

6th August 2008

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

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

Present – Mrs.H.Stallard, Mr.I.McCulloch, Mr.R.Brooke, Mr.J.Edwards, Mr.L.Povah and Mrs.S.Cartledge. Also present was Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor, Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor and twelve members of the public.

Following two alterations to the District Council Report (No.1 should have read – Mr.Rosamond attended the LGA Annual Conference which was addressed by Hazel Blears who spoke about the White Paper..... also the last bullet point be deleted and No.2 should have read £832k) it was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mrs.Cartledge that **The Minutes** of the 2nd July meeting and 23rd July planning meeting be signed as correct records, all agreed.

Matters Arising

- 1) Matters Arising No.5 – letter from Gill Peters, Headteacher of Hemyock Primary School, to say they are happy to ask for two zebra crossings as part of their travel plan.
- 2) Matters Arising No.6 – The DAPC Conference, “Throwing Light on the role of Town & Parish Councillors”, has been rescheduled for September 11th.
- 3) No Diving & No Cycling signs for Millhayes Footbridge – Mr.Povah said he did not agree with putting up these signs. It was explained that it had been decided at a risk assessment meeting that Mr.Povah had been unable to attend. However, councillors could see his point of view and agreed to discuss the matter again at the next meeting.
- 4) Mrs.Stallard said she had attended the MDDC Civic Service on 20th July.
- 5) A letter has been received from Colin Coleman regarding the removal of the public telephone box in Culmbridge Road. The consultation period has now been extended till the end of September and he will write again then.

District Council Report

Mr.Rosamond included the following in his report:-

- 1) Mr.Rosamond said that the District Council was in a state of flux at present; several things are being looked at:
 - the District Council are looking at “out sourcing” the leisure services, swimming pools etc.
 - tendering for housing maintenance
 - support services
 - looking to utilize space at Phoenix House
 - new finance and housing management systems are being put in place

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All these things require additional work.

- 2) There are issues around Tiverton town centre regeneration; there has been a proposal for free parking in December.
- 3) The Benefits Service is assessing itself using internal inspectors.
- 4) Phoenix House is looking to upgrade the reception area.
- 5) Local Government re-organization – State of the District Debate at 7pm on 10th September in Tiverton Town Hall.
- 6) Mr.Rosamond said he was trying to follow up a pothole problem in South View and a flooding issue.

County Council Report

Mr.Radford included the following in his report:

- 1) Mr.Radford said he had spoken to Tony Matthews and had been told that everything is ongoing. Councillors were not happy as they felt things were definitely not moving forward and it was suggested we write to Brian Greenslade and Phil Norrey; Mr.Povah said we must put pressure on the right people.
- 2) Someone had contacted Mr.Radford to say that the road repairs at Tedburrow had been carried out.
- 3) HELIC application for funding; Mr.Radford said that the committee discussing the applications for funding from the sale of Exeter Airport money had run out of time – the application will be discussed at the next meeting. A lump sum of the airport money has been given to the Community Council of Devon for them to distribute. Mr. Radford felt that the distribution of the airport money has not been handled well; there has been no agendas saying what was about to be considered and a lot of the money has already gone.

Allotments

Mrs.Stallard said that she had received a few enquiries about the possibility of providing allotments in Hemyock; people would have to register an interest with the clerk. It would have to be decided where the allotments could be; the only piece of land we have at present is to the north of cemetery, which will one day be needed to extend the cemetery. It's a case of whether the parish would be happy with the access; the only access to this piece of land is through the cemetery.

Mrs.Stallard said that it was hoped to get a questionnaire out in the autumn in relation to producing a Parish Plan and parishioners' views could be sought.

Some parishioners present said that people visiting the cemetery might not be happy to see people going up and down the path with wheelbarrows etc. It was also pointed out that parking was very limited.

Mr.Hannaford said he had been told that there was land at Longmead by the river that might be available; but he was concerned about possible pollution of the river if fertilizers were used on the gardens, also it would have to be very carefully managed so that it did not become a shanty town. Mrs.Stallard said that the soil at Longmead is heavy clay and would not be suitable and is also liable to flood by the river.

Mrs.Stallard said that the other alternative is for people with big gardens, who couldn't
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cope with them, to let part of the garden; she said there had been allotments at Millhayes but they had not been wanted, they had become overgrown and the land has now been built on.

Planning

Approvals

08/00571/MFUL – Great Symonsburrow Farm

08/00903/FULL – 5, Lower Millhayes

08/00925/FULL – 16, Pencross View

Application

08/01304/LBC – Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations at Culm Davy Farm.

After inspection of the plans and discussing this application it was proposed by Mr.McCulloch, seconded by Mr.Edwards and all agreed that approval be recommended.

Boundary Commission

Mrs.Stallard said that as things look at the moment there will be the Plymouth and Torbay Unitary Authorities plus one other Unitary Authority for the rest of Devon. There would be 28 Market Towns and we would come under Cullompton. Mrs.Stallard went on to say that she had contacted Graham Langford; if we do become a subsidiary of Cullompton she feared that we will not get a look in on anything and it's a town that as a Parish we have nothing to do with.

