

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 9th MAY 2012 in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel at 7.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr S Watts in the chair, Cllrs. A Klidjian, T Boys, J Simes, R Owen and D Cllr Carson. Mr Nick Murch and Mr Ivor Thomas (South West Water) and C Cllr.W.Mumford were also in attendance, together with 9 residents (In order to be able to return to duty, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Rachel Ward, had given her report during the Parish Council meeting immediately preceding the Annual Parish Meeting)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr J Grace

2 SOUTH WEST WATER

Mr.Ivor Thomas (Drinking Water Service Operations Manager) explained how water gets to household taps. Most of the water supplying the Bigbury Parish comes from the Avon Dam reservoir with occasional supplies coming from River Dart or Burrator reservoir. If the water at Avon Dam is low, then it can be supplemented from Littlehempston which normally supplies Torbay. There are additional services at Langridge Cross and also at Blackdown Hills. The reservoir at Harraton Cross supplies Modbury. With water coming some distance, a secondary boost of chlorine is sometimes given at these smaller reservoirs. Mr Thomas said that leakage is not a problem at SWW which is one of only two water companies to reach their target of reducing leakage. Mr Thomas answered questions put to him by councillors and residents.

Mr Nick Murch (Waste Water Operations Manager) explained that he covers 180 works with 150 pumping stations. He outlined the problems experienced by various kinds of materials which find their way into the drainage system and which then cause major problems. He gave a reminder that on no account should even the smallest amount of fat be put down water outlets as it solidifies, blocking pipes. Sewage waste is piped to treatment works at Totnes or Plympton where it is digested to produce methane gas. The gas is used to generate electricity which runs SWW sites; any surplus electricity is fed into the National Grid. Remaining sewage sludge is treated with lime and spread on farms. Solar panels have been installed at many SWW sites.

Cllr Klidjian expressed the concern felt by many residents of Bigbury on Sea that additional sewage resulting from new building works might be exceeding the capacity of the system to cope, especially when the population rockets with summer visitors. D Cllr Carson referred to a number of properties in Bigbury Village which are not on the main sewerage system but Mr Murch said it would need a sufficient number of residents who would be willing to pay to go on the system before SWW would give consideration to a new sewerage project. Mr Murch confirmed that sewage is discharged at Bigbury on Sea via an offshore pipeline.

The Chairman thanked both Mr Murch and Mr Thomas for attending and giving talks of such obvious interest to the community.

3 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT C.Cllr William Mumford reported that the County Council had frozen front line appointments and had made a reduction of 2,500 appointments in the workforce through natural wastage. £95,000,000 had been saved without increasing its share of the Council Tax. The problem of care homes has been tackled this year, especially those caring for dementia patients.

The Devon road network is bigger than that of the whole of Belgium and this coming year DCC will be investing in maintenance of C-class roads. £2,500,000 had been spent on improvements to local main road schemes and it is hoped to improve the Tidal Road in the near future. Following many requests from parish councils, including Bigbury, the DCC has

agreed to employ extra Lengthsmen. DCC is also interested in helping small rural businesses with 5 employees or less and this is greatly supported by Cllr Mumford. DCC is working to obtaining a faster Broadband Service for rural areas. Cllr Simes expressed his concern at poor youth employment availability but Cllr Mumford explained that he is a strong supporter of the County Council apprenticeship scheme; DCC employs about 40 apprentices per year. Cllr Simes asked what a budget cut of £95 million said of the previous administration and Cllr Mumford responded by saying that there has been a cut of 28 senior managers down to just 12.

After the Chairman had thanked him for his report, Cllr Mumford left the meeting.

- 4 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT D Cllr Carson reported that SHDC are dealing with requests for affordable homes in various sites in the district but there is a shortage of money available for such projects. At present the scheme for Bigbury Parish is going ahead with both English Heritage and the Archaeological Society due to make reports on the 'ancient monuments' on the proposed site. SHDC is still progressing with shared services with West Devon District Council and thus has been able to save about 30% from its budget. Cllr Carson reported that the Standards Board is being closed in July. Changes to the collection of waste bins are being investigated. Tor Homes have given away their portfolio to Devon & Cornwall Houses but will still be doing all the repairs and maintenance.

A resident asked Cllr Carson where his loyalty lies in votes on crucial matters, whether they were with his residents or with the party whip. The question was raised as a result of the decision to cut Villages in Action from the budget, much to the consternation of many parishes in the district. Cllr Carson reported that he had abstained from voting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Carson for his report.

