

Hemyock Parish Council **2nd December 2009**

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, Mr.L.Povah, Mrs.S.Cartledge and Mr.I.McCulloch. Also present was Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor and 6 members of the public, Mr.Radford – County Councillor arrived during the meeting.

Apologies were received from Pastor S.Reed, Mr.P.Steed, Mr.R.Hart and Mrs.L.Clist.

Police

Mrs.Stallard welcomed P.C.Jeff Howley to the meeting, Hemyock's new Community Police Officer.

P.C.Howley explained his role as Community Police Officer and said he comes out to Hemyock regularly.

He reported 7 crimes last month; 4 were connected with one person for which this person is going to court for all 4. There was also 1 act of criminal damage, 1 fraud and 1 other. There has been a spell of anti-social behaviour in Hemyock; several were caught in connection with this last night and taken home to their parents.

P.C.Howley said he was planning to come and set up some Police meetings in Hemyock to talk to any interested parishioners.

There had been talk recently of horses who had had their manes plaited to be identified ready for theft. However, no horses have actually been stolen.

Mr.Rosamond asked if there was any concern about potential cuts to the Police service; P.C.Howley said he didn't know where cuts were going to be made but he did know that they were not recruiting at the moment.

Mrs.Stallard asked if Hemyock had received any of the PACT boxes we had been promised. P.C. Howley said that P.C.Waller had assured him we had had them though apparently not in a very obvious position.

Mrs.Stallard thanked P.C.Howley for attending the meeting; he left some Community Messaging registration leaflets, for anyone interested in being in this network, before he left.

Minutes – It was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November be signed as a correct record – all agreed. It was proposed by Mr.Edwards, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 23rd November be signed as a correct record – all agreed.

Matters Arising

1) Matters Arising no.8 – 20mph speed limit for Millhayes; a letter has been received saying basically that as there has been no casualties reported in this area a 20mph speed limit will not be provided at this time. Mr.McCulloch suggested we write to our M.P. as
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- this was a totally unsatisfactory reply to something that had been previously agreed.
- 2) Blackdown Parishes Network – this is still being pursued but Mr.Langford has resigned from Clayhidon Parish Council so he does not feel he has the authority to continue with the project.
 - 3) An article regarding the problem with parked cars had been put in the “Pump”.
 - 4) Chairman’s Business no.4 – councillors had looked at the matter of signage for the narrow piece of road part way up Pencross Hill between the cottages; it was decided to ask Highways to look at this problem.
 - 5) Mrs.Stallard thanked everyone who had attended the Remembrance Sunday Service.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report:

- 1) MDDC had been in trouble with the Ombudsman concerning the matter of Concessionary Fares; they had withdrawn the ½ fare without proper consultation.
- 2) Mr.Rosamond said he did not think the District Council was acting sensibly over the matter of Voluntary Groups. He feels groups such as Villages in Action give excellent value for money; as a result some cuts are now not being made but some money has been removed from small projects.
- 3) Jan Shadbolt, solicitor for MDDC is moving on to become County Solicitor for Devon County Council.
- 4) The Local Government Review has resurrected itself; Devon has to make up their mind what they want to do, the Government then has to make a decision.
- 5) The Parish Questionnaires for the Scrutiny Committee are being considered next week – more on this after Christmas.
- 6) There is an article on recycling in the Parish Matters leaflet.
- 7) Planning – Burleyhayes enforcement notice, there is a proposal that it be restored to its previous condition. The gypsy site at Culmstock has been agreed.
- 8) Mr.McCulloch asked if there were any potential budget cuts; Mr.Rosamond replied that that at present the District Council is ½ million under-spent, they are anxious about cuts to be made and must remain under control.

