

Hemyock Parish Council ***30th April 2009***

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held in the Parish Hall at 7.0pm under the chairmanship of Mrs.H.Stallard.

Present – Mrs.H.Stallard, Mr.I.McCulloch, Mrs.L.Clist, Mr.P.Steed, Mr.J.Edwards, Mr.L.Povah, Mrs.S.Cartledge and Mr.R.Brooke. Also present were Mr.F.Rosamond – District Councillor, Mr.R.Radford – County Councillor, Mr.J.Maben – Access and Interpretation Officer for the Neroche Scheme, PC. Dave Waller, WPC Vicky Underhill and over 70 members of the public.

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

Mrs.Stallard welcomed everyone to the meeting saying it was lovely to see so many people present and then gave **The Chairman's Report.**

Mrs.Stallard spoke of the official twinning ceremony in France last year and the coming celebrations next month, here in Hemyock, when the English half of the formal documents will be signed.

She went on to speak of the Boundary Commission Review; the government seems keen to restructure Devon, doing away with the 8 District Councils and the County Council but keeping the Parish Councils. Various options have been offered, in the great re-organization, there are planned to be 28 sub centres of the market towns and their hinterlands. Hemyock would be added on to Cullompton; many of us in the rural Blackdown Hills were not keen to be a part of a market town, Hemyock has very little to do with Cullompton and so has been working on a project with our neighbouring parishes to form a Community of Blackdown Hills Villages.

Mrs.Stallard also spoke of the application submitted last summer for a share of the money received from the sale of Exeter Airport – this would be to help the redevelopment of the Millhayes projects; the Healthy Living Centre in the old St.Ivel Social Club and the youth centre in the garages. We were thrilled last week when our County Councillor, Mr.Radford, handed over a cheque for £265,000.00 – things can now move forward.

Mrs.Stallard went on to speak of the Longmead project, provision of pavements in the parish, the National Cycle Race, which passed through Hemyock last year, and the fact that we did not lose our post office in the national closure programme.

Mrs. Stallard mentioned that we now have a new Community Police Officer for Hemyock, WPO Victoria Underhill; at the moment she is on light duties before going off on maternity leave, but hopes to be full time at the end of December.

Mrs.Stallard thanked everyone who had taken the time to fill out the Parish Questionnaire that had been circulated just before Christmas; the next step is to put together an Action Plan.

Mrs.Stallard thanked her fellow councillors, clerk, County and District Councillors for all their hard work; also everyone in the parish who helps to organize all the clubs and associations in the parish – this all helps to make Hemyock the friendly community it

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undoubtedly is.

At the end of the report she thanked Mr.Alec Smith, who is standing down as the “Head Wombler” - organizer of the “Hemyock Litter Pickers”, for all his hard work organizing litter picks over the last few years and presented him with a gift.

Mr.Smith thanked all his colleagues saying over 30 people had originally volunteered to litter pick but that there is now approaching 100 people willing to help with this task.

District Tenant’s Forum “Hemyock’s Voice” Mr.Tony Durbin

In Mr.Durbin’s absence Mrs.Stallard explained that Mr.Durbin heads up the District Tenants Forum and is “Hemyock’s Voice” so if anyone has any problems he is willing to help them.

Important Archaeological Finds at Churchill’s Farm

Unfortunately, much to everyone’s disappointment, this speaker was unable to come along this evening. Mrs.Stallard explained that important pottery finds and a pottery had been found on this site, one that archaeologists had been looking for for a long time and that English Heritage are now taking the project forward. Mrs.Stallard concluded by saying she was sure we would get a proper exhibition when all the work on this site had been concluded.

Neroche Update

Mr.James Maben, who had attended last year’s Annual Parish Meeting, gave an update on what had happened since last year.

He said that currently they are fundraising to get funding for another five years. The original timescale was three years of which one year remains.

Twenty six organisations are involved in the project, the Forestry Commission being the main funder and the project covers an area of thirty six square miles.

When the conifers have been harvested five units are now being grazed by long horn cattle, this encourages natural species to thrive again encouraging butterflies etc to return. They have continued to develop the “Herepath Trails”, originally Saxon trade routes, but the modern day interpretation of “herepath” is “People’s Path”.

Arts, Music and Story projects have been running – “Punkie Night” had proved very successful last autumn.

“Forest Schools” is still very popular – children go out into the woods and learn skills they don’t normally have to do these days.

There is a programme of health walks and the Staple Hill trail opened six weeks ago with very easy gradients and lots of seating.

They have been exploring local history and funded Hemyock History Group to buy a scanner to archive old photographs etc.

The excavation at Play Street had found lots of pottery – there is more information on this and other things on their website.

Mr.Maben concluded by showing an interesting short DVD about some of these projects.

Mrs.Stallard thanked Mr.Maben for coming along to our meeting this evening.

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Mrs.Stallard went on to explain about some of the displays which had been mounted around the hall for people to look at, which included some information by the Twinning Committee, BHaaM (Blackdown Hills Artists and Makers), and Parish Council information on projects in-hand; she then thanked everyone for coming along and invited people to walk around and chat informally with councillors, police, twinning committee etc. while enjoying refreshments of cheese and wine.

Signed.....

Date.....

30/04/09