

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 7 December 2009

PRESENT: Chair: Cllr Pepper

Cllr Arthurs, Cllr Barling, Cllr Button, Cllr Davidson, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Massey, Cllr Rylance, Cllr Stiff and Cllr Wardle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Bowden (DCC), PC Cavin and clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1

OPEN FORUM

Police, County & District Council reports were given.

PC Cavin requested that all councillors sign up to Community Messaging (our PCO's Key Individual network System).

MEETING CONVENED WITH STANDING ORDERS

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Henshaw and Mr P Smart (NT) sent their apologies.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr Button (Member of the Development Management Cttee) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 6; this declaration was duly entered in the Register of Interests.

3 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING: 2 November 2009**

The draft minutes were amended to record: Cllr Mary Stiff as Secretary of the Gardening Club) then **Cllr Arthurs proposed and Cllr Stiff seconded that they be accepted as a correct record; all agreed and they were signed.**

4 **CLERK'S REPORT** - updates and matters arising

- ♦ Noticeboards: Sports Pavilion door was broken but not worth paying the excess on insurance to claim. Cllr Arthurs proposed this be repaired, seconded by Cllr Stiff and agreed. Station Road should have a replacement notice board for the New Year, as previously agreed.
- ♦ Annual Parish Meeting 2010: Council has an offer from South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust to speak about its work, particularly with reference to First Responders in the community; Broadclyst currently only has one covering the parish. SWAST will be invited to give a talk/presentation at the APM.

5 **FINANCE**

- a) Cllr Massey proposed acceptance of monthly financial report, seconded by Cllr Stiff and agreed. The grant cheque for Gardening Club will be raised for January.
- b) Finalising and acceptance of : Budget & Precept 2010-2011
The draft budget proposed to raise the annual precept by £635, to £37,135. The Council aims to maintain the precept at or close to the 2009-2010 figure of £36,500; to serve the parishioners' best interests over the next 2 years, the following points were discussed.
 - The 2009-2010 precept was slightly lower than the previous year. The precept was raised in 2008-2009 to bring the PC's reserves up to the level requested by the Audit Commission and to adequately cover maintenance costs for the public toilets.
 - The Council has helped improve community facilities over these last 2 years, and intends to maintain this level of support.
 - Options were discussed to reduce the 2010-2011 budget to £36,500, but it was not deemed prudent.

Cllr Button proposed the Precept for 2010-2011 be set at £37,135; this was seconded by Cllr Elkins and put to the vote: for 9 and against 1 – this precept was accepted.

- c) Responsible Finance Officer to offer financial training to councillors who wish this, in the New Year.

6 PLANNING

Cllr Button, declaring an interest, left the meeting.

a) New Applications

Application No.	Location	Application Details	PC comments
09/2097/FUL	Pippins, Lane to Westerly	Construction of a new dwelling & associated access	SUPPORTED, although there was not unanimous agreement that the style was in keeping, suggesting an urban look.
09/2205/LBC 09/2207/FUL	Red Lion Inn	Conversion works to form replacement manager's flat and change of existing flat to additional guest letting room.	The Council are not opposed to the conversion in principal, but are concerned that replacing old timber doors with a window will change the historic character of the frontage; a window overlooking the church entrance may afford less privacy for weddings and funeral groups.
09/2229/FUL	16 Maple Road	Construction of 1 st floor side extension + window to serve loft conversion.	SUPPORTED
09/2254/LBC	Little Churchill Whimple	Revised design to existing application	SUPPORTED
09/2275/FUL	Clapp Mill Farm	Agricultural building construction	SUPPORTED
09/2318/FUL	Martinsfield Farm	Agricultural building construction	SUPPORTED

- b) LDF: consultation on an option for urban extension to Exeter at Blackhorse/Redhayes
- Deadline for comments 14 December 2009
 - The following response agreed:

East Devon LDF – response to a further urban extension of Exeter (Option 4)

