

Hemyock Parish Council
3rd February 2010

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.J.Edwards, Mr.L.Povah, Pastor S.Reed, Mr.P.Steed, Mr.R.Brooke, Mrs.L.Clist and Mrs.S.Cartledge. Also present was Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor, Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor and 33 parishioners.

Apologies – were received from Mr.R.Hart.

It was proposed by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. McCulloch, that **The Minutes of the December Meeting** be signed as a correct record, all agreed.

Matters Arising

1) Matters Arising No.1 – Mrs. Angela Browning MP had replied to our letter asking if she could help us with regard to the extension of the 20mph limit along Lower Millhayes. Mrs. Browning agreed to pursue this if we send her copies of correspondence relating to the matter; councillors agreed we should do this. Mrs. Browning pointed out that she will not be standing at the next election and it was unlikely that this would be settled by then; but would pass it on to her successor to take forward.

2) Mrs.Stallard thanked Mr.Radford for judging our Christmas Decorations competition. She said he had been very impressed with the effort put into it and the village as a whole looked very festive.

3) Matters Arising No.2 – Blackdown Parishes Network, should have a decision from the Boundary Commission in March.

4) The County Council has sent us a list from Highways with all the things reported to them recently and what is scheduled to be done; there seems to be little money and lots of potholes!

5) The bollard in the middle of the road in Longmead that was going to be removed January 2009, is now going to be removed in the next financial year.

6) The trench and barricade by Millhayes Bridge was a trial excavation to see what needed to be done to improve drainage in the area; the work is still not completed as other problems have arisen. Mr. Calcraft reported that another gulley had been dug this week.

7) Mrs.Stallard reported that she had gone to the New Hall in Tiverton in December for a reception to meet the new leader of the County Council, Mr. John Hart.

8) MDDC had sent us a letter to say that the precept could be paid in two parts; we had replied to say that due to the work we have scheduled at Millhayes we need our precept in one lump sum as usual; Mr.Rosamond said it would be paid in the normal way.

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Allotments

The parishioners who had attended the meeting to discuss the allotments had been given the opportunity to speak at Public Question Time. The parishioners opposing the allotments were not against the allotments per se; it was the siting of them on the Parish Council owned land to the north of the cemetery that they were opposed to.

A petition against the use of the land, to the north of cemetery, for allotments signed by over 200 people was presented to the meeting, also several individual letters of objection had been received.

Mrs.Stallard explained that we do have a duty to provide allotments due to the high demand. The piece of land at the bottom of the cemetery, bought for when the cemetery needs extending, is the only piece of land that the Parish Council owns. No one has come forward with an offer for the Parish Council to either buy or lease a piece of land.

Mr.Brooke asked if the area in Longmead below the sewage plant would be suitable.

Mrs.Stallard said that this was scheduled to be an open space and would be a picnic area as per the approved plans. Several people present questioned the likelihood of anyone wanting to picnic next to the sewage plant.

Mr.McCulloch said we had listened to the arguments from both sides and we need to make a decision to move forward. Mr.McCulloch proposed that we go forward with the allotments on the land to the north of the cemetery and use the path through the cemetery and also to look at the ownership of the boundary hedge on the west side. There was no seconder; Mr.McCulloch withdrew his proposal.

Mrs.Clist proposed that the two sides meet for further discussion but have one last attempt to find a piece of land to lease for 10 years or whatever, Mr.Povah seconded this proposal, all were in favour – proposal carried.

There were some other suggestions from the floor for a location for the allotments, which included the Turbary where the gun club meets; this is common land so not available.

The 2nd Poor charity field was suggested but this is on a long term lease which the person leasing it is unwilling to give up; also the access is via a narrow lane so parking would be extremely difficult.

Compulsory purchase was mentioned; but Mr.Steed pointed out that we don't have that kind of money at the moment.

Mr.Edwards said that the access seems to be the problem; if the bank to the west was removed would there be room to make a path there; Mr.I.Pike who cuts the grass in the cemetery said that his 19" cut mower can only just get through and a path would have to be wide enough for wheelbarrows etc.

Mr.Bowden asked what was to happen regarding sheds, use of manure and mechanical equipment.

Mrs. Shepherd said that the road is clogged with cars all week with mums on the school run if the allotments went ahead it would be clogged up at weekends too; the majority of people would have to use cars to carry fertilizer etc.

Mrs.Stallard said she had booked the Forbes Lounge for the 11th February; a few people from both sides could get together, she said it needs to be a positive meeting; she asked Mrs. Hearne if she could find about 20 people to come along to put their side, Mrs. Hearne said she thought she could.

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Speed Guns for Hemyock

When the idea of speed guns was brought up a few years ago Mrs.Stallard said that Devon had refused to have anything to do with it. Somerset has trained volunteers and it has been proved that it brings down speeds.