5 ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS

- 5.1 Memorial Hall. Mr Charles Harrington spoke of the vital role that the hall makes in bringing the various areas in the parish together. He has noticed during his time as Chairman of the Hall Committee that the hall is well-used by residents of Bigbury on Sea. Mr Harrington referred to how representatives from the various organizations who use the hall, all attend the committee meetings held regularly throughout each year. He referred to the popularity of functions organised by Villages In Action and was hoping that some way may be found to maintain at least two events by them each year. More people are hiring the hall for private functions and even some are from outside the Bigbury Parish. Discussion on provision of Broadband in the hall had taken place but as there is already provision in Holywell Stores it was considered to be an unnecessary expense.
- 5.2 Bigbury News Mrs Rose Owen reported that 450 copies of the News are printed each of the ten-month issue out of which 22 are posted to subscribers. She is in the initial stage of looking into the purchase of a digital duplicator which would greatly help with each production as, at present, she has to arrange transport to take her to Malborough and back for the printing. If the Bigbury News had its own printer, it could then be available for use for anybody within the parish and the nearby parishes. To date she has two written quotes plus a verbal quote. The Chairman stated that the Parish Councillors have discussed the matter and are supportive, in principle, to the project. At present, the News receives a grant of £450 p.a. from the Parish Council with other income received from donations and adverts.
- 5.3 Youth Club Cllr Watts reported on behalf of the Youth Club that, on average, 17 children attend the Youth Club each week and some of those attending are from other villages such as Kingston and even Modbury.
- 5.4 Bigbury Fayre Mrs Linda Brown reported that the Fayre Committee continue to organize the Christmas lighting at Bigbury Village Green and also run the Carols on the Green each Christmas Eve. She said that each year the attendance seems to exceed that of the previous year, such is its popularity. Last year the Fayre Committee had been involved with the Royal Wedding Celebrations and will also be involved with this year's Diamond Jubilee celebration in June.

6.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Cllr Watts reported that last autumn had been a turbulent time for the Parish Council following the resignations of Cllr Jim Owen and Cllr Edcombe. Following this there had been some honest discussion amongst the remaining councillors which resulted in him being elected Chairman and Bryan Carson elected Vice-Chairman. This left 2 vacancies one of which was filled in April by John Simes and then tonight with the co-option of Rose Owen it has brought the Council up to full strength. Use of the internet has increased and resulted in an increase in speed and efficiency and a reduction in costs. New Councillor training is underway and a toolkit for Councillors is being formed. Following new legislation, the Clerk is now an employee of the Parish Council rather than a self-employed agent acting on the Council's behalf. Our strategy is defined by the Parish Plan of 2009 taking into account any changes that have occurred in the operating environment. We have made improvements to our communications with parishioners e.g. the website and Bigbury News. Steady progress on issues of importance such as road safety is being made and three defibrillators were installed throughout the parish (one of which was by private donations). During the past year we have clarified the need for Affordable Housing and identified sites in consultation with parishioners and this is moving forward as fast as the system allows. A sustainable community is more than just the Parish Council; it is about the community. Our thanks are due to the Clerk, Bigbury News, Memorial Hall, the Church, and local businesses. We are grateful to those organizing parish events such as the Fun Run, Christmas Carols and the Jubilee celebrations – they all help to make the community stronger. We are also grateful to County Cllr William Mumford, D.Cllr Bryan Carson and to the police.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT The clerk gave the financial report as follows;

Income		Expenditure	
Brought forward	9,824.32	Subs & donations	1,013.00
Precept	7,491.92	Office expenses	778.95
Bank Interest	4.72	Clerk	1,450.00
SHDC recycling cr.	21.65	Hall & play.field expenses	111.00
P3	-	P3	78.00
Sale of R.Wedding mugs	249.50	Insurance	189.00
Defibrillator donations	1,575.00	Audit fees	220.00
		Environment	5,212.43
		S317s	1,955.00
		Website	399.00
		Bigbury News	375.25
		Election contribution	123.30
		VAT	586.32
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	19,167.11		12,491.25
Deposit.Account.	6,207.53		
Current Account	<u>1,108.33</u>		
	7,315.86		
- unrepresented chqs	<u>640.00</u>		
	6,675.86		
+ Expenditure	<u>12,491.25</u>		
	19,167.11		

6 OPEN SESSION Nil

Meeting closed 9.30 p.m.