

## 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008

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.J.Edwards, Mr.R.Hart, Mr.R.Brooke, Mrs.S.Cartledge, Mr.L.Povah, Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor, Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor and 6 members of the public.

**Apologies** were received from Mr.I.McCulloch, Pastor S.Reed and Mrs.L.Clist.

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

### **Matters Arising**

1) The matter of the “No Diving” sign at Millhayes was discussed, it was suggested that a “Deep Water” sign might be better; it was finally decided not to put any sign at all by the bridge over the River Culm at Millhayes.

2) Police Report – there have been several burglaries recently; all the central heating oil was taken from the tank at Churchinford Pavilion. Parishioners were reminded to make sure all sheds are kept locked and to report to the police anything at all that seems suspicious.

3) Calor Village of the Year Competition – Mrs.Stallard had met one of the judges at a meeting and asked for some feed back. Hemyock had been in the top four with very little to choose between them, we have good shops an excellent website and very strong community life. Two areas for improvement were involvement of newcomers to the village and development of a Youth Council; Mrs.Stallard said the Youth Council would be looked at again as soon as we had somewhere for them to meet.

4) The seat at the top of Pencross is now insured.

### **District Council Report**

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report:

1) The District Council is still in a state of abeyance due to the Local Government Re-organisation. A State of the Nation Debate has been held; if a unitary solution is to be successful Exeter needs to be included in Devon not a separate unitary council.

2) Last week there had been a meeting of all councillors; most people are now comfortable with the executive structure; one committee will go.

3) Progress with next year’s budget is not very good; savings of half a million pounds needs to be made.

4) The Chairman’s Reception is to be held at Willand on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

5) Mrs.Stallard asked Mr.Rosamond why East Devon District Council has got huge reserves and Mid Devon District Council is so short of money; AVM Attlee suggested one of the reasons was because they have large car parks in holiday areas.

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### **County Council Report**

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) Boundary Commission – this had already been discussed.
- 2) The County Council will have the same budget problems; they too are trying to make savings.
- 3) Meg Booth is coming out to Hemyock on 28<sup>th</sup> October to meet with himself and Mrs.Stallard to try to resolve some problems that have been on-going for several years.
- 4) A meeting has been held in Exeter regarding the “Investing in Devon” funding for Millhayes Hall and the garages; they accept it is a good project but want PCT (Primary Care Trust) to put some money in as well. Mr.Brooke has taken this up with PCT; if £100,000 could be obtained from PCT the rest would be forthcoming from the “Investing in Devon” people. However, it is not going to happen this year now.
- 5) Mrs.Stallard said we had written to Brian Greenslade complaining about the lack of response from letters sent to Devon County Council; he has not replied either.

### **Planning**

A letter has been received from MDDC to say that following consultation with parishes they will still be sending out paper copies of planning applications.

#### **Approvals**

- 08/01200/FULL – Culmbridge Farm
- 08/01304/LBC – Culm Davy Farm
- 08/01383/PNAG – Highwood, Culm Davy.

#### **Applications**

- 08/01764/FULL – Hemyock Motors, erection of 3 dwellings (revised scheme). After inspection of the plans it was proposed by Mr.Hart and seconded by Mr.Steed that approval be recommended – all agreed, Mr.Brooke abstained.
- 08/01665/FULL – “Bramblemead”, 13, Logan Way, retention of shed. It was proposed by Mr.Edwards, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that approval be recommended, all agreed.

### **Boundary Commission Review**

- Now saying that the status quo is acceptable.
- The County Council itself has not been consulted on the suggestion of the Boards; it was just 3 people at the top who made the proposal.
- There is a lot of support in this area for the suggestion that the villages on the Blackdowns have their own Board and not be attached to a town with which they have no contact with. The County Council is now suggesting this idea is put forward as a pilot scheme. There are already several Blackdown groups – The A.O.N.B. the Blackdown Support Group, View from the Blackdowns newspaper and the Blackdown Hills Business Association. Mrs.Stallard said the parishes have got to get themselves sorted out. Mr.Povah asked what the Pilot Scheme meant; Mrs.Stallard said that until someone says what they want us to pilot we do not know.
- East Devon is still going for a Judicial Review.

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### Millhayes Project

Nothing further to report on this at present.

