

3rd December 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.J.Edwards, Mr.L.Povah and Mrs.S.Cartledge. Also present was Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor, Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor, Mr.J.Scott – Rural Housing Officer and one member of the public.

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

Mrs.Stallard introduced Mr.John Scott to the meeting; Mr.Scott is the Rural Housing Officer for the Community Council of Devon.

Mr.Scott spoke about the possibility of arranging a Housing Needs survey for Hemyock. The different kinds of affordable homes were discussed; Mrs.Stallard said she would like to see the Parish Council set up its own Housing Trust to provide “green housing”.

Mr.Scott said the Housing Surveys have a shelf life of 3 years but the Community Council would not do a survey unless we asked them to do so.

It was decided not to carry out a survey immediately but to reconsider after the Parish Questionnaire results have been analysed; Mrs. Stallard thanked Mr.Scott for coming along to our meeting.

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

Matters Arising

1) Western Power had agreed to our proposed change to the Wayleave Agreement and they had sent a new agreement; it was agreed by all present that Mrs.Stallard sign the new agreement.

2) Steve Densham – flooding by the Church and Bridge House; he said if the stream was cleaned out it could cause problems further on. Another problem is the volume of water that pours down High Street; the gratings clog up with debris causing all the water to end up in the Square. Councillors asked who is responsible for all the debris in the stream.

3) The problem with the cemetery gate has been sorted out.

4) Correspondence No.3 – footway from Millhayes to the village. A preliminary figure for the cost of the materials for this footway is £16,000 - £20,000; Meg Booth to see the Environment Agency. Mr.Povah said it would be a good idea to have a meeting with all the interested parties to get this footway sorted out.

5) Mrs.Stallard said she had written a letter about the closure of the pharmacy at the surgery but as yet has not had a reply.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report:

1) The budget is still being discussed.

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- 2) The Icelandic Bank problem is still rumbling on.
- 3) Still waiting to hear the outcome of the Local Government Re-organization.
- 4) The idea of putting the Leisure contract out to private tender has been withdrawn.
- 5) Parish Matters leaflet is going to be changed to PDF format – hopefully it will be easier to download.
- 6) The Village Green at Culmstock has been saved.
- 7) Mr.Rosamond was asked to look into the matter of the person selling cars from the car park in Fore Street.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) The bid for funding for the Blackdown Hills Healthy Living Centre is still going on; Devon County Council wants someone to match-fund it for £100,000.00. The people involved have agreed not to make any decisions until Mrs.Stallard and Mr.Brooke have been down to see them.
- 2) Mr.Radford said that Meg Booth had e.mailed him with regard to her visit to Hemyock.
- 3) Mr.Radford had received a request for funding from the Twinning Association but he said that this money could only be used for Capital Expenditure.
- 4) We will know by February what the Secretary of State has to say about the government re-organization.
- 5) Mr.Radford asked that any correspondence to DCC be copied to him.

Planning

Approvals

- 08/01764/FULL – Perry Brothers Developments, Culmstock Road.
08/01665/FULL – Mrs.L.Pring – 13, Logan Way.
08/01221/CLP – 58, Castle Park, Hemyock.

Conference Report

Mrs.Stallard and Mrs.Cartledge had attended a Planning Seminar during the month; they both thought this had been a useful presentation. The key elements of the planning system had been discussed, the things they consider and how to understand plans. Mrs.Stallard said that sometime in the future plans will come to us electronically.

Boundary Review

A meeting of the Blackdown Parishes had been held recently, we could well be in as a pilot project; we are a totally different area than all the others but we will not hear officially if it has been approved until mid February.

Parish Plan

The questionnaires are being delivered tomorrow between 10 – 12noon; we are already getting feed-back.

The Post-office would like to host an exterior notice-board with a map showing farms and other sites for people wanting directions.

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Thanks went to Mr.McCulloch for arranging the printing and initial set-up of the questionnaires; his price was approximately half of what DCC would have charged.

Finance

Income

£78.00 – D.J.Gynn – cemetery fees
£118.80 – Lowman – cemetery fees
£261.60 – Redwood & Son – cemetery fees
£32.40 – Stooks Memorials – cemetery fees
£499.20 – Pring & Son – cemetery fees

Payments

It was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Povah that the following payments be made:

£7.78 – SWW, cemetery water rates
£5,839.75 – Kings Courts, drainage work and car parking, rear of Station Road.
£15.00 – Business Prize – Christmas Decorations competition
£20.00 – 1st Prize for Christmas Decorations competition
£10.00 – 2nd Prize for Christmas Decorations competition
£123.92 – Paul Prettejohn, repairs to mower used at Millhayes
£20.00 – Blackdown Hills Business Association, hire of display boards for Annual Parish Meeting.
£705.89 – Electric cleaner for Longmead – (to be reimbursed)

Precept

It was decided that as not all councillors were present another meeting would be arranged. Clerk to check availability of Forbes Lounge for the 9th or 11th December.

Highways

Mr.R.Lambert had sent the council a copy of a letter he had sent to the Highways authority about water running past his property which could cause a problem when the weather becomes frosty.

Cemetery

Nothing to report

Footpaths

Mr.Povah reported that the footpath survey forms have gone out; people have until February to walk the paths.

Correspondence

1) Glasdon – street furniture
2) Bus shelter details
3) RD Express – Annual Report
4) MDDC – Tree Guardian – passed to Mr.Povah.
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- 5) Allocation & Infrastructure Development Plan Document Preferred Option Consultation – to be discussed again.
- 6) Freedom of Information Act information.
- 7) Rural Services Network – want to get a community group started.
- 8) Environment Agency – reply to our letter about cleaning out the stream by the church.
- 9) SWW – sewage works improvements in Hemyock.

P.R.

- Parking on the grass in Castle Park.
- Parish Appraisal
- No Parish Council meeting in January.

Chairman’s Business

- 1) Mr.Bob Hawkes had sent a letter about recent flooding. Debris is still caught up on fences at Millhayes and Culmbridge Road which could cause a problem when we have heavy rain next time.
- 2) Cars in Castle Park parking on the grass at the entrance to the estate, causing a problem; notice to be put in the Pump.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Signed.....

Date.....

Police Report (missed out at meeting)

There have been 5 crimes in the last month – 1 of criminal damage, 2 burglaries to dwellings and 2 burglaries to sheds.

Please remember to secure all sheds; shed alarms are available from Cullompton Police Station at £5 each.

The 2 lads who did the damage to the hall windows and toilets have been given a 1st letter for anti-social behaviour.

It was suggested that if the old tennis courts were lit it would give the lads somewhere to kick around a football.

The police are advertising for a new officer for Cullompton – Jim Purkiss is moving on to other things.

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