It was not certain why the road had not been adopted; County Highways to be contacted.

It was proposed by Mr.Brooke, seconded by Mrs. Cartledge that **The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June** be signed as a correct record, all agreed.

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Matters Arising

- 1) Allotments – Mrs.Stallard said we are still looking at Shuttleton Common; the person who carried out the Bio-diversity Audit is going up to have a look at it, we may be able to use an acre of it. Mrs.Stallard said she had brought it up at a recent AONB meeting and found that it had not been surveyed for a long time; she said we are following it up as a real possibility as a site for allotments.
- 2) Blackdown Parishes Network, there have been articles in the local press; it is looking for someone to put together a plan to take the whole thing forward. So far there have been 4 applicants; the successful candidate will be paid a small honorarium.
- 3) Trim trail – if there is any 106 money left when the approved projects are completed it was thought that some outdoor keep fit equipment could be installed around the trail as per the original plan.
- 4) The dead fir tree in the cemetery has been removed but the stump has not yet been ground out.
- 5) Parish On-line – at the last meeting Mr.Steed said he would follow this up.
- 6) Mr.S.Pring said that in Honiton permission was being sought to turn a public open space into allotments and was this an option for Hemyock? Mrs.Stallard said that the open space in front of the Higher Millhayes had been discussed but it had been met with a lot of opposition. Mr.Pring suggested the open area in Hollingarth and at Parklands. It was said that the Parklands open area gets a lot of use in the summer. Mr.Pring then suggested if the development line was moved to allow 20 homes to be built perhaps we could get an acre of land for an allotment but Mrs.Stallard said that parishioners are adamant that they do not want any more developments in the village; and at the moment we are seriously looking at Shuttleton Common as a solution to the allotment issue.

Minutes of 9th June Meeting

Minutes to be amended and brought to next month's meeting.

Mr.McCulloch said he had no clear idea of what the meeting had been for.

Mr.Povah said we are looking at the areas at the cemetery and Longmead as possible allotment sites. Mrs.Cartledge said we had been looking at the viability of a path down the west side of the cemetery to access the land to the north of the cemetery for allotments. Mrs.Stallard said we had measured the width available from the hedge; the owner was not happy for the bank to be reduced, that being so there was no room for a path down the west side and the centre path could not be used due to public feeling.

Therefore the only option left to access this land was to compulsory purchase an access down the east side; it had only been a thought and the cost may be prohibitive.

The land at Longmead, below the sewage works had also been looked at but it had been decided that the cost involved, for the amount of allotments we would be able to provide there, was too high. Mrs.Stallard this was partly why we were now looking at Shuttleton Common as a site; no one grazes it and it is not a Turbary; Mr.McCulloch asked why now after all these months, Mrs. Stallard said it had been previously thought to be too far out of the village.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond was not able to be present but sent the following report:

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1) The District Council has been released from voluntary engagement, a process that has taken 3 years of monitoring by the Government Office. They have now been given a clean bill of health, which means they are no longer a weak council, but on a par with every other council in the country.

2) Thanks to some fortuitous windfalls, the council is reasonably well placed to cope with the first wave of cuts, having built up a 3 million reserve. It hopes to receive a further payment from the Icelandic Banks, having received 386k to date and expects to secure 70-80% of its original “investment”. The council will continue to look at new ways of working in partnership with other councils to protect services whilst saving money.

Planning

1) Document received from MDDC – “Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2) 10/00066/CLU – Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of a former agricultural Linhay for storage/recreational use in association with the existing nearby dwelling known as Burleyhayes Cottage. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State which will be dealt with as a Public Enquiry.

Approvals

10/00610/Full – 5, Parklands, Hemyock.

10/00422/FULL – Culmbridge Farm Cottage

10/00423/LBC – Culmbridge Farm Cottage.

Applications

All plans were carefully considered before decisions were reached.

10/00931/FULL - erection of an extension to provide wc facilities at the Bowling Club, Station Road. It was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mr.Brooke that approval be recommended – all agreed.

10/01009/FULL – erection of a replacement garage and 2 storey extension at Ingledale, Culmstock Road. It was proposed by Mrs.Clist, seconded by Mr.Edwards that approval be recommended – all agreed.

