

ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 March 2011 at St Marys Church, Atherington at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs W White (Chairman), R Domleo, Mrs M Wilson, J Umpleby and G Weeks.

In attendance: parishioners, County Councillor R Edgell, District Councillor A Cook, Parish Clerk.

171. Matters Raised by the Public/Police Report

The police had advised that there had been four logs during the past 30 days, these included a pig on the B3217, an untraced suspicious vehicle, a broken down vehicle on the B3227 and a car damaged by an exhaust that had fallen off another car.

Two crimes had been recorded – an attempted theft of a statue from the grounds of a property, and a 4 letter swear word scratched on a bonnet of a car. It was not known if this had happened in Atherington or Barnstaple.

Following a request it was agreed to post the council's minutes on the Argus website. It was noted that these would be in draft form and may be amended at the next meeting.

It was also agreed to place a copy on the notice board. Cllr Umpleby to action.

It was agreed to again make enquiries in including the minutes in Ramblings.

172. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from PC Adrian Micallef and PCSO Jerzy Rozputynski

173. Declarations of Interest

Cllr White declared a personal interest in planning application 51449.

174. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February.

The Minutes of the last meeting was agreed and signed as a true record.

175. Matters Arising from the meeting

None.

176. Provision of Defibrillators for Atherington parish.

The Clerk reported that the cost of a defibrillator from the Ambulance Service was £1275. In addition to this the cabinet to house it would cost £690. This would not include the cost of the electrical connection. The Ambulance Service had advised that it would not be offering any support for the model being offered by the British Heart Foundation, which was an older model and considered to be inferior.

It was agreed to explore the possibility of obtaining grants from other sources.

177. County Council

Cllr R Edgell reported that the county council was not increasing the Council Tax this year. This would qualify the council for a 2.5% increase in funding from central government.

Additional funding was available for expenditure in repairing potholes.

It was reported that the bridleway 16 to Umberleigh was in a bad state of repair. It was noted that the bridleway was cleared some years ago. Cllr Edgell to pursue. It was agreed that the clerk should also request attention.

178. Highways

1. It was reported that traffic lights had been placed on the A377. It was agreed to enquire into the reason.
2. Cllr Weeks reported that Highways had visited and had looked at the problem areas, but had made to promises as to what would be done. Grass etc had been only been removed from immediately in front of the gratings, which was a waste of time. Clerk to report.
3. No response had been received regarding water at Hightown.
4. The blocked drains on Barnstaple Hill had been cleared.
5. It was noted that the HGV sign in the village was still not in place.

179. District Council

Cllr Cook reported that North Devon Council within budget. As with the County council, North Devon Council had not raised the Council Tax, and would consequently be receiving an additional 2.5% funding. North Devon Council and Torrridge District Council were combining their planning departments. He thanked the Parish Council for all the support he had received during his years as District Councillor. He was unsure if he would be able to attend the next meeting, so it was likely that this would be his last meeting.

180. Neighbourhood Watch

It was reported that there were instances of oil being stolen from tanks. Under no circumstances should anyone disclose their bank details to callers or in response to emails.

181. Planning

1. Applications:

51449 Erection of 10 dwellings with garages, access road & village parking at Bonds Farm, Atherington.

Mr Buswell, the developer, reported that SWW had advised that the local sewerage plant only had enough spare capacity for 5 dwellings, and that the remaining properties would be connected to an Eco-digester. He was hopeful that the Environment Agency would grant a permit for this. Concern was expressed that the outfall from the digester would flow into the dyke, which was already almost full to capacity in the winter. Despite the provision of 3 retention tanks to reduce the flow into the dyke it was feared that it would flood. It was thought that the use of digesters were not suitable for the centre of village location.

Consultations were continuing with the Exeter Diocese and DCC regarding ownership of the roadside strip of land. DCC had confirmed that the land was maintained at public expense.

It had been confirmed that there was no problem with the electricity supply to this part of the village. Concern was expressed over the height of the three storey dwellings and the impact on neighbouring properties.

It was resolved that, due to the problems with the sewerage, not to make a recommendation at this stage. As any change to the sewerage treatment was considered to be a major amendment to the submitted plans, it was agreed to request that the parish should be reconsulted on the amended plans.

51845 Listed building application for insertion of replacement double glazed window at Chapel Cottage, Atherington.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions: None.

182. Finance

1. Current Balance

Business A/c £1653.87

Business 30 Day A/c £5746.98

2. Payments:

Clerk's Salary & expenses £127.42 Cheque No. 532

The account was approved for payment.

183. Review of Standing Orders

Deferred to the next meeting.

184. Amenities.

Cllr Domleo reported that the base of the Victorian lamp was crumbling. Despite assurances being given that the base would be sealed, this had not yet been done. It was considered that the work done had been a waste of public money, and that it should have been completely rebuilt.

185. Church Hall

No report received.

186. Playing Field

Cllr Domleo reported that progress to the pavilion was continuing. It was hoped to complete the fixing of the roofing sheets at the weekend. The group was aiming to meeting the requirements of the funders. It was agreed that meetings of the Parish Council should continue to be held in the church until further notice.

187. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that nomination forms for the forthcoming Parish Council election were available. Other circulars were noted.

188. Matters Arising at the Chairman's discretion.

1. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Wilson for her work whilst serving as a parish councillor.
2. It was reported that there was a tree in the river, against the bridge, at Umberleigh. Clerk to report to Environment Agency.

189. Date of next meeting: 19 April 2011, 7:30pm at St Marys Church.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10:00pm.