

ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Atherington at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs W White (Chairman), A Boyce, J Frayne M Milton, Ms C Norman and Mrs D Thiele.

In attendance: 6 parishioners, County Councillor R Edgell, Parish Clerk.

128. Police Report

None received.

129. Matters Raised by the Public

It was reported that a parishioner was throwing dog excrement into a culvert adjacent to their property. It was agreed that this was not a parish council matter, and that the neighbour should report the matter to Environmental Health.

130. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Weeks.

131. Declarations of Interest

None.

132. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 19 November 2013

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

133. Matters Arising from the meetings

Min. 119. No further information had been received regarding the manhole cover at The Sawmills. It was thought that this may receive attention when patching work was undertaken.

134. County Council

Cllr R Edgell reported that DCC was currently looking at where savings could be made. Funding to the County Council had been cut by £100m during the past four years. A further £100m would need to be made during the coming three years.

A modest amount of councillor grant was available for community projects.

135. Highways

It was reported that the big pipe under the road at Easter Hill was still blocked, resulting in water flowing across the road, which could become very dangerous in cold weather.

It was also reported that the middle gully in the lay-by was blocked.

The top gully on Barnstaple Hill was blocked, which also resulted in water flowing across the road.

The blocked drain at Eastacombe had still not been cleared.

The damaged bollards at Bonds Farm had not been repaired. It was noted that these would need resetting.

Traffic lights were still in place on the A377 near Umberleigh, almost 12 months after being erected.

It was reported that the road surface at Langridge Ford was in a poor condition.

136. District Council

Cllr White reported that funding to North Devon Council was being cut by 6% for 2014/2015.

137. Conservation Area Land

Cllr Edgell explained that DCC could be deemed to own the land, as it had rented it to the parish council, and ownership had not been contested.

It was agreed to contact the legal department at DCC to enquire if they would be willing to transfer ownership to the parish council. Cllr Boyce proposed that the letter written to the parish council by Mr Riley be forwarded to the County Solicitor, together with a covering letter. Seconded by Cllr White. All in agreement. Cllr Boyce and Mr Riley to draft the letter.

138. Replacement bench at top of Rock Hill

An offer of a replacement bench for the top of Rock Hill had been received from the family of the late Charlie Simpson.

It was agreed to accept the offer, noting that the parish council would not be responsible for the bench. It was agreed to suggest that the bench should be secured.

139. Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing to report.

140. Planning

1. Applications:

56777 Removal of condition 3 (time restriction) attached to planning permission 49680 to allow continued siting of agricultural workers dwelling Quiet Waters Atherington

It was resolved to respond stating that the parish council was unable to judge the economic viability of the business without access to figures. This council is therefore unable to comment.

56805 Subdivision of property to provide an additional residential unit, repairs to the roof together with internal alterations & repairs Umberleigh Barton Farm Umberleigh

56806 Listed building application for subdivision of property to provide an additional residential unit, repairs to the roof together with internal alterations & repairs. Umberleigh Barton Farm Umberleigh

It was resolved to recommend approval. It was considered that the repairs to the roof was the best way to preserve the Grade 1 listed building.

2. Decision – approval:

56523 Listed building application for replacement of windows at Mole Cottage Atherington

141. Finance

1. Payments:

Mr A Boyce – reimbursement for rent of land	£ 30.00	Cheque No. 620
Clark’s Salary & Expenses	£127.40	Cheque No. 621

The two accounts were approved for payment.

142. Playing Field

Fields in Trust had confirmed receipt of the signed Deeds of Dedication for the Playing Field. It would be necessary to register the land with the Land Registry and forward a copy to Fields in Trust.

A number of events were planned for the coming weeks.

There was a possibility of using the TAP Fund for fencing, in partnership with Chittlehampton. This was agreed.

143. Correspondence

1. A letter had been received from Atherington PCC requesting an increased annual grant of £500 towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard. This was agreed.
2. DCC had advised a Road Closure from Bonds Farm to Andrews Park, 29 January – 7 February
3. DCC had advised a Road Closure from Eastacombe Farm to Ashley Manor 11 – 14 February
4. Devon Libraries had advised that following consultation the proposals to change the Mobile Library Service from a two weekly to a four weekly service had been agreed. This would commence in April. Details of the day and time was awaited,
5. North Devon Council advised that the deadline date for applications for the TAP Fund for 2013/14 was 28 February.
6. The application form for the 2014 Best Kept Village Competition had been received.
7. DALC were seeking Chairman of Town and Parish Councils to be nominated to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 10 June. It was agreed to nominate Cllr and Mrs Boyce.

8. DALC advised that the deadline for applications for anyone to become a trustee of Healthwatch Devon was 7 February.
9. The latest edition of Healthwatch Voices had been received.

144. Matters Arising at the Chairman's discretion.

There was no further information available regarding the future of Torrington Hospital.

The next meeting with NWF would be at Wixland on Friday at 11am.

The results of speed checks taken with a speed gun around the village had been collated. These would be presented at the March meeting of the Highways Committee.

145. Date of next meeting: 18 February 2014

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.