

## 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008

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.I.McCulloch, Mr.R.Hart, Mr.J.Edwards, Mr.P.Steed, Mrs.L.Clist, Mrs.S.Cartledge, Pastor S. Reed and Mr.L.Povah. Also present was Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor and 2 members of the public.

**Apologies** were received from Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor.

Following the correction of one spelling mistake, it was proposed by Mr.R.Hart, seconded by Mr.James Edwards, that **The Minutes** of the October meeting be signed as a correct record – all agreed.

It was proposed by Mr.R.Brooke, seconded by Mr.R.Hart that **The Minutes** of the planning meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October be signed as a correct record – all who had been present at the meeting agreed.

### **Matters Arising**

1) A letter had been received from Brian Greenslade, there was no apology that none of our previous letters had received a reply.

Meg Booth had visited the village and met with Mrs.Stallard and Mr.Steed and had discussed fourteen problems some of which we have been trying to get resolved for nearly two years.

- The pavement by the Spar shop has not been done as it is not in a work programme; we had not been told this and householders have been waiting for at least 18 months for the work to go ahead. Meg Booth said she would chase up the legal department and get things finally sorted out; a report would also go to HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) in March as this pavement is on the school route.
- Meg Booth did not seem to know a great deal about the pavement that was to be provided at Millhayes from the footbridge to the village. This was a planning condition when Bloors built the homes on the St.Ivel factory site. It was understood that Bloors had handed over the money to the County Council to carry out the work. It was decided to write to Mid Devon District Council as they are the enforcing authority.
- Extension of the 20mph speed limit at Millhayes was also talked about.
- The traffic island in Longmead is scheduled to be taken away; the electricity board has to do some work first.
- The white line around the corner by Rose Cottage/Baptist Church is in the work schedule to be done when the white line people next come to Hemyock.
- The Culmstock directional sign has been missing from The Square for at least 2 years.

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- Mrs.Stallard said she had the Culm Pyne arm from a signpost; County Council to collect it and put it back up.
- There are overhanging hedges in several places along Station Road; Mrs.Stallard suggested we contact the householders and give them the option of doing the work themselves or the County Council will carry out the necessary work and send them the bill.
- Meg Booth suggested we send her a spread sheet of the work we need doing and send to her each month.

2) A reply has been received from SWW; however they had not really answered our questions; clerk to write again.

3) Mrs.Stallard had received a letter from Western Power Distribution; there is a transformer that needs moving in Longmead, to the left of the sewage works. It has to be moved onto Parish Council land for which we will receive a wayleave payment each year. It was agreed that this could be done but councillors did not agree with the direction of the earth wire, clerk to write to ask if it could follow the hedge line around the corner. It was decided not to sign the wayleave agreement until this was sorted out.

### **District Council Report**

Mr.Rosamond was unable to be present but had sent a written report.

1) There has been some concern over the investment in an Icelandic bank of some £1.1 million; the council is fairly optimistic that it will retrieve its monies but new procedures have been introduced to ensure that there will be no repeat of this type of investment.

2) There was debate as to whether or not the District Council should continue the practice of Prayers before the start of the meeting; all recognized the advantage of meditation before the start of the meeting so no change was implemented.

3) A specific corporate budget of £100k has been established to meet the costs of the retention Strategy to cope with the potential employment implications of the Local Government Review.

4) A grant of £100k has been earmarked to support the repair of the Walronds in Cullompton, a Grade 1 listed building. This grant will trigger some £2m of grants from other agencies.

5) The budget process has begun in earnest, targeting a reduction of 5% in net expenditure to secure efficiency savings to cope with government grant restraints. Policy development groups are meeting to outline their responses. A process of public consultation is underway to ascertain how the savings should be achieved with the least detriment to services.

6) The Corporate Plan is being reviewed in an environment where £0.5m has to be saved and the result of the Local Government Review is not yet known. The starting point is the proposal that the number of corporate pledges be reduced in order to concentrate resources more effectively on the most important priorities, taking into account the public responses.

7) The invitation to tender for the Housing Repairs contract has been put on hold. The Audit Commission is undertaking a review of the service which has been subject to criticism and much subsequent remedial action.

8) In respect of the Local Government Review, the Executive forwarded a response to the 5/11/08

Boundary Committee declaring for the status quo, following public consultation. The outcome of the East Devon demand for the Judicial Review is awaited.

### **County Council Report**

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) Mr.Radford said he thought Meg Booth's visit to Hemyock had been worthwhile; a lot of things had been ironed out – we must now make sure they happen.
- 2) Mr. Radford has been keeping in touch with Mr.Brooke regarding the HELIC application for funding. Contact has now been made with the Primary Care Trust and they are hoping to hear from them before the next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November.
- 3) Mr.Brooke suggested we write to Meg Booth confirming the points discussed and send a copy of the letter to Mr.Radford.

### **Planning**

#### **Approvals**

08/01315/FULL – P.Clist, Rodleigh Farm.

08/00254/FULL – Wrencom Developments, LPG Compound (former St.Ivel factory site).

#### **Applications**

08/01845/FULL – Upper Whitemoor, Hemyock – Conversion of barn to workshop/studio. Mr.McCulloch, Mrs.Stallard, Mr.Brooke and Mr.Steed all declared an interest and did not vote.

Following careful inspection of the plans it was proposed seconded and all agreed that approval be recommended.

08/01937/FULL – 1, Logan Way – erection of a conservatory. It was proposed, seconded, and all agreed that approval be recommended.