Following the report in the local paper recently that Devon was now going in for this scheme Mrs.Stallard said she had been trying to contact Cullompton Police Station for more than a week but with no success. Mrs. Stallard said we need a team of people to train up for this project. Mr. Hedley Thorne from Symonsburrow said he had been down to the police station to see them about it; Mrs.Stallard to pursue the matter.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report:

- 1) $\frac{2}{3}$ of the parishes had responded to the Scrutiny Report.
- 2) Geraldine Talbot is now the Parish Liaison Clerk.
- 3) The Parish Clerks meetings are coming back.
- 4) Help for parishes to achieve Quality Status.
- 5) Help with a parish website was available; however Mr.Rosamond said he didn't think Hemyock needed any help on this matter.
- 6) There are on-going planning workshops.
- 7) There is to be an Open Day at the District Council offices.
- 8) Local Government Review, outcome should be known soon.
- 9) The District Council has managed to secure staff savings and have got an underspend on their budget.
- 10) The proposal at the moment is for a 2% increase for the Community Charge.
- 11) The District Council has received some more money back from the Icelandic Bank.
- 12) Mr.Rosamond said all departments were going to be cut by 5%, to save money. They would be looking at the provision of public toilets again in the next planning year.
- 13) There is to be a "State of the District" debate on 10th March.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) The County Council has to nominate a person for Hemyock Primary School Board of Governors; if anyone would like to do it to get in touch with Mr.Radford.
- 2) There was a meeting at Hemyock School on Monday regarding the possible federation with Sampford Peverell Primary School and Wilcombe Primary School in Tiverton; he said the parents had seemed very positive at the meeting. The deadline for submitting a reply to the consultation is 15th March 2010.
- 3) Hemyock is a pilot village for receiving a report from Highways of the defects reported to them and the possible work to be carried out.

Mr.Radford suggested we invite a senior officer, possibly Tony Matthews, up to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the list of on-going jobs that never seem to get done.

Mrs.Stallard said a site meeting would be better so he can see the problems we have.

Mr.McCulloch said we need a technical officer as well; however all work depends on the budget available. Mr. McCulloch asked that we commend Highways on the filling of grit bins in the parish during the recent icy weather.

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4) Mr.Radford said he still has money in his budget of £10,000 which he is allowed to make small grants for community projects to the parishes in his ward.

5) Mr.Radford said that the County Council has 19,000 tons of salt so far this year and they are £400,000 over budget on that.

There are 26 gangs at present working on potholes.

6) Mr.Radford said that the budget had not been decided yet; the increase will be less than last year, possibly a 2½% increase.

7) Decision on Local Government Review due any day now.

8) The provision of public toilets to be discussed 2011/12; Hemyock public toilets are used a lot; suggested we make a fuss if the District Council decides to close them.

Proposed Primary School Federation

If Hemyock Primary School federates with Sampford Peverell and Wilcombe Primary School, Gary Chown would be the Executive Head of all 3 schools. Each school would have either an Acting Head, Deputy Head or Head of Teaching & Learning. All major decisions are made by the Executive Head. Some staff and facilities could be shared between the three schools.

Mrs.Stallard thought it strange that Hemyock could be a part of it as we are so far away from the other two schools; Pastor Reed said other schools had been asked but had declined.

Mr.Brooke said he felt we did not know enough about it to respond.

Mr.McCulloch suggested we invite a representative from the Primary School to our next meeting and if they want us to support them we will.

Pastor Reed suggested we invite Mr. Hugh Whittaker, the chairman of the Governors; all those present thought this to be a good idea.

Planning

Clayhidon Parish Council has supported the application for a wind turbine at Great Garlandhayes.

The following 3 applications have been withdrawn:

09/01684/FULL – Erection of a boiler house at Hillcott, Hemyock.

09/01704/FULL – Erection of a single storey side and rear extension at Fircroft, High Street.

09/01606/FULL – Application to replace extant planning permission 05/00121/FULL (to extend time limit). Erection of a two storey extension to side elevation at Parkview, Withy Lane, Hemyock.

Approvals

09/01576/FULL – Erection of a dwelling at 3, Broadway (land adjacent to Hemyock Motors)

09/00994/FULL/NMA/grant - Non material amendment granted 21/1/10 at Luggs, Culm Davy.

09/01538/FULL – Erection of a stable block at Barn Owl Cottage, Castle Hill.

09/01594/FULL – Erection of apex building to cover cattle yard at Culmbridge Farm, 3/2/10

Hemyock.

09/01473/FULL – Erection of a raised timber walkway – land at NGR 313714 113923, Station Road, Hemyock.

09/01555/FULL – Application to replace extant planning permission 06/02156/FULL (to extend time limit) erection of timber workshop/store at Springside, Castle Hill.

Applications

All plans were carefully inspected before decisions were reached:

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 Burleyhays Cottage.

It was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mr.Brooke that approval be recommended – all agreed.

