

# **ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2012 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Atherington at 7.30pm.

Before the meeting started Mrs Squire was presented with a glass bowl and a bouquet of flowers in recognition of serving on the parish council for 44 years, and for her dedication to the parish.

**Present:** Cllrs W White, A Boyce, M Milton, Ms C Norman and J Umpleby.

**In attendance:** 14 parishioners, County Councillor R Edgell, Parish Clerk.

## **1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

### **1. Chairman**

Cllr White was proposed by Cllr Umpleby, seconded by Cllr Milton. There being no further nominations, and with all councillors in favour, Cllr White was elected Chairman.

### **2. Vice Chairman**

Cllr Umpleby was proposed by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Boyce, all in agreement. There being no further nominations Cllr Umpleby was elected Vice Chairman.

## **2. Police Report**

A written report from PCSO Rick Napier was read to the meeting:

During the past month 1 call had been made to police in total generating an incident log:- 1x Failure to pay for fuel One crime complaint had been generated – Suspect arrested and charged to court

With regard to the Community Speed Watch, a date for an update meeting was to be agreed with Mr Hart and the other potential members of the proposed group. This was ongoing

Crime trends within North Devon were the theft of fuel, metal, plant machinery, quad bikes, and gas bottles (large calor type)

## **3. Matters Raised by the Public**

It was reported that a coffee Morning organised by Mr & Mrs Boyce had raised £250 towards the cost of Jubilee mugs for the children. Together with the mugs that had been sold, the purchase price of £340 had almost been met.

Mrs Squire thanked everyone for the evening, which had been a complete surprise to her.

Cllr Boyce reported on a phone call he had had with the Operations Director at North West Farmers. He had mentioned the regular occurrence of lorries passing through the village late at night, and the other problems being experienced.

It was agreed to write to NWF again noting that the matter had been raised again, and that the council were looking forward to them attending the next meeting.

It was noted that the company's transport licence was due for renewal at the end of March, when it was possible that they would be looking to increase the number of units operating from the site.

## **4. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Domleo.

## **5. Declarations of Interest**

None.

## **6. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 17 April 2012**

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

## **7. Matters Arising from the meetings**

Min. 187. In answer to a question, Cllr White reported that he had acted on advice received from the North Devon Council solicitor, and that there had been no change in the advice received, which was that the letter should not be discussed.

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## **8. County Council**

Cllr R Edgell reported that for the third year DCC had not increased the Council Tax, although the police and fire service had had an increase in their share. As a result of this DCC had received a 2.5% one-off payment from central government amounting to £8.15m

The County Council's Vacancy Management Policy had resulted in a reduction of 2300 staff, which had helped to enable the Council Tax to be frozen.

He had been pleased to be able to support the Pavilion by awarding it some Ward funding, and was looking forward to attending the opening.

Cllr Umpleby left the meeting.

## **9. Highways**

It was reported that the bollard outside the shop had not been repaired.

The trench on Barnstaple Hill had not been filled. Cllr Edgell reported that he had spoken to Highways, and had been advised that it was on the list to receive attention.

A blocked drain opposite Lower Moor Copse was reported.

## **10. District Council**

Cllr White reported that a new Code of Conduct was being prepared by North Devon Council. This should be published by the end of the summer.

### **11. Neighbourhood Watch**

It was reported that men claiming to be from the 'water company' had been knocking on doors to gain access to properties, and to steal money. Parishioners were warned to be caution when answering the door.

### **12. Planning**

#### **1. Applications:**

53796 Erection of temporary agricultural workers dwelling at Apple Tree Farm, High Bickington  
Owing to the absence of a Viability Statement and the lack of construction details, it was agreed to defer making a recommendation, and to request further information from the Planning Department.

53856 Erection of covered yard at Furze Down Farm, Umberleigh

**It was resolved** to recommend approval.

53857 Erection of covered yard for agricultural purposes at Little Weir, Umberleigh

**It was resolved** to recommend approval.

**2. Decisions:** None received.

### **13. Finance**

#### **1. Adoption of Accounts**

Copies of the balance sheet for 2011/2012 were circulated to councillors. These were agreed as a true record of the council's financial affairs.

#### **2. Completion of Audit Return**

The 2012 Audit Return was agreed and signed.

#### **3. Receipt**

North Devon Council - 50% Grant & Precept: £2437.

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#### **4. Payments:**

1. Insurance renewal

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote from Came & Co for £1500, as opposed to the original quote from Aon for £2405. The quote from NFU Mutual had only included the Pavilion. It was agreed to contact them again before making a decision. Cllr Ms Norman to contact. It was agreed that the lowest quote should be accepted, provided that it provided adequate cover.

*Note: NFU Mutual subsequently declined to quote for cover for the parish council, stating that they were only able to provide cover for the Pavilion. It was agreed to accept the quote from Came & Co for £1500.*

2. D Jones & Son – grass cutting £ 44.00 Cheque No.566

3. Clark's salary £125.00

Expenses £ 2.40 £127.40 Cheque No.567

The two accounts were approved for payment.

### **14. Playing Field Protection Policy**

Councillors had received a copy of the Protection Policy. All were in agreement that it should be adopted without change.

### **15. Amenities.**

It was noted that Cllr Umpleby was trying to locate the missing key for the notice board.

### **16. Church Hall**

Nothing to report.

### **17. Playing Field**

It was reported that everything was in hand for the opening at the beginning of June.

Thanks were expressed to everyone involved in the recent Coffee Morning which had been held to raise money for the purchase of Jubilee mugs.

### **18. Correspondence**

Notification of a road closure on the B3217 between Bonds Farm and Andrews Park on 5 July had been received from Highways.

The latest Chumleigh College newsletter had been received.

### **19. Matters Arising at the Chairman's discretion.**

It was reported that 3 people had expressed an interest in being trained to use the defibrillator. At least two more volunteers were required. A training session would be held at High Bickington on 21 May.

A location would need to be found for the cabinet.

It was noted that Chittlehampton Parish Council were still willing to contribute half of the cost for a defibrillator for Umberleigh.

**20. Date of next meeting:** 19 June 2012, in the Church Hall.

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