Broadclyst PC has considered the further optional locations for additional dwellings, but rejects both options 4 & 4a for the following reasons:

1. It lacks local facilities and transport links in place.
2. It relies on utilising existing school places at both primary and secondary level until the proposed new schools at Cranbrook are online; even then additional school provision would have to be planned for this urban extension.
3. The Cranbrook new-build schools are not a certainty, nor can a date be estimated for their delivery in the present economic climate.
4. Proposals to concrete an area of this size on part of an existing flood plain would inevitably exacerbate the flooding problems of recent years; a meteorologist advises us that historical evidence referring to the chance of flooding as 1 in 1,000 "using historical data is no longer valid in a changing climate". In deed the 0.1% chance can be misleading, as this floodplain area has experienced such a flood (Ottery St Mary) in the last year; more recently, Cumbria has experienced a 1 in 1,000 flood – 2 such chances within 12 months.

Cllr Button returned to the meeting. Cllr Bowden left the meeting.

7 IT and MEETING ETIQUETTE

To maintain respectful standards in view of technology changes, the Chair moved to include the following additions to the Standing Orders:

- a) Mobile phones will be switched off during all meetings, unless the Council is advised at the start that there are mitigating circumstances.

- b) When conducting Council business, Email may be used for the same correspondence purpose as letters. It should always be professional and courteous; not containing any libellous or offensive statements. Informal discussions may be more appropriate by telephone.
- c) Councillors needing to leave the meeting (e.g. to speak privately with the PCO) should address their request to the chair.

Action: These were agreed unanimously and accepted as good practice.

8 PLAY AREA UPDATE

- a) Play Builder progress: Our contractor has been on site a few days in December but work is on schedule, with the 'VIP Suite' almost finished, the details of the 'Zip wire' now finalised and the large fallen oak donated by the NT is ready to be transformed into the 'Ackland Challenge'. An opening ceremony will need to be planned, as this is a stipulation of the Play Builder grant funding.
- b) Re-use of old equipment: as a result of the play area re-development, an A – frame and 2 benches are redundant; the A frame will be offered to the Broadclyst Primary/Pre-School and the benches to the SPMC before being disposed of.

9 VICTORY HALL update

- a) The Victory Hall Management Committee has entered into a 16 month agreement with the Clyst Vale Children's Centre, to provide the Jubilee Room as a local office and drop-in centre for their work, starting in January 2010. The Jubilee Room will therefore be out of circulation for general use, but may be utilised for special use if required. There has already been a community benefit as a result of this agreement, e.g. training for disadvantaged/disabled on site.
- b) Bookings have increased this year, due to improved facilities.
- c) The new Fire Alarm System is fully operational and side lighting is planned.
- d) The 'Green Room' project should begin in the spring.
- e) Film facilities will enable a Film Club to start up in the new year, with the additional possibility of a Kids' Film Club being run with sufficient supervision.
- f) A Hearing Loop is installed in the main hall but is not planned for the Wiltshier Room.

10 CORRESPONDENCE - no matters arising

11 POINTS of INFORMATION & AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY

- ◆ No Smoking signs should be displayed in the public toilets – clerk to order them if needed.
- ◆ DAPC reps meeting: NALC are considering separate meetings for smaller councils, tailored to their needs. Also, Parish Councils should be aware of their vulnerabilities: if services currently supplied by County/District Councils are not mandatory, they may be withdrawn and PCs may have the responsibility.
- ◆ Youth Club: The Devon Youth Services are continuing weekly provision of their mobile bus. It is deemed unadvisable to restart a Youth Club proper at present, as the troublesome behaviour of a few youths would cause it to fail; this behaviour is being addressed first.

Agenda: Arrangements for the re-furbished play area Opening Ceremony in February 2010

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.12pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 4 January 2010 - 7 pm Victory Hall

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 20 January – 7.00pm Victory Hall