

## ***Hemyock Parish Council*** ***3<sup>rd</sup> March 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.P.Steed, Mr.R.Brooke, Mr.J.Edwards, Mr.L.Povah, Mrs.L.Clist and Mrs.S.Cartledge. Also present was Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor, Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor, Mr.H.Whittaker – Chairman of Governors of Hemyock Primary School and 18 members of the public.

**Apologies** were received from Mr.R.Hart and Pastor S.Reed.

### **Federation of Hemyock Primary School**

Mr.Whittaker had been invited to the meeting to tell councillors about the possible federation of Hemyock Primary School with Wilcombe Primary School, in Tiverton, and Sampford Peverell Primary School. Mr.Whittaker told councillors about the possible Federation and answered questions which included the following points:

- It would bring all three primary schools together under one governing body.
- There would be one executive Headteacher and each school would have a Teaching & Learning Head.
- Gill Peters, Headteacher of Hemyock Primary School, was looking how to go ahead with her career and had taken the opportunity to talk to Gary Chown, Headteacher of Wilcombe Primary School in Tiverton.
- Mr.Whittaker said that it was felt that Mr.Chown has good leadership qualities and will make a fantastic Headteacher and Mrs.Peters was happy to work with him and take on the roll of Head of Teaching and Learning.
- A meeting has been held with 56 Hemyock parents, governors and other interested parties; a follow up meeting was held with Mr.Chown talking 1 to 1 with parents.
- There is to be a governors meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March at Wilcombe School to decide whether to federate or not.
- If the schools federate there will be one governing body consisting of 2 parent governors from each school, 2 community governors, 4 staff governors including the Executive Headteacher, 2 local authority governors and 2 foundation governors, a total of 16 altogether.
- It was thought the Federation would probably grow to include more schools.
- Mr.Whittaker said that the idea has the backing of County and he was sure there would be other funding as part of a Federation.
- The parents have all been consulted and are very positive about the situation.
- Mr.Steed asked what would happen to the money the school had from the Churchill's Farm development, he was concerned it would go into one large pot for all the schools; Mr.Whittaker said that that budget would stay with Hemyock

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- School.
- Mr.Povah asked what objections had been received from parents. Mr.Whittaker said no real objections had been received just questions as to how things would work.
  - Mr.Brooke asked who would hire the teachers; Mr.Whittaker said it would be the Executive Head and a recruitment panel.
  - Mr.Brooke was also concerned that all the best teachers would end up in Tiverton and we would have the rest. Mr.Whittaker said that if he had brought along Mr.Chown with him this evening he was sure all the councillors would be confident that everything was going to be fine.
  - Mrs.Stallard asked if Hemyock School would keep their own board of governors and send 2 to the main body of governors; Mr.Whittaker said no there would only be the one board of governors for all 3 schools.

After careful consideration of all the points mentioned it was decided that the Parish Council would send a letter in support of the governors' decision to federate. Mrs.Stallard thanked Mr.Whittaker for coming along to our meeting.

### Minutes

It was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that the minutes of the February meeting be signed as a correct record; all agreed.

It was proposed by Mrs.Cartledge, seconded by Mr.Brooke that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February be signed as a correct record; all agreed.

### Matters Arising

- 1) Blackdown Parishes Network, Exeter University has been asked if a post graduate student could help; there has been a volunteer who can help till the end of the summer and at the moment she is looking at the project with her tutors. The research could be passed on to someone else later in the year.
- 2) Trench by Millhayes Bridge – ask Highways when this work will be finished; flood by the bridge again yesterday caused by a blocked drain.
- 3) List received from Highways of all the defects reported; Mr.Edwards said it was good to receive the list but nothing has been done.
- 4) It had been suggested that another highways site meeting be held. Mr.Radford said he had arranged for Meg Booth to come out to Hemyock on 23<sup>rd</sup> March; Mrs.Stallard suggested 10am at Longmead Pavilion. Councillors were disappointed as Meg Booth has been out before and none of the jobs reported to her have been done, they would have preferred Tony Matthews. Mr.McCulloch said that a technical person is needed as well; we must also ensure she has a list of the jobs that need doing before she comes to the meeting.
- 5) Mobile Library – the following points were mentioned:
  - one person had said she would rather come in to the village to the library if it meant she would have a longer time to choose her books.
  - If the Library could only stop in 2 places perhaps Millhayes and the Hall car park would be good places.
  - If the Library could come along on the monthly Market Day that would be a good

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idea, but parking would be very difficult.

