

ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2012 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Atherington at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs W White (Chairman), A Boyce, R Domleo, M Milton, J Umpleby and G Weeks.

In attendance: 13 parishioners, PCSO Rick Napier, Parish Clerk.

151. Matters Raised by the Public/Police Report

- Statements had been received from two parishioners regarding the planning application for the development at Bonds Farm, which had recently been considered by the Planning Committee at North Devon Council. Both statements were read to the meeting, and are appended to the minutes, although it was noted that this was not normally parish council policy.
- Cllr Domleo referred to the last meeting, when his role on the parish council with the developer had been criticised. Despite requests, he had not received an apology. He had contacted the District Council solicitor, and had been surprised to learn that the District Council could not become involved, as the accusation had come from a member of the public, and not a councillor.
It was noted that no accusation had been made that Cllr Domleo had been working for the developer, or that he had anything to gain by planning approval being granted.
- Concern was expressed over councillors claiming to be acting for the parish council, including calls to NDC regarding the Bonds Farm application.
- Concerns were expressed over the suggestion made that members of the public should not be able to express their views at parish council meetings.
It was noted that none of the councillors had any objection to members of the public speaking at the beginning of the meeting, noting that it was not in the council's best interest not to allow parishioners to speak.
- Thanks were expressed over the way that Cllr White had chaired the meetings.
- It was noted that villagers supported Mr & Mrs Street, and were sorry that they were leaving the village.
- The lack of gritting on Easter Hill during the recent bad weather was noted.
- In answer to a question it was noted that the Snow Warden scheme had not been pursued due to the lack of suitable storage for the salt.

PCSO Rick Napier reported that only one crime in the Atherington area had been reported during the past month – non payment for petrol.

He had conducted a speed check in the village over a 45 minute period. The average speed recorded had been 30.26mph, with speeds ranging between 23 – 37 mph. he would conduct further checks shortly.

He would make enquiries into the promised Community Speedwatch

Regarding the problems experienced with some cars speeding through the village, and the use by large vehicles, he suggested contacting MPC Mark Goulding, the Road Casualty Reduction Officer, to invite him to a meeting. This was agreed.

He was happy to speak to motorists who were found to be causing an obstruction by parking on the pavements.

Although not a particular problem in Atherington, thefts of tool, plant and livestock had been recorded in the area.

152. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ms C Norman and County Councillor R Edgell.

153. Declarations of Interest

None.

154. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 17 January 2012

Min. 144. The last sentence of the fifth paragraph relating to planning application 51449 was amended to read 'He strongly refuted the accusation that he had been working too closely with the developer.

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

155. Matters Arising from the meeting

The Ambulance Service would attend the next meeting.

Min. 144. It was stressed that there had been no suggestions that Cllr Domleo had acted dishonestly in his dealings in connection with the Bonds Farm application.

Cllr Domleo stated that he had acted in the way that he had in order to iron out any problems.

156. County Council No report – County Councillor not present.

157. Highways

Cllr Milton reported that he had been in contact with Mr Wines from Highways. Some of the drains had been cleared, others would receive attention when funding was available.

The drains on Easter Hill had been cleared, which should prevent icing in the future.

The lack of gritting during the recent cold weather was reported. Clerk to enquire if there had been any changes to the gritting routes.

It was reported that some of the hedges had not been cut on the Torrington road.

It was agreed to request a 'No Entry' sign on exit slip of the B3227 at the junction with the A361.

158. District Council

Cllr White reported that the council was expected to set its Council Tax the next day.

159. Neighbourhood Watch Nothing to report.

160. Planning

The Chairman reported that he understood the local sewerage works was not in South West Water's current upgrade programme. He was hoping that the matter would be discussed at the next Executive Meeting of North Devon Council.

1. Applications:

53499 Erection of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic panel array (2 rows, 29.76kW) with associated equipment at Umberleigh House, Umberleigh.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

2. Decisions

51845 Chapel Cottage, Atherington. Appeal Dismissed.

161. Finance**1. Payments:**

1. Clark's salary	£125.00		
Expenses	£ 2.76	£127.76	Cheque No. 561

The account was approved for payment.

162. Amenities. Nothing to report.

163. Church Hall Nothing to report.

164. Playing Field

It was noted that the floor had almost been completed.

A number of events were being planned, being careful not to clash with the flower festival in the church.

It was hoped to receive the VAT refund shortly.

165. Correspondence

Details of the Playing Field committee had been received.

Various other circulars and periodicals were noted.

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

167. Date of next meeting: 20 March 2012

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.