Air Vice Marshall Attlee has read a lot of the papers and said that they have written the conclusions and then tried to make the facts fit it; the other thing we have to bear in mind is that Brian Greenslade is a Liberal Democrat and they have always been keen on Area Committees. Mr.Radford said there would be one or two Parish Councillors on the Area Board; Air Vice Marshall Attlee said he had always felt that Area Boards were a waste of time. Mrs.Stallard said she had thought that as a Parish Council we would have more power. No one was happy with joining up with Cullompton; Mrs.Stallard said it is up to us to come up with something we do want. Mr.Rosamond said that a proposal has not been worked out yet. Mr.Radford said that no one seems to have seen any costings yet; Uffculme have said they do not agree with getting rid of the District Council as they do all the day-to-day things and they do not like the idea of Area Boards either.

Mr.McCulloch said if we are going to do anything we must get together with the other parishes.

Mrs.Stallard said she would contact the chairman of Culmstock, Clayhidon, Uffculme and maybe Dunkeswell Parish Councils and try to organize a meeting. Mr.McCulloch said it must not be too big or we will be in danger of getting nowhere.

Air Vice Marshall Attlee said to make sure all councillors have a copy of Graham Langford's submission.

Calor Village of the Year Competition

Hemyock is one of the six finalists selected for Devon Village of the Year 2008 and the judges are coming on Tuesday 12th August 10.0am to 12 noon. The judging will cover six 6/8/08

aspects:

- Community Activities
- Older or Disabled People
- Young People
- Interaction with Businesses
- Environment
- Communication

Mrs.Stallard said she was putting together a programme and had contacted some people already; it would all start at 10.0am in the Forbes Lounge with presentations by some people and finish at Millhayes Hall.

Millhayes Project

Mr.Brooke said that the planning permission for the hall appears to have gone through; Mrs.Stallard said that the Environment Agency has up-dated their map and the hall is no longer in the flood plane.

The change of use for garages has not gone through yet; once it has then things can move forward.

Longmead

Mrs.Stallard reported that the fencing at Longmead, behind the Station Road properties, has been completed.

Finance

Income

£459.60 – Pring & Son – cemetery fees

£73.20 – Fine Memorials – cemetery fees

£103.20 – Pring & Son – cemetery fees

Expenditure

£225.00 – Mrs.S.Aldworth – Internal audit and help with risk assessments

£5.92 – SWW – cemetery water rates

£46.12 – Hemyock PHMC – rent of the Forbes Lounge

£219.02 – Clive Jones Architect – Millhayes Project

The clerk said that a new Register of Burials needs to be purchased at a cost of £178.20 + VAT and Mr.Povah said he had had a bill from Mr.Risdon for footpath maintenance for about £200 but he had yet to check the work

It was proposed by Mrs.Cartledge, seconded by Mr.Brooke that the above payments, plus purchase of Register of Burials and payment to Mr.Risdon be made, all agreed.

Highways

It was reported that St. Margaret's brook, by the Church, needs cleaning out; a lot of stone was washed down in the May flash floods - clerk to contact the Environment Agency.

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Cemetery

Nothing to report

Footpaths

Mr.Povah reported that work is going ahead with this year's programme of maintenance; the floods had caused some damage.

It was reported that the footpath from Millhayes up to the seat at the top of Pencross is in a dreadful state – Mr.Povah said he would look into it.

It was also reported that the footpath across fields from Culmbridge Farm to Burrow Hill was very wet.

Correspondence

- 1) Letter from Dennis Gubb, Chairman of the Party Club, regarding the Millennium Seat at the top of Pencross Hill. When it was put in place in the year 2000 they were told verbally that it would be adopted by the council to ensure its maintenance, insurance etc for all time. However, this was never put in writing and Mr.Gubb was asking if this could be done.

Following a short discussion it was proposed by Mr.Povah, seconded by Mr.McCulloch, and all agreed, that the Parish Council adopt the seat and take responsibility for its maintenance and insurance. Clerk to send confirmation of adoption to Mr.Gubb.

- 2) Western Power – letter to say electricity supply to the public conveniences would be interrupted – followed by another letter to say interruption now cancelled!
- 3) Environmental Health – public toilets to be decorated August/September. There has been some vandalism in the gents; some of the facilities have been cracked. Mrs.Stallard said a group of 5 or 6 children about 10 years old have been seen hanging around the public conveniences.
- 4) DAPC – Newsletter – distributed to all councillors.
- 5) Annual Report from Devon County Council.
- 6) DCC, White Paper, “Communities in Control, Real People, Real Power” can be viewed at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/886045.pdf>
- 7) MDDC – Chairman's Reception on 14th October at Willand Village Hall.
- 8) MDDC – dogs being a nuisance at a property in Eastlands. Following a visit by a member of the Housing Department a higher fence has been put up around their garden so that when people pass by the dogs cannot jump up and put their paws on the fence intimidating people.

PR

- Boundary Review
- Allotments
- Judging of Calor Village of the Year.

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Chairman's Business

Dog mess is again causing problems around the village.

Although bins have been provided at various points all around the village and dog mess is picked up and put in plastic bags, it is then either thrown in the general direction of the bin or thrown up into the hedge. If people cannot lift the lid and put the dog mess in the bin it would be better to take it home and dispose of it.

The football season has just begun and it was reported that the dog mess on Longmead Field is atrocious; this is a health hazard and should not have to be tolerated.

A big thank you to the responsible people who do clean up behind their dogs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

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