- It was suggested a rota basis would be a good idea to include evenings and weekends.
- Mr.Povah said it needs to be the same day and time so that people know where they are.

6) The drain between South View and Eastlands is still causing problems; it seems that as it was never adopted by the County Council no one will accept responsibility for it; Mr.Radford and Mr.Rosamond to see if they can sort it out.

### **District Council Report**

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report

- 1) At a meeting last week a 1.5% increase in Council Tax was agreed. The District Council is trying to find ways of reducing costs; savings are to be made in waste disposal.
- 2) Mr.Rosamond reminded those present of the State of the District Debate, 6.30pm for 7pm on 10<sup>th</sup> March at Petroc (formerly known as East Devon College).
- 3) Mr.McCulloch asked Mr.Rosamond if the District Council was out of intervention yet; Mr.Rosamond replied no there were 2 things holding it up but they were nearing completion.

### **County Council Report**

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) The County Council is still looking for 2 governors for Hemyock Primary School.
- 2) Mr.Radford confirmed that the 106 money, from the Churchills Farm development for education, will stay with Hemyock Primary School.
- 3) Mr.Radford was pleased to hear that we had received the highways defects report.
- 4) Pothole repairing is being prioritized; £3.6.million is being put in the budget for highways.
- 5) Increase in Council Tax of 1.98%.
- 6) The recommendation by the Boundary Committee that Exeter is made a Unitary Authority with the rest of Devon remaining 2 tier is being appealed against at the moment.
- 7) Mr.Radford said he still had some money in his Community Budget for grants towards community projects.

### **Planning**

#### **Approvals**

09/01775/FULL – Hillcott, Hemyock.

10/00037/LBC – Luggs, Culm Davy.

09/01843/FULL – Millhayes Hall, Hemyock

09/01708/FULL – Land at NGR 311998 112386, land near Scotland Farm, Hemyock.

The Planning Training arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> March has been postponed until May.

A letter had been received from Clayhidon Parish Council updating the information regarding an application for a wind turbine at Great Garlandhayes.

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A letter has been received from MDDC regarding a licensing application by Longmead Pavilion.

### **Allotments**

Mr.A.Doble had offered a piece of land below Hollingarth for allotments; Mr.Povah had e.mailed the Environment Agency about this site and a possible site in Longmead. He had received a reply saying that part of the Longmead site would be acceptable, a further letter would be sent saying which part; but the site below Hollingarth was not acceptable because of the fences that would have to be erected.

Mr.McCulloch said the Longmead Management Committee had met on Monday and had discussed the matter and they had no objections to the suggestion that part of the site below the sewage works be used for allotments. However, as this land is designated as "Public Open Space" permission would have to be sought from the Secretary of State for a change of use. The ground is also said to be heavy clay and very wet which Mr.Brooke thinks is due to seepage from the sewage works.

It was decided that we needed clarification of our need to provide allotments as there are several terms being used. Mrs.Stallard said she had purchased a book with all the necessary information in it.

Mr.Povah said that there are still strong views being expressed about the possible use of the land to the north of the cemetery.

Mr.Rosamond is going to look at the implications of compulsory purchase.

Mr.McCulloch said that we are still open to suggestions for other possible sites and would be pleased to hear from anyone.

Mr.I.Pike asked how a digger would get in to clear the cemetery spoil heap if there were allotments in the field.