10/00951/LBC – Listed Building Consent for the conversion and change of use of agricultural buildings to 3 live/work units; erection of domestic garage block (revised plan). Councillors decided to have a site meeting before making a decision on this application; if convenient with the applicant it was decided to hold it tomorrow night, Thursday 8th July.

Uffculme School Governor

A vacancy exists at Uffculme Comprehensive School for a Partnership Governor and the Parish Council has been asked if there is anyone they would like to nominate.

Mr.Goodson had come along to the meeting to ask if the Parish Council would be willing to nominate him. He said he had been a Parent Governor at Uffculme School and had also been a governor at Hemyock Primary School, he went on to tell those present of the things he had helped with at both schools and said he was very keen to continue and hoped the Parish Council would support him.

Mr.McCulloch asked what the difference was between a parent Governor and Partnership Governor; Mr.Goodson said the duties were the same but a Parent Governor is elected by the parents of the school.

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Mr.McCulloch then asked if anyone else would have known of the possibility of putting their names forward to be nominated as a Partnership Governor; Mrs.Stallard said that as a council it had only just come to us; Mr.Goodson said it had been published on the school website. It was decided to put a notice on the parish notice board.

Mr.McCulloch proposed we nominate Mr.Goodson for the post of Partnership Governor at Uffculme Comprehensive School and anyone else who comes forward, seconded by Mr.Povah - all agreed.

Floodplain Update

Mr.Povah said that 3 tenders for the job of erecting the floodplain footbridge had been received; they were from D.W.Hart & Son Ltd, SWH Ltd and G.Woodland & Son Ltd, the amounts tendered could be published once a decision had been made.

BT has yet to do some work on the site and an ash tree has to be moved.

The amounts tendered include a contingency; the lowest tender has said they could complete the work in 8 weeks.

Millhayes Update

Mr.Brooke said the hall has now been handed over.

The garage work has commenced but there is financial constraint on this project. It falls outside the Parish Council building procurement policy as it is being funded from money from the sale of Exeter Airport; therefore we do not have to meet with the same criteria as we do with the floodplain footbridge.

The idea of using a portacabin inside the main building as a temporary building was not going to work and has now been taken off site; the floor area of the portacabin was not designed to take the weight of a lot of people.

Mr.Brooke said he was hoping to complete phase 1 within 8 weeks as work is now well under way, hopefully this will include the music room. The hall will be able to be used, the floor will be level but not smooth.

Phase 2 will be the development of the main hall and the heating.

Phase 3 will be the workshop and reception areas.

Mr.Brooke said he is very aware that there is other funding to be had; HELIC are looking to take on a person to look at grant funding. Mr. Brooke asked if it would be a benefit to the Parish Council if the Healthy Living Centre took on the task of looking for funding; they would like 15 minutes of the Council's time to put forward their proposal and suggested some time towards the end of this month. Mrs.Stallard said it would be well worth looking at for the sake of the whole set up and to let us know what date they would like the meeting, which could be held on site.

Mr.S.Pring questioned the use of timber cladding on the front of the building as it would be very high maintenance. Mr.Brooke replied that the architect had specified it and we have not got the funding at the moment to alter it but that is not to say it could not be changed at a later date.

Finance

Mrs.Stallard said that because of the problem with motorcyclists using the BMX track as
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a motocross track she had been to Ken White signs and got a price for a sign to say motorcyclists were not allowed for £135.30 + VAT. Mr.Edwards suggested we should put “Hemyock Parish Council” at the top. Mr. Brooke said that rather than have a negative sign saying what is not allowed would it not be better to have sign to say what the area was actually for; there was no sign saying it is a BMX track. Mrs.Stallard said she would go back to Ken White signs and get another price. Mr.Calcraft offered to put the sign up when it is done.

Income

£288.40 – Pring & Son – cemetery fees

£10,846.87 – MDDC – refunds from our S106 infrastructure fund for invoices paid.

Payments

It was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that the following payments and be made and retrospective payments approved:

Retrospective

£931.25 – Stephens & Scown, professional fees for grant of lease for garage premises at Millhayes.

