

4th February 2009

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in the Forbes Lounge under the chairmanship of Mrs. H. Stallard.

Present – Mrs.H.Stallard, Mr.P.Steed, Mr.R.Hart, Mr.R.Brooke, Mrs.L.Clist, Mr.L.Povah, Mr. J.Edwards, Pastor S.Reed and Mrs.S.Cartledge. Also present was Mrs. Margaret Squires – Chairman of Mid Devon District Council, Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor, Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor and four members of the public.

Apologies – were received from Mr.I.McCulloch.

Mrs.Stallard welcomed Mrs. Margaret Squires, Chairman of Mid Devon District Council, to the meeting.

Minutes

Mr.McCulloch had requested, before the meeting, that the following amendment be made to the top of page 3 of the minutes of 3rd December – Thanks went to Mr.McCulloch for arranging the printing and initial set-up of the questionnaires, *the price quoted by South West One in Taunton* was approximately half of what DCC would have charged.

Following the above amendment it was proposed by Mr.R.Hart, seconded by Mrs.S.Cartledge that the minutes of 3rd and 11th December be signed as correct records, all agreed.

Matters Arising

- 1) M.A. No.5 – The pharmacy at the surgery will now not be closing.
- 2) M.A. No.7 – Regarding the cars being sold from the village car park – Mr.Rosamond asked for details so that the matter can be taken further.
- 3) M.A. No.2 – Flooding by the Church and Catherine Wheel; DCC are dragging their heels over this problem, Steve Densham will be chasing it up. Mrs. Squires suggested that Mr.Radford arrange a site meeting to try and sort out the problem. Mrs. Squires also suggested that DCC be contacted using the My Devon telephone numbers, that way a log number is given so ‘phone calls have to be followed up.
- 4) The result of the Boundary Review will be given on February 13th 2009.
- 5) The results of the Parish Plan will soon be ready – there has been a good response from people; many people have offered to help with litter picking, delivering the Parish Pumps etc.
- 6) Flood-plane footbridge – Mr.Povah has been doing a lot of work towards this. The landowner is happy for a proper footbridge to be put in place but will need access to his field for loading his livestock; there are several ideas of how this can be achieved. It is crucial that agreement is reaching with the Environment Agency as to the design of the new footbridge. Mr.Povah has asked a representative from the Environment Agency to meet him on site to discuss the drawings; a survey of levels will have to be carried out as well.

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Mrs. Squires then addressed the meeting; she said it was good to see that we had carried out a Parish Appraisal and asked if the councillors had any questions they would like to put to her.

Mr.Povah asked if the District Council would match fund or put some money towards the flood plane footbridge; there should be some 106 money from the Bloors development at Millhayes to go towards the bridge. Mrs. Squires suggested we write to Dave Scott or Paul Tucker the Grants Officer; Mr.Brooke said he is touch with Mr. Tucker twice a week and there is nothing suitable available - Mrs. Squires said it might still be worth asking.

Pastor Reed said we had had our fair share of new housing recently – there is the possibility of 50 social homes some time in the future and we might find ourselves with another housing estate; he asked what her views on this was? Mrs. Squires said to see what came out of the Appraisal and a Housing Survey would have to be carried out; she said that no developer would build homes unless there was a proven need.

Mrs.Stallard thanked Mrs. Squires for giving up her time to come out to our meeting.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report:-

- 1) A Place Survey has been carried out; most people seem happy with where they live and there has been a drop in anti social behaviour.
- 2) It now looks as though there is going to be a balanced budget; this has been possible as there was less take up of the free bus passes by the over 60's than had been anticipated. There will be a rates increase of about 2.5%.
- 3) The news from the Icelandic Bank is not good; the one million pounds invested has not yet been retrieved.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) The budget has not yet been fixed; there will probably be an increase of just under 3%.
- 2) Mr.Radford said he had written to Phil Norrey regarding the problem of unanswered e-mails and letters, he said he had noted the point and to leave it with him.
- 3) Shaws Care Homes are now asking for more money, they will provide 180 – 190 beds, most care homes are being kept open.
- 4) The Community Budget money which Mr.Radford can allocate has to be distributed by the end of March; some of it will be going to the Healthy Living Centre at Millhayes.
- 5) The problem about the derelict raised wooden footway at Millhayes, which had been raised by Mr.Bowden in Public Question Time, was related to Mr.Radford (who had not arrived at that point) councillors asked Mr.Radford to arrange with Highways to have the bridge taken down before an accident occurs.

Planning

Approvals

08/02158/Full – Hemyock Motors

08/02173/Full – Halifax House

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08/02171/Full – Halifax House
08/01845/Full – Lower Whitehams
08/01937/Full – 1, Logan Way
08/01877/Full – Hillcott
08/01778/Full – Coombe Hill

Applications

All plans were carefully inspected and discussed before decisions were reached.