Floodplain Footbridge

- 1) Mrs.Stallard said the bridges department at DCC had telephoned yesterday to see what was happening.
- 2) Mr.Povah said he had put together a quick budget on what the project will cost, but it was difficult to estimate the labour and cost of the swing-bridge, a detailed design is needed before it can be fabricated.
Present budget estimate is attached to the minutes; estimate at present is £54,876.
The Environment Agency is still complaining about the stock fencing, this can be overcome.
Mr.Povah had spoken to Mr.Wigley about maintenance of the footbridge; Mr.Wigley said that DCC would accept maintenance of it – this must be confirmed in writing.
Mr.Povah said the Planning Department had said the application would be discussed on 9th December.

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Western Power has to move a pole; this is part of the redesign of the whole area but no date yet when this will be done.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) Mr.Radford had accepted the invitation to be the judge of this years Christmas Decorations competition.
- 2) DCC has been looking at climate change; schools need to reduce their carbon footprint, keep doors closed, install insulation etc.
- 3) Lights on A & B roads have not been turned off for fear of crime.
- 4) Residential Care Homes; County trying to lower the running costs; private homes are cheaper to run.
- 5) Next year's budget is being discussed.
- 6) Highways to give us a list every month of jobs that have been reported to them. We are a pilot village in this scheme. We will know who has reported what and what work is actually being done. Mrs.Stallard said this will be monitored closely.
- 7) Darren Queenan is finding out what has happened about the traffic island in Longmead.
- 8) Mr.McCulloch questioned the cost of care homes – was it like for like? Mr.Radford said that Shaws, the company that was going to take over the running of the County Council care homes, are now out of the picture altogether; an announcement is to be made in the new year.

Allotments

Mrs.Stallard reported that 20 people had attended the meeting last week; an Allotment Association had been formed with a committee of 6 people to take things forward.

The only site we have at present is the land north of the cemetery.

A letter has been received from Hemyock Baptist Church who do not have any objections to this land being used for allotments, until it is required for burials, as long as certain rules are met.

Mrs.Stallard had received one strong objection saying that the people who wanted allotments were mainly newcomers to the village with no family interred in the cemetery. The clerk said she had received no letters of objection.

Mrs.Stallard said there was a very good book which we needed to purchase, at a discounted cost of £15 which gives us all the answers on how to set up an allotment scheme.

Mr.Calcraft suggested we use some of the wood from the old raised footbridge for fencing around the allotment.

Mrs.Stallard said that the people wanting the allotments were keen to start planting next spring.

Mr.McCulloch said we should wait until the next "Pump" has come out, with the article in it asking for observations, before we make a proposal to go forward with this project on this site or we will be criticized for not giving enough time for consultation – all agreed.

It was decided to hold a special meeting in January to discuss this.

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It was recognized that we are under a legal obligation to provide allotments; it was agreed that Mrs.Stallard purchase the allotments book for the full information required.

Planning

Approvals

09/01235/FULL – Land east of Bailey Lodge, Culmstock Road.

09/01432/FULL – 11, Millhayes, Hemyock.

09/01370/FULL – 47, Prowses, Hemyock.

09/01388/FULL – Oakside, Culmstock Road.

Applications

All plans were carefully inspected before decisions were reached.

09/01684/FULL – erection of a boiler house at Hillcott, Hemyock; it was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mr.Brooke that approval be recommended – all agreed.

09/01704/FULL – erection of a single storey side and rear extension at Fircroft, High Street, Hemyock; it was proposed by Mr.Brooke, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that approval be recommended - all agreed.

Finance

Income

£66.78 – Mr.Gaywood, cemetery fees.

£270.00 – MDDC, Cemetery grant.

Payments

It was proposed by Mr.Edwards, seconded by Mr.Povah that the following payments be made – all agreed.

£828.00 – Mr.R.Porch for decorating and repairing 6 of the parish seats.

£22.00 – Society of Local Council Clerks – up-to-date Practitioners Guide for audit.

£31.90 – Shaw & Sons – 2 up-to-date Parish Councillors guides for chairman and clerk.

£115.37 – Brady Corp. 3 special signs purchased from the Safety Shop.

