

Annual Parish Meeting - Friday 24th May 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm under the Chairmanship of the Chairman of Council, Councillor Mark Sanders

1. Apologies

Cook

H Jeffery

It was also noted Cllr Phillips would arrive later.

2. Reports

1. Parish Council Annual Report - The Clerk presented the Annual Parish Council report (attached to the main minutes and filed).

The Parish Council has produced this annual report to update residents on the activities and business of the Parish Council over the past year.

Parish Plan

Around 71% of households in the parish responded to a questionnaire that will inform the future of the parish. This was the culmination of nearly 3 years of work by many volunteers. The Parish Plan was published and delivered to households towards the end of 2012 and is available on the Parish Council website. East Devon District Council formally adopted the Parish Plan in November 2012.

Development and Planning

In East Devon it was estimated there would be a significant shortage of housing over the next 15-20 years, and that more housing needed to be built. Over the past few years, East Devon District Council (EDDC) has invited landowners in East Devon to suggest sites that might be available for development of housing. This exercise is the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). A number of sites in the parish were identified as part of the SHLAA exercise in 2012.

East Devon has been developing their new Local Plan to set out strategic policy for development. Alongside the main plan, EDDC continue to work on a plan for the villages of East Devon through a separate Village Development Plan Document. EDDC envisage identifying land allocations and sites for development as part of this plan. The Parish Council were asked to feedback on possible and favoured site options for development. The Parish Council were supplied with information and maps from the SHLAA work (as the sites are possible options for accommodating future development). To inform this work an open meeting was held on 24 November 2012 to consult the parish on the SHLAA sites proposed to EDDC for potential development.

The Parish Council considered 34 planning applications during 2012-13 and expressed their views to East Devon. In some cases site visits were made to make a better assessment of what was proposed and how it related to the surroundings. One application has been particularly controversial, the development of land behind King Alfred's Way. The Parish

Council held an open meeting on 1 March 2013 to hear the views of residents.

Flooding

The weather has made for very difficult working arrangements. Whilst this Parish has not suffered as severely as some, there have been some over-arching problems, not least in Lower Way, Harpford and further erosion in the Back Brook. Webbers Meadow also had its fair share of water overflows from Back Brook and the Otter. The Parish Council expressed its strong concerns to the Environment Agency (EA). However the issue appears to be a multi-agency problem which lies between the District Council (East Devon Way), County Council P 3 Scheme and the land owner. It is worth noting because it also applies to Back Brook, that the Riparian owner can only do remedial works after agreement with the EA.

Luckily, during the major flood flow, the EA removed tons of stone etc from the Brook to allow free flow after the storm. The old fence beside the road opposite the tennis courts was raised to allow any flow on the road to cascade into the Meadow and into the Brook. The wild area on the base of the old railway line was seeded with wild flowers by the EA.

Jubilee

The Jubilee celebrations fell into the early part of the year and went really well. The committee set up to raise funds, support the events and coordinate the activities over 3-4 days did a fantastic job. Special thanks to Bryan Woodley for Chairing the Jubilee Committee and ensuring that everything went so well, and to all the people and organisations who worked so hard to provide a Jubilee to remember. The fund-raisers managed to achieve a small surplus which has been passed to the Parish Council. Funds have already been used to acquire 6 seats. These to be placed, 3 in the play area, 1 at the roundabout bus top, 1 at Burrow Lane bus stop for Exeter and 1 at Back Lane Bus Stop to Sidmouth.

District and County Councillors

The Parish Council has good working relationships with District Councillor Ken Potter and County Councillor Christine Channon. Both members regularly attend Parish Council meetings and update the council on relevant issues such as highways, flooding, and development and listen to the concerns of the parish.

Changes to the Parish Council

All Parish Councillors are volunteers and give up some of their time to discuss and decide on matters affecting the community. During the year Councillor Derek Simmonds had stepped down as a member, we would like to thank him for his contribution to the parish. New members were co-opted in 2012 and 2013: Hazel Jeffery and Graham Salter.

The business of the Council has and is being increased by higher authorities anxious to pass down some of their functions not least the car park and toilet. The public toilets have been run by the Parish Council for the last 3 years. The car park is another expenditure item that will need careful consideration as to its continual free status because it serves the surgery at this time. Discussions are ongoing with Coleridge Medical Centre about

improving the facilities for the doctors surgery in Newton Poppleford.

Grants

The Parish Council supported the Citizens Advice Bureau to the sum of £230. The Pavilion received a grant from the County Council for the sum of £1000 towards the installation of the woolly clouds in the pavilion to help the sound problem.

Communication

The Parish Council website, notice boards and the newsletter are the main ways in which the Parish Council communicate what is happening and when meetings will be held. During the year newsletter boxes were installed on Parish Council notice boards for the latest issue to be collected. An email list was set up so that residents could receive newsletters automatically by email.

2. Playing Field Foundation

A) Field -

B) Pavilion -

3. Village Hall Management Committee Annual Report - Cllr D Jeffery

A) Village Hall Report 2012/2013

This has been a busy but productive year for the Village Hall Management Committee, and as Chairman I am very pleased to report that we are in a financially sound position.

MAJOR EVENTS:

JACK & the BEANSTALK: As usual The Riverside Players presented the annual village pantomime in February and drew an audience of 425 over the 5 performances.

DAD'S ARMY : Two successful performances of the "Mum's Army" episode in May saw the village hall again packed to capacity, with the audiences also enjoying a street party supper. These evenings were a joint fund raising event between the Village Hall, The Riverside Players & the Jubilee Committee to raise funds for the village jubilee celebrations.

TONY BEARD: A thoroughly successful, fun filled evening was enjoyed in October when the Committee organised a visit from "The Wag from Widecombe", in aid of Hall funds. Please note this is to be followed up in September with a coach trip to Widecombe Fair - watch out for the posters!

One off charitable events during the year have included coffee mornings, quizzes and bingo for the Air Ambulance, RSPCA and Hospice, Carnival Cream Tea and a Band Concert.

Hiring has increased overall with new day time users. The change of evening for the monthly Parish Council Meeting has enabled the Short Mat Bowls Club to meet every

week now on a Tuesday evening and a Wednesday morning , resulting in increased revenue for the Hall.

IMPROVEMENTS:

During the year extensive renovation has taken place in the kitchen area. New curtains have been purchased for the windows in the main hall. Improvements have been made to the electrical system of the building and the outside lighting for the car park.

In conclusion I would like to say a big thank you to the Village Hall Management Committee for all their hard work and commitment during the year.

8. Any Other Matters

DRAFT