Mr.J.Churchill said if the cemetery site was used it would have to be screened; it was confirmed that it would be.

A parishioner said it had been stated at a previous meeting that the Longmead site was not suitable as it was heavy clay soil; the land to the north of the cemetery is also said to be heavy clay; so why is the cemetery site still suitable?

Mrs.Stallard said that the Parish Council was taking on board all the points mentioned.

Mr.I.Pike said that it always seems to come back to the cemetery; Mrs.Stallard said that no decision has been made yet.

### **Speed Guns for Hemyock**

Mrs.Stallard said we have had 2 volunteers but we need more volunteers to come forward to be trained to use the speed guns. It was suggested that it could be mentioned in the school newsletter.

### **Floodplain Footbridge**

Mr.Povah reported that we have now received the flood consent form and full planning permission. We now have to get the plans ready to go out to tender; an architect has given a price per hour of £50 and has confirmed that it definitely would not be more than £2,500.

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We also need to appoint an officer to draw up a safety plan, the engineer knows some people who do this work; Mr.R.Brooke also knew of someone and said he would let Mr.Povah have his details.

The next thing would be to find the money to carry out the work; the County Council should still have the 106 money from Bloors towards this work, however, it was questioned whether they had ever got the money from Bloors and if this was the case would Bloors still be willing to pay up.

### **Millhayes Hall**

Mr.Brooke said they were still waiting to sign the lease.

The insurance on the building now has to be increased; Mr.Brooke suggested it should be increased to £600,000, however, Mr.Povah said that due to the size of the building it should be £800,000. Mr.Brooke said he would follow it up.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

It had been suggested that we hold the Annual Parish Meeting at Millhayes Hall this year; however after some discussion it was decided to hold it in the Parish Hall as usual.

The date suggested was 15<sup>th</sup> April; clerk to check for availability.

Invites to be sent out asking for reports; Mr.Povah said he would put up a display about the footbridge. It was also suggested we have something from “Making Local” – Local Action for rural communities in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon.

### **Finance**

#### **Income**

£327.60 – Fine Memorials

#### **Payments**

It was proposed, seconded, and all agreed that the following payment be made:  
£25.00 – DAPC for “Standing Orders” book.

A letter had been received from the Blackdown Support Group asking for financial support. Mrs.Stallard declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion. Mr.McCulloch proposed we make a donation of £800, seconded by Mr.Steed, all agreed. It was decided to defer payment till the April meeting in the new financial year, as we had already made them a donation in this financial year.

### **Highways**

It was decided to ask Meg Booth if she has a plan of work for the next year.

Mr.McCulloch felt there was no collective responsibility anymore.

Mrs.Stallard said that in some areas farmers help to clear the roads of snow with their own machinery.

### **Cemetery**

Nothing to report.

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**Footpaths**

Mr.Povah reported that all the footpath survey forms have now gone out.

**Correspondence**

- 1) Tiverton & District Community Transport, “Ring & Ride”, offering to come to a Parish Council meeting to give a short presentation about the work they do; it was suggested we ask them to send someone to our Annual Parish Meeting, all agreed.
- 2) Culm Valley Senior Council – Biddy Bimson is our representative; Mrs.Stallard suggested we invite her to the Annual Parish Meeting, all agreed.
- 3) “Making it Local” – free workshops for making grant applications.
- 4) Petition from Hollingarth Way residents against the allotments on land below Hollingarth.
- 5) Police meeting at Cullompton on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- 6) Village Green magazines – distributed to councillors.
- 7) NSPCC – information about the work they do.
- 8) MDDC – State of the District Debate.
- 9) “Joining Green Communities” – passed to Mr.Steed.

**PR**

- Continuing saga of allotments – HPC appeals to local landowners for offers of land.
- Footbridge.

**Chairman’s Business**

Mrs.Stallard, Mr.McCulloch and Mr.Povah took a model of the Standing Orders to look at, date to be decided for meeting to discuss this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**

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