08/01877/FULL – Hillcott, Hemyock – change of use of agricultural land to provide residential access, erection of boiler house and garage, and external alterations to existing dwelling including replacement of garage doors with windows, insertion of French window and provision of balcony/footbridge to access garden. It was proposed, seconded, and all agreed that approval be recommended and to make it a condition that the existing entrance is closed (as per the plans with a new retaining wall).

A letter had been received informing us of planning training taking place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 10am in Tiverton. Mrs.Stallard is hoping to go and possibly Mr.Brooke.

### **Boundary Review – Blackdown Parishes**

The following points were included in a recent meeting:

- It was suggested that various training sessions could be held in the parishes rather than everyone always having to go to Tiverton or Exeter.
- More parishes are now keen to come on board.
- An application has been submitted to be considered as a Pilot Project from the Blackdown Hills; have asked for someone from the County Council to come out

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- to tell us about it, possibly Brian Greenslade
- Services in the Hills generally could be looked at; a lot could be done by acting as a group. Quite a lot more duties could be taken on by local councils; but no idea yet what the funding would be.

### **Millhayes Project**

Nothing to report – discussions still on-going.

### **Finance**

#### **Income**

£146.40 – Norton Memorials – cemetery fees

£261.60 – Pring & Son – cemetery fees.

#### **Payments**

It was proposed, seconded, and all agreed that the following payments be made:-

£42.75 – Hemyock PHMC, rent for the Forbes Lounge

£30.00 – Open Spaces Society, subscription

£2,326.25 – R.Porch, painting the cemetery railings

£150.74 – I.Pike, cemetery and village grass cutting

£1.40 – EDF Energy, Millhayes Hall

£120.00 – Hemyock PCC, contribution towards the printing costs of the Parish Pump

£20.00 – British Legion Poppy Appeal.

£235.00 – Financial donation towards the Ring & Ride service (a £10 increase on last year's donation).

Mr.Bawler's request for funding towards the cost of the interior decorations of St.Mary's Church was discussed again; it was decided to make a decision after the next finance committee meeting.

### **Highways**

1) It had been confirmed that it would cost £500.00 for two new village signs which included the name of the area we are twinned with in France. It was decided to discuss this at the next finance committee meeting.

2) Clerk to write to the Environment Agency to ask for the stream around the church to be cleaned out – this needs to be done sympathetically and the weirs need to be reinstated.

3) Clerk to write to Highways to thank them for the speed with which they came out to clear up after the recent floods, also to remind them to collect the flood warning signs.

### **Cemetery**

1) Mrs.Clist to check the gate – trip hazard.

2) There are 2 big flower pots in the cemetery which need to be planted up with fresh plants – Mrs.Clist said she would attend to it.

3) The Rugg family had asked permission to move the curb stones, which had been  
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placed centrally between two graves, to allow ashes to be buried in the top of the grave; the curb stones at the bottom of the grave would then be reinstated; all agreed that this would be in order.

### **Footpaths**

Mr.Povah reported that the annual footpath survey forms would be going out again soon.

### **Correspondence**

1) The Planning Inspectorate/Devon Wildlife Trust – Lickham Common; an area is to be fenced and grazed by ponies to keep encroaching scrub in check and reduce the dominance of purple moor grass; this should allow the future sustainable management of the habitat to be undertaken.

2) P3 Scheme (footpath maintenance) – Christmas workshops, passed to Mr.Povah.

3) Andy Robertson – Concern over the raised wooden footway at Millhayes. Mrs.Stallard to contact him to explain that we are waiting for an insurance quote before a decision is made.

Mr.Brooke suggested that a raised footway could be incorporated in the replacement fence on the opposite side of the road, the gateway would have to be negotiated but it could be done. Mrs.Clist said she knew someone who could help with the plans. It was decided the best way forward would be to try and arrange a meeting between ourselves and Highways, the Environment Agency and the owner of the land to discuss the matter.

4) East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership – Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011 leaflets.

5) Letter from a company who put cemetery records on the web – keep letter for the moment.

6) Parish Lengthsman's programme – October 2008 – March 2009. When he comes to us in January ask if he can do something about the boggy patch in the green lane on Conigar.

7) Code of Conduct consultation – passed to Mr.McCulloch.

8) John Scott, Community Council - Affordable Housing survey; clerk to see if he can come to our December meeting.

9) Standards Committee – Information circulated to all councillors.

10) Open Spaces booklet.

11) Anonymous letter regarding Christmas Decorations competition – article to be put in the Pump to say that we have particularly said “Christmas Decorations” this year not Christmas Lights.

### **PR**

- Council Tenants group need a representative from this area.
- Ponies to graze Lickham Common.
- Surgery pharmacies to be closed.

### **Chairman's Business**

1) Mrs.Stallard said the closing of the surgery pharmacy will have a disastrous effect and is a non-starter for Hemyock – letter of complaint to be sent.

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2) A Steering Committee has been formed (Heather Stallard, Anne Sworn, Paul Steed, Leisha Clist, Sue Upton, David Phelps, Dennis Gubb and Tharan Rajakumar to move forward with the Parish Plan and a meeting had been held last night to discuss it; the plan produced 10 years ago had been gone through and will be up-dated and a lot of things changed then a draft will be produced; another meeting will be held next Tuesday. Mrs.Stallard said she was hoping to get it out with the December Pump. Mr.Brooke felt that as it was such an important document more time should be taken over it. Mr.McCulloch said he would get a quotation for typing it up ready for printing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20pm.

*Signed*.....

*Date*.....

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