10/00037/LBC – Listed Building Consent for erection of extension to farmhouse with associated groundworks and extension to holiday let barn with internal alterations (Revised Scheme) at Luggs, Culm Davy, Hemyock.

It was proposed by Mr.Povah, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that approval be recommended, all agreed.

09/01346/FULL – Installation of replacement windows at 1 – 12 Old School Court, Hemyock.

It was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that approval be recommended, all agreed.

Flood-Plain Footbridge

Mr.Povah said that as previously reported we have now received planning permission for the new timber footbridge. However, the Environment Agency have yet to give us written flood consent, Mr.Povah said he had received it verbally. A drawing has to be re-submitted of chain fencing hanging from the bridge. This keeps stock in but allows flood water to flow through easily; it does mean however that it will add more to the cost of the project.

Mr.Povah said we will now need to spend some money on drawings to go out to tender, it could be about £2,000; we have had a lot of work done for free up to now.

Mr.McCulloch proposed we move forward with this project – all agreed.

Millhays

Mr.Brooke reported that work is progressing; the portacabin has been installed in the garages and the roofing materials have arrived.

The Hall now has heating and is due to open at the end of March.

There has been a hold up with the lease as photographs had to be found of what the building looked like before work began. This is to make sure that when the building goes back to the owner, when the lease expires, it is not in a worse state than when they took it on.

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Finance

Income

£83.16 – Pring & Son - cemetery fees
£76.86 – Co-operative Funeral Services – cemetery fees
£66.78 – Pring & Son – cemetery fees
£81.90 – A.G.Real & Son – cemetery fees
£100.80 – Redwood & Son – cemetery fees.

Payments

It was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Pastor Reed that the following payments are made and approve the retrospective payments:

£175.00 – S. Aldworth – internal audit
£8.02 – SWW – cemetery water rates
£1,052.00 – clerks salary & expenses
£81.00 – I.Pike – cemetery caretaking
Retrospective
£15.00 – Local Gov. Assoc – Allotment Book
£450.75 – Stephens & Scown - solicitor's fees
£11.24 – EDF Energy – Millhayes Hall
£517.50 – Stephens & Scown – solicitor's fees

It was agreed for the clerk to purchase the book “Standing Orders” at a cost of £25 from DAPC – when all the necessary documentation has been obtained a meeting will be arranged to prepare Standing Orders to submit to full council for adoption.

The Cricket Club had written to request a grant of £250.00 towards a new mower which would be costing them £5,000. All councillors agreed to this request, cheque to be added to those approved above.

A letter had been received from Rosie Ridley asking for funding towards a Girl guiding trip to Austria. Ursprung is an Austrian Scout Jamboree to celebrate the 100 anniversary of the Scout Movement in Austria.

Councillors decided not to contribute as at the moment our resources are going towards the refurbishment of the former St.Ivel garages which will be of benefit to all the youth of the parish. Councillors suggested she try the Devon Education Trust and the Heathcote Amery Trust who may be able to help with funding.

Highways

Salt bin needed at the Black Pitt junction in Culmstock Road, Mr.J.Pring had to throw away a whole tank of milk during the recent icy weather as the milk tanker was not able to get to his farm.

Salt bin needed at the bottom of Ridgewood Hill, by Culmbridge House, a mini bus carrying school children slid on the ice on this corner last year.

Salt bin needed in Eastmead by the electricity box.

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Cemetery

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

Mr.Povah reported that the footpath surveys will have to be carried out soon and no extra volunteers have come forward to help with this job.

Correspondence

- 1) MDDC – Geraldine Talbot is the new Town & Parish Council Liaison Officer.
- 2) Buckingham Palace garden Parties – asking for nominations Of chairman; Mrs.Stallard said she had already attended one so was not able to be nominated again.
- 3) Best Kept Village Competition – it was decided that it was not worth entering this competition until the old wooden footbridge had been dismantled.
- 4) MDDC – Review of Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policy.
- 5) MDDC – Devon Home Choice – availability of council homes to be put on website, clerk to continue to print off the list and post on the parish notice-board.
- 6) Mobile Library Service. A letter and survey has been sent out. There has been a 40% decline in the use of the mobile library service. They now need to consider how to increase use of the service to deliver the best value for money. It was decided to give this some consideration so it will be discussed again next month.
- 7) MDDC – Infrastructure Development Plan – Mrs.Stallard had looked at this document and said it did not affect Hemyock.
- 8) Junk Mail – passed to Mrs.Cartledge.
- 9) Devon Talk
- 10) Senior Council for Devon – newsletter
- 11) Devon Playing Fields – newsletter
- 12) LCR – voice of local councils magazine

PR

- Allotments – any other land available?
- Speed Guns – volunteers needed to do the training.
- New notice boards around the parish – please use them.

Chairman’s Business

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed.....

Date.....
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