

ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20 August 2013 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Atherington at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: 7 parishioners, County Councillor R Edgell, PC Adrian Micallif, PCSO Rick Napier, Parish Clerk.

61. Police Report

PCSO Rick Napier reported that during the past month four calls had been received by the police which had generated an incident log: 1 Domestic related; 1 Anti-Social Behaviour; 1 Criminal damage; 1 Intel submission.

One crime complaint had been recorded during the same period – criminal damage, which had been detected.

There were no crime trends, but quad bikes thefts were still occurring across the area.

62. Matters Raised by the Public

1. Mr Kneil reported that he had spoken to another member of the Amenities Group, and that they had agreed that the money remaining in the account should be given to the PCC to be used towards the cost of repairing the pillar of the Victorian lamp. He had been unaware that this had been discussed in 2010.
2. It was reported that Western Power Distribution had trimmed the grass bank. It was not known who had requested this to be done.
3. Minute 34.3 of the June meeting had omitted to record that the Planning Enforcement report referred to Quiet Waters. Minutes to be amended.
4. No update had been received regarding Bonds Farm.
5. It was reported that the Safer Atherington Streets group had met in connection with the 20mph campaign. Flyers would be distributed in the village and the petition launched at the end of September. Signs would be erected at strategic points.

A meeting held at Wixland had been very useful.

6. Great concern was raised over the proposal to close beds at Torrington Hospital. Cllr White reported that Nick Harvey MP had requested full details.

Torrige District Council and North Devon council had requested that the plans be put on hold until further consultation had been held.

It was resolved to write to Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust opposing the proposed closures. It was noted that community hospitals serve a vital role in aiding the recovery of patients. Copy of letter to be sent to Western Morning News; North Devon Journal; North Devon Gazette, MPs for North Devon and Torrige, and the Steering Group. It was also agreed to urge other parish councils to oppose the closure.

It was reported that Trust members had not been made aware of the proposal. It was agreed to enquire from the Chief Executive why members had not been informed, despite promises that they would be informed of any proposals/decisions prior to a public announcement.

63. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Weeks

64. Declarations of Interest

None.

65. Approval of Minutes of meetings held on 16 & 23 July 2013

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

66. Matters Arising from the meetings

Min. 44. It was reported that Drunken Pit Lane was still overgrown, and had not been cleared as reported at the previous meeting.

Min. 46. The grass at Umberleigh Bridge had not been cut and was still obstructing visibility. DCC had advised that they would inspect the problem, but nothing further had been heard.

Min. 56. The date was amended to Tuesday 20 August.

67. County Council

Cllr Edgell reported that the County Council was freezing Council Tax for another two years, although the government were only making a grant of 1% to councils that did not increase the tax. This meant that DCC would need to increase Council Tax in future years.

Although DCC was responsible for the section of River Taw immediately under the bridge, the Environment Agency was responsible for flood issues at Umberleigh.

He suggested that Umberleigh School may be a suitable recipient for the TAP Fund, in conjunction with Brayford Parish Council. It was agreed to discuss the TAP Fund at the next meeting.

Cllr Edgell explained the Rural Fair Share petition, and distributed petition forms.

68. Highways

It was reported that there was water on the road at Langridge Ford – on the right hand side from Atherington.

69. District Council

Cllr White reported that finances were very tight for North Devon Council. Closer working with Torridge District Council were being explored as a means to save money.

70. Neighbourhood Watch Nothing to report.

71. Planning

1. **Applications:** None.

2. **Decisions** - approval:

55937 Listed building application to amend listed building consent 50902 in respect of retaining existing kitchen window, no first floor addition or roof lights to garage, relocation of utility room to new outbuilding & removal of wc from kitchen at White Hart House Atherington

72. Finance

1. **Payments:**

Clark's Salary & Expenses £132.80 Cheque No. 611

Atherington PCC £189.00 Cheque No. 612

The two accounts were approved for payment.

73. Amenities.

It was agreed to remove 'Amenities' from future agendas unless a specific item was to be discussed.

74. Playing Field

The Playing Field Committee had suggested registering the Playing Field with Fields in Trust. To enable this to be done it would be necessary for the Parish Council to register the Playing Field with the Land Registry.

It was agreed to circulate the Fields in Trust documentation for councillors to study before the next meeting.

Cllr Frayne left the meeting.

75. Review of Standing Orders

Deferred to the next meeting.

76. Correspondence

1. A request had been received that the council's minute books be made available for the Public Inquire in November for the Conservation Area. This was agreed.

2. It had been requested that the Clerk arrange for a bank account for the Atherington Conservation Area be set up. This was agreed.

77. Matters Arising at the Chairman's discretion. None.

78. Date of next meeting: 17 September 2013

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:40pm.