

ATHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2011 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Atherington at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs W White (Chairman), A Boyce, R Domleo, M Milton (item 124 only) and Ms C Norman,

In attendance: 13 parishioners, County Councillor R Edgell, Parish Clerk.

117. Community Defibrillator

Ian Knight Acting Senior Community Engagement Manager, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Mr Knight was not present at the meeting

118. Matters Raised by the Public/Police Report

It was reported that Wixland lorries were still not operating the one way system despite assurances being given in the planning application. This stated that vehicles travelling to Wixland would use the High Bickington road, and would leave by the Atherington road. **It was resolved** to invite the transport manager to the next meeting.

It was noted that the sign at Umberleigh had been removed from the wall, leaving a small sign on a post which was partially obscured by vegetation.

A complaint was received that despite assurances from the police, after 2 years no progress had been made regarding Community Speedwatch in the village. **It was resolved** to write a letter of complaint to the police.

119. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Umpleby

120. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boyce declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 51449.

121. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 18 October 2011

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

122. Matters Arising from the meetings

Min. 106. Cllr Edgell reported that he had been in contact with Highways, and was awaiting a response. **It was resolved** to write to David Wines requesting that a sign be placed where originally requested – facing the High Bickington road.

123. County Council

Cllr R Edgell reported that the Leader of Devon County Council had now almost completed his tour of the county. The only remaining venue in the north was at Torrington on Thursday evening.

Cllr Milton joined the meeting.

124. Highways

It was not known if any progress had been made with the Snow Warden scheme as Cllr Weeks was not present.

Cllr Milton reported that some of the blocked drains were due to be jetted. The drain on Easter Hill had been cleared but was now blocked again.

Cllr Milton left the meeting.

125. District Council

Cllr White had nothing further to report.

126. Neighbourhood Watch

It was reported that metal thefts continued to rise. Farm machinery, including old tractors, were being targeted.

127. Planning

1. Applications:

51449 Erection of 10 dwellings (5 affordable) with new access and residential access road (amended description, amended plans & information) at Bonds Farm, Atherington

Cllr Boyce declared a prejudicial interest, and after stating his observations left the meeting whilst the application was considered.

Letters were read from a neighbour, the developer, Housing Enabling Officer and Positive Development Trust.

It was noted that the letter from Positive Development Trust stated that the Ward Member and the Parish Council had asked for its views. The Chairman confirmed that no such requests had been made.

In accepting some of the views stated, Cllr Boyce wished it to be put on record that he had no prior knowledge of the letter.

Concern was expressed that the bedroom windows of the proposed terraced properties were higher, and looked down on those of properties in Tray Lane.

Cllr Domleo considered that the financial details of the proposed development were not relevant in considering the application. The Parish Council had expressed a need for affordable homes in the village, which had led to the present site being the only one that was available. He agreed that whilst it was not a perfect scheme, it did have a lot of merit. He felt strongly that the parish council should support the application. He agreed that there had been points raised that needed addressing.

The Parish Council was urged to consider young families wishing to stay in the village when making its decision. It was noted that more people with needs for affordable homes were now coming forward.

Concern was expressed that planning applications had been submitted before both exhibitions that had been termed as public consultations.

Councillors agreed that, if planning consent be given, the ownership of the 'Green' should be transferred to the parish.

It was noted that parishioners would feel much happier if a lower number of houses were planned.

No commitment had been received from SWW to increase the capacity of the sewerage works.

Concern over road safety was expressed, and that the proposed entrance was too close to other junctions, and that there was a need to reduce the speed of traffic.

Cllr Boyce expressed his views that councillors attending the meeting of the Planning Committee should speak for themselves, and not claim to be speaking for the parish council.

It was agreed that Permitted Development rights for the property close to Meadow Bank and St Kitts should be withdrawn to prevent any future extension that would be detrimental to existing properties.

It was agreed that whilst the parish council fully supported the provision of homes for young families in the village, there were still a number of issues which needed to be resolved.

It was resolved to make a response to the planning officer stating:

- The Parish Council supports in principle the provision of affordable homes in the village, but there were serious concerns over certain unresolved aspects.
- The site adjacent to Meadow Bank and St Kitts needs to be revisited with a view of reducing the roof level to reduce its impact.
- The bedroom windows of the proposed terrace overlook those of existing neighbouring properties. The present high hedge/trees currently screen the properties.
- To increase safety a 20mph speed limit should be introduced.
- The Planning committee should have formal written legal advice regarding South West Water's responsibilities for sewerage provision. The current system is already at full capacity and resulting in flooding after heavy rain.

It was resolved to send a copy of the minutes to Colin Savage and Dennis Buswell.

2. Decisions - Approval

52822 Listed building application for internal alterations together with re-roofing of utility room at Mole Cottage, Atherington.

128. Finance

A letter from the Leader of North Devon Council was read which explained that the phasing out of the parish grant over the next three years was being considered. Cllr Edgell explained that the grant had been introduced in 1974 when NDC was formed, to assist parishes in providing for local amenities.

It was resolved to write a strong letter to NDC opposing any phasing out of the grant.

1. Setting of Precept & Grant for 2012/2013

In view of the fact that the outcome of NDC's review of the Grant, **it was proposed** to request the maximum amount - £2.00 per elector.

It was agreed to review the Precept at the next meeting.

2. Setting of Budget 2012/2013

Deferred to the next meeting.

3. Payments:

1. Clark's salary	£125.00		
Expenses	£ 3.22	£128.22	Cheque No. 555
2. ACPF – 2 nd 50% of Grant		£200.00	Cheque No. 556

The two accounts were approved for payment.

129. Amenities.

No report received.

130. Church Hall

No report received.

131. Playing Field

In response to a question, Cllr White agreed to make enquiries into the position of the new pavilion with regard to possible rating by North Devon Council.

132. Correspondence

Various circulars were noted.

133. Matters Arising at the Chairman's discretion.

The chairman noted that nothing had been done regarding the provision of a disabled parking space outside the Old Post Office. It was agreed that a sign requesting that the space be kept clear may be more appropriate.

134. Date of next meeting:

17 January 2012

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm.