

2nd July 2008

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.R.Hart, Mr.R.Brooke, Mrs.L.Clist and Mrs.S.Cartledge. Also present was Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor, Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor and 2 members of the public.

Apologies – Mr.J.Edwards, Mr.L.Povah and Pastor S.Reed.

Following one alteration, income received from Pring & Son was £111.60 *not* £11.60, it was proposed, seconded and all agreed that **The Minutes** of the June meeting be signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

- 1) Matters Arising No.2 – There were several mistakes in the footpath leaflets that had been handed out at the Annual Parish Meeting – they have now been reprinted.
- 2) The twinning signs are to be put on the 4 main approach roads to the village; Culmstock Road, Culmbridge Road, Pencross Hill and Castle Hill. The sign will say “Twinning with Lés Villages des Grees”.
- 3) Following the recent risk assessments the clerk had found “No Diving” signs in a catalogue but no “No Cycling” signs – County to be contacted about these.
- 4) Pastor Reed had obtained some information on Aqua Sacs (for use instead of sandbags) they are almost flat until they come into contact with water when they swell up.
- 5) The primary school had been contacted regarding the suggestion of zebra crossings at 2 points in the village. However, no answer has been received from them yet.
- 6) The DAPC Conference “Throwing Light on the Role of Town & Parish Councillors” (which Mr.P.Steed and Pastor S.Reed were going to attend) has been postponed until September.
- 7) Mrs.Cartledge reported that a black litter bin has been thrown into the river by Millhayes Bridge.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report:-

- 1) Mr.Rosamond had attended the LGA conference which was addressed by Hazel Blears who spoke about the White Paper “Invigorate Local Areas”
 - New “Well Being Power” to councils
 - 3 new Rights to “Right Local Wrongs”

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- 2) MDDC's budget is £832k in surplus; this has been achieved by savings on staffing costs etc. However, Mr.Rosamond said a new financial management system is needed.
- 3) The Devon Youth Games were held in Plymouth last Saturday; there were 100 young people and 25 adults from Mid Devon.
- 4) The Chairman's Civic Service will be held on Sunday 20th July at St.George's Church in Tiverton.
- 5) The Scrutiny Committee has been looking at Anti Social behaviour – looking for feedback from Parish Councils.
- 6) Mr.Rosamond said we should know the outcome of the Unitary Consultation on 7th July.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:-

- 1) Mr.Radford reported on 4 issues raised at last months meeting:
 - The footpath across the floodplain; DCC had said they were in negotiations with the land owner. Mrs.Stallard said this had all been done 3 years ago and has been sent down to them twice.
 - The pavement down Station Road in front of the Spar shop and properties either side of the shop; Mr.Radford said that County Solicitors are currently dealing with the residents. Mrs.Stallard said all the details had been supplied to them last summer.
 - The white line around the corner by the Baptist Church will be done soon.
 - Traffic Island in Longmead – the best thing that could be done was to remove it altogether.
 - Mrs.Stallard said the length of time some of these problems had been going on was ridiculous; Mr.Steed suggested we go to the Ombudsman. It was decided we invite Meg Booth, from the County Council, out to the parish to look at these things on site – if we still do not get anywhere then we will go to the Ombudsman.
- 2) Mr.Radford said that no Post Offices were going to close in this area.
- 3) There is to be a strike by Unison members on 16th & 17th July.
- 4) Mr.Radford said that clarification was needed for some things on our application form for funding for the Blackdown Healthy Living Centre.

Distribution of Minutes & Agendas

It was proposed, seconded and all agreed that in future minutes and agendas will be emailed to those councillors on line. Paper copies will still be provided for those councillors requesting it.

Planning

Approvals

08/00653/FULL – Hemyock Parish Council.

Classroom extension at Hemyock Primary School.

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Consideration is to be given to providing amenity buildings on Gypsy and Traveller sites; this will be discussed at a planning meeting on 9th July.