### Longmead

- The hard standings at the rear of the properties in Station Road have still not been finished but the fencing and gates have been completed. Kings Courts, who are making the hard standings, are behind due to the weather, the work should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- A Club License is needed for the pavilion in order for the football and tennis clubs to have a drink at the end of matches. A Sports Club needs to be formed on site, the Bowling Club are willing to help with this; Mrs.Stallard said that a Club License is easier to get than the Parish Hall License.

### Conference Reports

1) Mrs.Stallard had attended the “Celebrating the Blackdowns” event at Churchinford Pavilion; it had been a lovely day and extremely interesting.

2) The Blackdown Hills and East Devon have been granted 2.4million for economic and environmental improvements, from Europe. The project is to be called LARC (Local Action for Rural Communities) and has to tie up with the nearest market town.

3) Quality Council Training – this was a half day event attended by Mr.Steed. Several things need to be sorted out before we can go forward with this.

4) Life Long Learning at Newton Abbot Racecourse was attended by Mrs.Stallard and Mr.Steed. The thing that came up most was that we have to “up skill”. If a group of parishes worked together we could have some training days; we have got to get better at a lot of things that we do.

5) The Devon Association of Parish Councils has just launched “A Health Check” leaflet, a “Taking Stock” session with peer supporters. Mr.Rosamond said that he was involved around the country with District Council mentoring, and that invariably those involved gained some useful insight into their workings

### Finance

#### Income

£103.20 – Paul Fudge (funeral director) cemetery fees.

£26,871.47 – refunded V.A.T.

#### Payments

It was proposed by Mr.Edwards, seconded by Mr.Brooke, and all were agreed that the following payments be made:-

£25.00 – Came & Co. – Insurance premium for Pencross Millennium Seat.

£871.86 – A. Kingston, Clerks salary & expenses.

£157.25 – I.Pike, cemetery grass cutting.

£2,820.00 – T.Whitcombe – providing fencing & gates on Longmead.

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### Highways

- 1) Mr.McCulloch's comments on the overgrown hedges were noted.
- 2) A letter had been received from DCC regarding the new twinning signs; Mrs.Stallard to contact them for clarification on some of the wording.

### Cemetery

- 1) Work should begin on painting the railings this week.
- 2) Mrs.Clist said four new bushes were needed along the front of the cemetery to fill in the gaps; she suggested holly bushes and was willing to get them and put them in; all agreed.

### Footpaths

Mr.Povah said there was nothing to report.

### Correspondence

- 1) MDDC – Invitation to sponsor our payphone at a cost of £500 per year. As there were only six calls recorded last year it was decided not to go ahead with this.
- 2) Police Action Group – Mrs.Stallard had attended.
- 3) Devon & Cornwall Police Authority meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October at Cullompton Community College at 7.00pm

Mr.Povah said he objected to the “Road Closed” sign at Millhayes in recent floods; people should be able to make their own decision. Mrs.Stallard suggested a water depth marker, this was thought to be a good idea, Mr.Brooke said we need one both sides of the road as the depth varies.

- 4) Blackdown Health Consortium, 6<sup>th</sup> November – accessibility of Care in the Blackdowns.
- 5) SWW – Improvements to sewerage treatment works. Letter to be sent querying the extra 27 homes now being built at Churchills Farm. Also, Mr. Brooke said it is very wet in the field by the north west corner of the sewerage works – is there a problem with water seepage from the sewerage works?
- 6) Letter received from the Land Registry regarding voluntary registration; Mr.Steed to look into it.
- 7) Glasdon street furniture catalogue.
- 8) Devon Talk – leaflet.
- 9) The Standards Board for England – Town & Parish Standard – Issue 3.

### P.R.

- Christmas Decorations
- Progress with sewerage problem
- Police – report incidents
- Dog mess problem

### Chairman's Business

- 1) Mrs. Peters, Head Teacher of Hemyock Primary School, had contacted Mrs.Stallard about the zebra crossings suggestions we had sent to them, the school had thought it was very useful idea and could be included in their Travel Plan.

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- 2) Mrs. Peters also said that the school has a large drum which used to belong to Hemyock Brass Band; they no longer have any room for it and asked if it could be put in the parish store at Millhayes. Mr. Calcraft said he had been in the store recently and it was dry; if the drum was kept up off the floor it should be O.K.
- 3) Mr. Povah said that cricket netting along South View was collapsing; Mrs. Stallard said she would contact the Cricket Club.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

*Signed*.....

*Date*.....

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