£20.00 – 1st Prize for the Christmas Decorations competition.

£10.00 – 2nd Prize for the Christmas Decorations competition.

£15.00 – Business Prize for the Christmas Decorations competition.

£550.00 – Mr.R.Calcraft – 3 new notice boards.

Precept

The Finance Committee had met in November to discuss next year's budget and Mrs.Cartledge had put together a Forecast of Income & Expenditure for 2010/2011; attached to minutes.

Last year we raised a Precept of £52,000. It was suggested at the Finance meeting that this year we raise a Precept of £55,000.

There has been an increase in the number of Band D properties over the last year which means that the increase will be less than 3p a week.

Mrs.Stallard said that when the Parish Questionnaire was carried out there was a 92% response from people who wanted a new raised footway over the flood-plain provided

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and money was needed to do this work.

After further discussion it was proposed by Mr.Edwards, seconded by Mr.Povah that a Precept of £55,000 be raised – all agreed.

Clerks Salary

This too had been discussed at the recent Finance meeting; the clerk left the room while a discussion took place and Mrs.Stallard made the following notes.

The clerk had not received a pay increase since the financial year 2005/06 when it had been set at £3,171.89.

It was proposed by Mr.Povah, seconded by Mr.Edwards that the clerks salary be increased to £4,000 per annum, backdated to April 1st 2009; with a further increase next April to £4,500 per annum.

The clerk returned to the room and Mr.McCulloch proposed a vote of thanks from the Parish Council.

Millhayes Projects

Hall

Mr.Brooke reported that it was hoped the Hall project would be opened in March 2010. At present looking at signage – DCC want to be involved in this.

Mr.Brooke said the leases are not coming through, MDDC are not doing what they should be; now HELIC's solicitor is doing the work. DCC have done all their work and the legal side is complete.

Garages

The ceiling has now been taken down and it is much lighter, due to the part glass roof. Mr.Brooke said not much more would be done at present as scaffolding was needed and we would have to pay for it over the Christmas period when no work would be carried out.

Mr.Brooke had managed to purchase a 3 year old portacabin to put inside the building as a temporary measure at a cost of £4,000; this came complete with electrics and heating. However it had been decided to go ahead and put in permanent toilets rather than purchase portaloos as had previously been discussed.

Mr.Brooke said that work was progressing well.

Mrs.Stallard said that the young people had held a car wash again at the last market.

Highways

1) Mr.Povah reported that the hole in the bank in the lane to Culm Pyne at the top of Pencross Hill had now been filled in.

2) There was concern about the trench and barricading by the river at Millhayes Bridge; it has now been there for at least 3 months and nothing further seems to be happening –

Mr.Radford said he would make some enquiries.

3) There was concern about the sewer manhole in the river; it used to be on the bank but due to erosion it is now exposed in the river – clerk to report.

Cemetery

Nothing to report.

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Footpaths

Mr.Povah said he had deferred sending out the survey forms, to the people who walk the footpaths, as we have now been given more time to carry out these surveys. He also said he needs a few more people who would be interested in joining the group who walk and survey the footpaths. Mr.Povah said we will still get our P3 Scheme (Parish Paths Partnership) grant money from DCC in April.

Correspondence

- 1) Meeting in The New Hall Tiverton on 9th December at 6.30pm to meet the new leader of DCC, John Hart.
- 2) MDDC – proposal to pay the precept in two installments – councillors did not agree to this idea as most of our projected spend was likely to be in the early part of the new financial year, clerk to write.
- 3) MDDC – Consultation about BT phone boxes – letter to be sent saying we no longer have a telephone box, so no further consultation needed.
- 4) Devon Talk – leaflet.
- 5) Blackdown Hills Management Plan for 2009 – 2014.

P.R.

- Precept and what we are doing with it.
- Footpaths – surveys.

Chairman’s Business

Informal supper meeting to be held again in January (no official Parish Council meeting is held in January) the date was set for 13th January.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

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