

# ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 May 2013 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Atherington at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllrs W White, A Boyce, J Frayne, M Milton, Ms C Norman and Mrs D Thiele (until item 4).

**In attendance:** 7 parishioners, County Councillor R Edgell, Parish Clerk, Mrs J Watkins, Mr D Smith.

## 1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

### Chairman.

Cllr White was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Boyce, seconded by Cllr Ms Norman. All in agreement.

### Vice Chairman

Cllr Boyce was proposed by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Ms Norman. All in agreement.

## 2. Presentation on Planning Matters – Mrs Jean Watkins & Mr Don Smith

The Chairman introduced Mrs Watkins, Lead Officer South Molton, and Mr Smith, Senior Planning Officer at North Devon Council.

Mrs Watkins reported that both North Devon and Torridge District Councils were looking at combining the two planning departments. A joint head of the two departments, Kate Little, was already in place. A shared service was in its early stages, with a lot still to be done.

She explained that there were a lot of items that could not be taken into account when considering a planning application. Nevertheless, it was important for the planning department to know what was not acceptable to parishes.

Applications were normally decided by the planning officer under delegated powers, unless the district Councillor put in a request for it to be put before the planning committee.

Planning Enforcement was a big concern, but it was a discretionary power, the outcome of which an applicant had the right to appeal.

Developers could request the planning department to revisit the provision of affordable dwellings. If this was the case the parish council would be consulted.

She explained that it was possible for a parish council to request to be consulted over applications in neighbouring parishes, especially when it was felt that an application would impact on the parish. She noted that it was not possible to refuse an application on traffic issues. She explained the reasons why recommendations for refusal from Highways were often not upheld.

Mrs Watkins and Mr Smith answered questions from councillors and the public.

The Chairman thanked them both for attending the meeting to explain the various aspects of the planning system.

## 3. Future Plans for Umberleigh School

The chairman introduced Mr Day, Parent Governor at Umberleigh School.

Mr Day reported that Umberleigh School was proposing to federate with Brayford Primary School. This would result in financial savings for both schools as it would mean the sharing of head teacher, governors and resources. This would help to secure the future of both schools, which were very similar in size. Both schools had already been working together for 6-7 months, and had proved to be a great benefit to pupils. A good video link between the schools had meant that it was possible to share lessons. A formal vote for parents would take place on 10 June.

It was agreed to support the principle for the schools to federate.

Cllr Mrs D Thiele left the meeting.

## 4. Police Report

None received.

## 5. Matters Raised by the Public

It was reported that the new bench had not been received. Clerk to make enquiries.

## 6. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Weeks.

**7. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr White declared an interest in Agenda Item 20.

**8. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 16 April 2013**

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

**9. Matters Arising from the last meeting**

The Clerk reported that HSBC Bank were unable to help regarding the Conservation Area Committee bank account without the appropriate Sort Code and Account No.

**10. County Council**

Cllr R Edgell reported that the Councillor Community Grants would be continuing, as would be the TAP Fund.

**11. Highways**

It was reported that the traffic lights at Millwood Terrace were still in place. Cllr Edgell explained the procedure and why it often took a long time before any work was seen to take place.

It was reported that the grass at the junction with the A377 needed cutting.

It was noted that Drunken Pit Lane was not a public footpath or bridlepath.

**12. District Council**

Nothing to report.

**13. Neighbourhood Watch**

Nothing to report.

**14. Planning**

**1. Applications:** None received.

**2. Decisions – Approval:**

55398 & 55399 Installation of biomass boiler & ancillary equipment together with laying of district heating main at Umberleigh House, Umberleigh

**15. Finance**

**1. Adoption of Accounts 2012-2013**

The accounts were agreed as a true record of the council's financial affairs 2012-2013.

**2. Completion of Annual Return**

Deferred to the next meeting.

**3. Receipt:** 50% Grant & Precept £2542.60

**4. Payments:**

1. Mr K Abraham – Audit	£ 125.00	Cheque No. 603
2. Came & Co – insurance	£1541.14	Cheque No. 604
3. Clark's Salary & Expenses	£ 127.40	Cheque No. 605
4. Mr A Boyce reimbursement for payment made re electrics for defibrillator.	£ 111.00	Cheque No. 606

It was resolved to defer payment of Mr Abraham's account due to there being a 108% increase in the cost over the previous year. This increase had not been advised, or any explanation given.

The three other accounts were approved for payment.

It was agreed to review the insurance at the March meeting.

**16. Amenities.**

Nothing to report.

**17. Playing Field**

It was reported that the climbing frame was due to be repainted.

**18. Correspondence**

- 1. Barnstaple Town Council advised details of an Environment School being held on 22 June.
- 2. DCC advised of an Temporary Order to prevent a right turn at the bottom of Chantry Hill on 7 August, due to the North Devon Show.
- 3. Details of the revised bus service had been received from DCC.

**19. Matters Arising at the Chairman’s discretion.**

- 1. Victorian Lamp. It was agreed to make enquiries into whether a donation towards the repair costs had been made by the Amenities Committee.
- 2. A report of the first meeting of the reformed Conservation Area Committee was received. The elected officers were: Chairman, Mr T Riley; Secretary, Mrs L Riley; Treasurer, Mrs A Umpleby.
- 3. A report was received from Safer Atherington Streets was received detailing activities during the past year. Details were given regarding recent problems encountered when two silos were being delivered to Wixland. It was noted that insufficient time had been given for the large load to have received police permission for the route used.

**20. North Devon Local Plan**

Cllr White declared an interest and left the meeting.

Cllr Frayne had produced a report of the Open Day, which had been attended by 30 parishioners. It was agreed to retain a Development Boundary, making a change in the South East of the village. It had been noted that two sites had previously been identified for possible building. It was noted that North West Farmers was a major employer in the area.

It was agreed that Cllr Frayne would use the report to submit a response to North Devon Council by the June 1 deadline.

**21. Date of next meeting: 18 June 2013**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....