Telephone Box

The time for responding to this consultation has been extended until 4th July. We have now received the information we asked for giving level of usage of the BT phone box in Culmbridge Road. It appears it has only been used 6 times in the last year; given this information we will withdraw our objection to it being removed.

A parishioner present at the meeting said that he had heard that BT had deliberately left phone boxes out of order for long lengths of time in order to keep usage figures low.

A letter had been received from Maitland Walker, a company that wants the chance to use redundant BT phone boxes for information points, wireless internet access etc. Mrs.Stallard to contact them for more information.

Millhayes Hall

Everything is at a stand still as the Environment Agency will not make a decision on the hall; although it is in the floodplain it has never flooded and there would be plenty of time to get everyone out as the floodplain is a large flat area. If the hall is not passed for use by HELIC it will revert to the first plan (HELIC in the garages and the youth facilities in the hall) which permission has all been granted for.

Finance

Income

£73.00 – Fine Memorials – cemetery fees

£5,000.00 – Tennis Club – repaid to Parish Council towards provision of tennis courts on Longmead.

It was proposed by Mrs.Cartledge, seconded by Mr.Brooke that the following Payments be made:

£871.78 – clerks salary and expenses

£129.30 – Mr.I.Pike – cemetery grass cutting

£8.57 – DEF Energy – electric for Millhayes Hall.

Highways

Mrs.Stallard said she had been approached by Mr.P.Redwood regarding the traffic jams that frequently happen on Pencross Hill. He suggested that if a lay by was constructed at the narrowest point it would help solve the problem. He thought it could be achieved at a relatively reasonable cost if local lorry owners and the Parish Council all put in a contribution and a local digger driver did the work (to County specification); he also thought the landowner would be in agreement. Councillors all thought this an excellent idea but the snag would be getting Highways to agree. The first step would be to get a notice of intent from the landowner; Mrs.Stallard said she would also speak to Willie

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Pike the local roads man, if we can get him on board we can then go to Highways with the idea.

Cemetery

Mrs.Clist said she would try to make a list of the shrubs needed to fill the gaps along the front of the cemetery railings before the next meeting.

Footpaths

A letter had been received from Stones Solicitors asking if the Parish Council would like advice on the registration of village greens – to be passed to Mr.Povah.

Correspondence

- 1) Devon Talk – magazine
- 2) Mid Devon Talk – leaflet
- 3) DCC – Boundary Commission
- 4) Taunton Deane Borough Council – Supplementary Planning Document
- 5) Neroche Scheme – Story telling & Music Workshops
- 6) Community Council of Devon – Research of Community Buildings
- 7) Review of Blackdown Hills
- 8) East Devon District Council – looking for land for social housing
- 9) Open Spaces – booklet
- 10) Minutes of Tenants meeting
- 11) DCC – Unitary Council for Devon
- 12) NCLC – Conference at Reading
- 13) Senior Council for Devon – information to be put on the notice board
- 14) Quality Council Training at cardinal Newman Centre, Exeter- £10 per council – Mr.P.Steed said he would like to go and possible Pastor S.Reed.
- 15) Updated “A Guide to Becoming a Quality Council” now available – clerk to obtain 3 copies.
- 16) Devon Countryside Access Forum – Annual Report.

Chairman’s Business

Mrs.Stallard said that the Parish Lengthsman will be visiting the village next week; what jobs can we ask him to do? Clerk to send the following list to County:-

- Cut grass under derelict raised wooden walkway on floodplain
- Clear debris from fence opposite the wooden walkway, left by recent flash floods
- Trim back hedge blocking the footpath into the bungalows in Eastlands
- Cut back and clear each side of entrance into the old station yard, also dispose of ragwort
- Clear blocked drain (between Parish Pump and hairdressers, near the car park)
- Strim BMX track
- Clear weeds growing along the bottom of walls around the village.

Mrs.Stallard suggested that if the Lengthsman does not have time to finish all these jobs we ask someone else to carry out the work to tidy up the village.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed.....

Date.....

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