09/00100/FULL – Castle Dene, Culmstock Road; erection of single storey extension.

It was proposed by Pastor Reed, seconded by Mr.Povah that approval be recommended – all agreed.

09/00104/FULL – Nelson Farm, Hemyock; erection of extensions.

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

09/00162/FULL – Churchills Farm, High Street; erection of two dwellings with associated garaging.

It was proposed by Mrs.Clist, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that approval be recommended – agreed.

09/00070/FULL – Hemyock Pre-school, Parklands; erection of an outdoor play shelter.

It was proposed by Pastor Reed, seconded by Mr.Steed that approval be recommended – all agreed.

08/2067/MFUL – Land adjacent to Bolham House; erection of poultry house and additional feed silo.

Mr. Brooke left the room and took no part in the discussion.

As this application is not in our parish councillors decided only to make the following two observations that (a) some screening be planted so that the houses are not so visible and (b) that the entrance to the property be tidied up.

Parish Plan

It was decided to see how to take this forward when all the results are in. It could also be a major part of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Freedom of Information Act

To be discussed at next months meeting.

Allotments

An article has been put in the Parish Pump asking anyone who is interested to register an interest in writing to the parish clerk.

Mrs.Stallard said she is hoping to get all the interested people together to form an Allotment Association to work out the details. The only site we have at present is the piece of land which will eventually be the extension for the cemetery; the landowners on both sides of the cemetery will not allow access across their land so the only access to it is down through the cemetery. Mrs.Stallard said she thought a potential Allotment Association might be able to come up with another possible site.

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Finance

The clerk reported that the Audit Commission had finally completed the audit and sent the External Auditors Certificate; all the necessary documents had been posted on the parish noticeboard for the required length of time.

Income

£73.20 – Richard Grant Memorials – cemetery fees

£500.40 – Redwood & Sons – cemetery fees

£270.00 – MDDC – Cemetery grant

Payments

It was proposed by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Hart that the following payments be made:

£1,207.50 – Audit Commission – external audit

£10.40 – EDF Energy – Millhayes Hall

£37.50 – Hemyock PHMC – rent of the Forbes Lounge

£838.79 – Clerks salary & expenses

£17.52 – SWW – Cemetery water rates

£89.25 – Mr. I. Pike – keeping the cemetery tidy

Highways

- 1) Grit bin needed in Higher Eastmead – possible site, opposite no. 10 Eastmead
- 2) Grit bin needed on the corner at the end of Culmbridge Road by Culmbridge House.

Cemetery

Problem with gate into the cemetery – Mr. Pike to be asked to have a look at it.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Mrs. Clist asked Mr. Povah if dogs were allowed to run free on footpaths across fields.

Mr. Povah said they were if they were kept under close control.

Correspondence

1) Sharon Graham said she had reported 7 lights out in Logan Way; Devon Street Lighting had been contacted but she had been told that the estate had never been officially adopted by DCC – clerk to check.

2) There has been a massive problem with sewage in Prowses; it has been cleared but keeps blocking up again – Environmental health has been involved.

3) DCC – Presentation on the Commons Act; Mrs. Stallard said she was hoping to go, Mr. Povah was also willing to attend.

4) Training event for Data Protection Act 1998 & The Freedom of Information Act 2000; Mr. Steed was willing to go if he can.

5) Devon Wildlife Trust carrying out fencing ready for putting stock on Lickham Common – need to find out landowners of some adjacent land – enquiries to be made.

6) Grace Brooks – 4 girls from Uffculme School going out to Uganda to help build a

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classroom in Rukungiri Modern School and to teach African orphans English. The girls asked the Parish Council if they would be willing to make a contribution towards their expenses for this trip.

After much discussion it was decided that with all our commitments for projects within the village we were not able to help them his time.

7) List of dates for the East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership Meetings.

8) Consultation document on Communities in Control: Real People Real Power.

9) DCC Newsletter No.5 – Flu Pandemic.

10) Taunton Deane Borough Council – Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan.

11) Mid Devon Talk – leaflet.

12) News & Views for tenants in Mid Devon.

13) BMX track - broken glass strewn about, needs cleaning up. Mr.Smith said he would give Mrs.Stallard the name of someone who might be willing to help with this.

P.R

- Removal of derelict raised footbridge.
- Register of interest for allotments.
- Chairman of MDDC, Mrs. Margaret Squires had visited our meeting.

Chairman's Business

It will be a while before the proposed new raised footway is started at Millhayes; the bridge which was partially washed away recently needs to be made safe. The fencing up to the bridge in Culmbridge Road needs to be made safe as well.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

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