

## **BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a special meeting of the Bigbury Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr S. Watts (Chairman), Cllrs B Carson, A. Klidjian and T.Boys. PCSO Stacey Thorn and Cty Cllr W. Mumford also attended. No resident was present.

The Clerk reported that nobody had put themselves forward for consideration for co-option as a Parish Councillor to date. The notice which is on the 3 parish boards gives the deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> February for responses and will also go in the next edition of Bigbury News. Cllr Watts asked all Councillors to make personal invitations to anybody whom they thought might be interested.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr J. Grace

### **POLICE REPORT:**

WPC Stacey Thorn reported that between December 2011 and January 2012 there had been one incident of criminal damage.

Starting in January, the police cadets will be contacting Young Farmers on a community project entitled Farm Watch.

Cllr Watts noted that the Aune Conservation Association had recently passed some information about possible illegal fishing off Burgh Island to the police.

PCSO Thorn was thanked and left the meeting.

### **PRECEPT**

The Clerk had issued a Precept Calculation forecast for the forthcoming financial year and made several points:-

- 1) the District Auditor's recommends that a figure be carried forward at the end of each existing financial year to cover estimated running costs for the first six months of the next financial year. This was accepted as sensible with the proviso that the figure carried forward should exclude any extraordinary costs from the current year
- 2) a reserve is usually set aside each year to cover the cost of replacing any equipment in the children's play area which becomes unusable or beyond repair
- 3) in April 2012, the Parish Council will have to pay £123 to SHDC for the Parish Council election contribution held in 2011.

Cllr Boys asked if consideration was being given to increasing donations to bodies such as the Poppy Appeal, WRVS and Modbury Caring. With regard to the latter, Cllr Boys declared an interest. Cllr Watts stated that any group or organisation interested in making a claim against the precept should present a case for consideration by the Parish Council and, where possible, submit a copy of their most recent accounts.

Cllr Carson stated that allotments and/or a community orchard might be required when the Affordable Housing Scheme proceeds. However, Cllr Watts thought that such costs might be met elsewhere than from the precept.

The Treasurer of St Lawrence Church had provided a copy of their accounts together with a schedule of grass-cutting in the burial ground indicating that the latter had cost

£1,018 between March and December 2011 whereas the Parish Council had contributed only £450 – a sum which had remained the same over the previous 3 years.

Cllr Watts was in favour of decreasing the precept for the forthcoming year by 20% because of the size of the Council's reserve funds, even after allowing for foreseeable expenses; he had pre-circulated a detailed spreadsheet to all concerned based on the Clerk's cash flow figures from January. However, Cllr Carson pointed out that there is a chance that the Government may place blocks on parish council precept increases in the future and considered it vital that we approach the next financial year on the current precept of £7,600 - neither an increase nor a decrease.

Cty Cllr Mumford views were invited and he supported Cllr Carson, adding there is a high chance that parish councils may have to pay for DCC services such as new road signs, painting of double yellow lines, extra cutting of verges etc. in future.

It was proposed by Cllr Carson, seconded by Cllr Klidjian and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council submit a precept of £7,600.

It was proposed by Cllr Carson, seconded by Cllr Watts that a cheque for £30 be drawn to Bigbury Memorial Hall for hall hire charges.

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cty Cllr William Mumford reported that DCC is hoping not to increase council tax for the forthcoming financial year as the Government has extended the scheme of giving a grant to county councils who do not increase this tax.

There is still a possibility of an incinerator at Lee Mill.

Road works and drainage works in the Charterlands area are now coming to an end.

The varying speed limit between Dunstone Cross and Yealmpton of 30-60-30mph will be changed to a continuous 40mph limit from Dunstone through to Yealmpton where it will change to 30mph.

SHDC has passed the Sherford Plan and this will be likely to add to traffic problems on the A379 corridor.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.