

Hemyock Parish Council

30th April 2010

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held in the Forbes Lounge at 7.0pm 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.Brooke and Pastor S.Reed. Also present Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor, Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor and approximately 45 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Mrs.L.Clist.

Mrs.Stallard began by welcoming everyone to the meeting then went on to give the *Chairman's Report.*

Mrs.Stallard spoke of the signing of the Twinning Charter, the counterpart of the celebration held in France the previous year; 69 people came over from France for the ceremony.

Mrs.Stallard also spoke of the reorganization of the administrative structure of Devon, which is still not resolved, and the setting up of a Blackdown Parishes Network, which has moved forward a little but not much.

The work on Millhayes Hall is almost finished and the work to turn the old St.Ivel garages into a youth centre has begun; Mrs.Stallard said that we cannot afford to do all of the work required at once but we can get some of it up and running.

Mrs.Stallard pointed out the list of outstanding highway problems on one of the display boards, she said that following another visit from two senior officers from Devon County Highways we have now been given some dates for when work will happen, however we have just realized that it only mentions the month, not the year, so we will have to wait and see.

One of our successes has been the completion of the pavement down as far as the Spar shop; we now need the second half down to the entrance to the industrial park.

Mrs.Stallard went on to mention the progress of the new raised walkway across the floodplain, the flooding problem on the north side of Millhayes Bridge and an update on Longmead.

One of the biggest problems we have faced this year, which is still unresolved, is the provision of allotments; the Parish Council is legally bound to provide allotments when six or more parishioners request them. The only land the Parish Council owns is to the north of the cemetery, but as we do not own the land each side there is no way to access this land except through the cemetery; however, many parishioners are not happy with the idea of allotment holders walking through the cemetery with tools and wheelbarrows etc. Mrs.Stallard said that all we need is an acre of land which could be on a time-limited lease and the Parish Council would pay a good rent.

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Mrs.Stallard continued with mention of the possibility of “speed guns” for Hemyock, the decrease in demand for the mobile library, the fear that our public toilets are under threat, affordable housing and the news that the National Cycle Race is coming through Hemyock again in September this year.

Mrs.Stallard thanked Mr.Rosamond and Mr.Radford, District and County Councillors, who have worked hard on our behalf over the past year and fellow councillors and the clerk for all their hard work and their support in all council matters.

Mrs.Stallard closed by thanking everyone who give so much time and effort to the different clubs and organisations in the parish. This helps to make it the friendly community that Hemyock undoubtedly is; which was proved last year when Hemyock was nominated as the Calor “Devon Village of the Year”. Mrs. Stallard said that Hemyock could be justifiably proud of the title and that it was very well deserved.

Millhayes Hall – Healthy Living Centre

Pastor Steven Reed gave a report on the Healthy Living Centre; which is an all age facility for the Blackdown Hills area and will be opening next Thursday, 6th May.

An award of £10,000 had been received from “Awards for All” which was spent on computers etc for the “learning space”.

There will also be a “Riverside Memory Cafe” where people with similar needs can meet for a chat.

There are lots of ideas for future projects at the Healthy Living Centre which include a fitness studio, complimentary therapies, diet advice, addiction advice, parenting skills training, and bringing the University of the Third Age to Hemyock.

Pastor Reed closed by thanking Mr.Radford for the connection to the funds from the sale of Exeter Airport, which made the Healthy Living Centre possible and a big thank you also to Dr. Jonathan Meads for the work he has put in on this project.

Tiverton & District Community Transport Association

Mrs.Stallard welcomed Faye Ashton to the meeting who is the manager of the Tiverton and District Community Transport Association.

Faye told all those present about the “Ring & Ride” service which operates from Hemyock on Mondays; once a month they go to Wellington and three times a month they go to Taunton. She also spoke of the other mobility solutions they provide which included a community mini-bus, shop mobility, wheels to work, which is scooters for loan and at the present time they have 73 machines, and also volunteer car schemes.

Faye then showed a short DVD about the various schemes with testimonials from lots of very grateful people who use the various transport available.

Mrs.Stallard thanked Faye for coming along to our meeting.

A.O.N.B “Making it Local”

Mrs.Stallard welcomed Nikki Moore, the project co-coordinator who gave an extremely interesting and informative presentation on the work that she does for the A.O.N.B.

The 5 year management plan, which was finalized last year, includes the following projects:

- Parish Bio Diversity Audit

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- Help Halt the Invasion
- Dark Skies Project
- Cycling Routes
- Horse Riding Routes
- Culm Valley Trail

Nikki then explained what the aims were for each project and how local people can become involved.

“Making it Local” operates from the former St.Ivel offices and they have £250,000 available for grants.

There is a Blackdown Hills A.O.N.B community event on Saturday 11th September at Stockland Village Hall entitled “Renewable Energy”.

Nikki also said that an “Events” programme comes out every six months packed with lots of interesting things to do.

Mrs.Stallard thanked Nikki for coming along to tell us about all the things happening in the Blackdown Hills.

Mrs.Stallard then thanked everyone for coming along and invited them to look at the various displays mounted around the hall and to enjoy the refreshments of cheese and wine.

Mr.McCulloch proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs.Stallard for all her work over the past year.

After an enjoyable social time the evening closed at around 9.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....