£42.50 – MDDC, Planning Application – garages

£203.00 – MDDC, Building Regulations – garages

Payments

£120.00 – S.Aldworth – Internal audit fee

£104.50 – Parish Hall Committee – rent of hall for Annual Parish Meeting

£293.75 – JNC Safety Services Ltd – floodplain footbridge

£1,228.88 – Clerks salary and expenses

£259.25 – Mr.I.Pike – cemetery and village grass cutting

£144.00 – Mr.R.Calcraft – mowing at Millhayes

£10.00 – Devon Playing Field Association – conference fees

The clerk reported that a basic BT broadband connection would be £7.49 for 3 months then would rise to £14.49 per month with a one off charge of £4.49 for package and posting.; further providers to be looked into.

Mr.Steed is looking at prices for a new clerk’s laptop as the present one is now nearly 8 years old.

Mrs.Stallard has been looking into the provision of 3 information notice boards for the village. One to go by the post-office (which the owners have agreed to) showing a map of the parish with farm names etc. The other two to go on the Millhayes side of the bridge over the Culm showing the history of the site, one for the milk factory site, and one for the Culm Valley Railway site.

There is grant money available to cover 70% of the cost; Mrs.Stallard asked if the council was happy for her to get quotes for long lasting decent size information boards, and costs for the graphics; councillors agreed for her to do this.

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Highways

Mr.Thorne had arranged for an “unveiling” and photograph of the new Symonsburrow sign just erected after many years of waiting.

A list of potholes had been passed to the clerk to be reported to Highways.

Cemetery

Mr.Pike reported that the graves seem to be getting closer together; he can no longer get a mower between them to mow the grass. He also asked if the council had a policy on leveling the graves; the clerk replied that the council does not have such a policy but usually the undertaker levels graves, if requested by the family, after a certain length of time.

It was suggested that it could be included on the interment form. Cemetery policy to be looked at.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

- 1) DCC – Street Lighting leaflet, one for each councillor.
- 2) Standards for England – Blogging Quick Guide for councillors.
- 3) Catalogue for bus shelters – clerk to check with Mr.Radford to see if we are on the list; one has been requested at the junction of Castle Park with Station Road.
- 4) NHS Partnership – have your say about mental health issues; poster to be put on parish notice board.

5) DALC – Empowering Communities in Devon - A Local Perspective – no date yet for the Blackdown Hills area.

6) Exeter City Council – Recession Impact Campaign.

7) A letter had been received from Barbara Povah and Peter Smith of Oakside, Culmstock Road regarding the incident on Monday 5th July at Downmead when police were looking for 2 residents of the home. It had involved a police helicopter hovering over their property for about an hour, sometimes at low level, 2 police cars, 1 police riot van and a 1 police dog handler van. They were extremely concerned that at least one resident of this non-secure house poses a risk to the community; this was finally admitted by Keys Childcare when Mrs.Povah rang them up to ask why there was such a high level of police involvement.

Mr.Povah said we should endorse this letter with one from the Parish Council; he said that when the home was under the previous ownership there were no people there that posed a risk to the community.

Mr.Edwards said he had been told that the carers at the home were not allowed to restrain them or lock them in.

Mr.Brooke asked if they were breaking the law by putting people there that posed a risk; he suggested we find out what they have planning permission for.

It was also suggested we find out what procedures they have in place for when one of the children goes missing.

Mr.Brooke said they must have a Risk Assessment and a Duty of Care document; we

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should be able to get this information under the Freedom of Information act.

8) "Senior Council of Devon" newsletter.

9) "Devon Talk" leaflet.

10) DALC – newsletter.

PR

- Floodplain tenders, when available
- Garages project

Chairman's Business

Erica Williams had contacted the clerk, on behalf of the Young Farmers, to ask if we had a project they could do for us this summer. Councillors were very grateful for the offer and asked if they would be willing to re-do the stream, clean it out and reset the weirs which have become displaced due to winter floods. The banks have also become washed out in places and need repairing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20pm,

Signed.....

Date.....

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