

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8th APRIL 2015 in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel at 8.15 p.m.

PRESENT; Cllr S Watts in the chair, Cllrs M.Baker, T.Boys, .B Carson, P.Cook, A Klidjian, C.Cllr R.Hosking, D.Cllr.L.Ward were also present together with 21 residents

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr R Owen

- 2 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: Cllr R. Hosking expressed his appreciation for being elected to serve the Yealmpton division. He reported that it has been necessary for DCC to make many cuts to services including closure of DCC Care Homes (because it is cheaper going through the private sector), Youth Centres (will be serviced by charitable and voluntary sectors), libraries etc. Potholes have featured largely in the workload this year and a grant was received from Government to help towards the extra cost incurred. He hoped that residents are able to access the DCC website for reporting potholes as this proves to be a quick way of getting them repaired. There was a negative OFSTED report for child care for 2014/15 but improvements have now been made. It was necessary to increase the DCC part of Council Tax by 1.9% without which they would have had to draw on reserves.

He was told that regular users of the once a week bus from our area to Plymouth had been informed that there was an intention to add Ivybridge to the scheduled timetable and this proposal was being fought vociferously by all the passengers. D.Cllr Hosking said that it was important for all persons affected by the proposals to write in registering their opposition.

Problems of speeding traffic at St Ann's Chapel were highlighted particularly in the area close to the playing field/Memorial Hall. Cllr Cook asked if it would be possible to have speed bumps but it was felt such a request was unlikely to be successful; however it would be possible to request a speed test.

Cllr Hosking was thanked for all his work on behalf of our parish.

- 3 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT – officer not present and subsequently a report had not been submitted on his behalf.

- 4 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT D Cllr Carson stated that this would be his last District Councillor's report as he was not seeking re-election. He reported that Cllr Lindsey Ward would be seeking election to fill his seat which will now include Modbury in the ward but lose Aveton Gifford which is entering a different ward. The changes in wards mean that there will be only 31 councillors instead of 40 as at present. It had been difficult to set the budget but councillors had managed to decide on no increase in car park charges amongst other measures. They are hoping to save £3.7 million by 2018 by letting out more offices to other bodies e.g. DCC and West Devon Council already rent some desks at Follaton House. Planning Dept is under pressure as it receives many planning applications and they are taking on agency staff.

D.Cllr Carson was thanked for his considerable hard work he has carried out on behalf of the parish over the last 16 years.

5.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Cllr Watts reported that this had been his 4th year as Chairman and was grateful for the help and support of his fellow councillors and the Clerk and to the residents who attend and participate in the monthly parish council meetings. He felt that the Bigbury community website continues to offer an effective but under-used method of rapid two-way communication and for maintaining awareness about local affairs. He expressed his appreciation to those who produce and distribute Bigbury News, organisers of events such as the Fun Run and Carols On The Green; to Margaret and Tony Singleton for collecting litter from the roads in Bigbury village; to those running the Memorial Hall and to those supporting the Church. He mentioned the importance of Holywell Stores as a focal point of our community and specifically thanked Dane and Hilary and their staff for the many services they provide. Appreciation was expressed to John Simes (Parish Footpath Warden) for the excellent job he does to ensure that our precious footpaths are adequately maintained and safe to use. John has just taken over the position as SW Coastal Path representative for this area. Cllr Watts expressed his appreciation to C.Cllr Richard Hosking and D.Cllr Bryan Carson and to the police for their work on behalf of the parish. The parish council has managed to secure some grants to help towards community skips and additional Lengthsman services. (Full report adhered at end of minutes and issued in Bigbury News).

As Cllr Watts is not seeking re-election to the Parish Council, Cllr Cook expressed the councillors' appreciation to him for his hard work, not just as a councillor but also during his term of office as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Carson and endorsed by the councillors.

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

Income		Expenditure--	
Brought forward	9,264.46	Subs & donations	3,900.00
Precept	7,738.26 **	Office expenses	1,019.80
Bank Interest	6.75	Clerk	1,494.00
SHDC recycling cr.	159.39	Hall & play.field expenses	121.00
		P3	1,326.91
		Insurance	205.33
		Audit fees	125.00
VAT refund	1,177.75	Environment	3,256.17
DCC grants	6,967.99	S137s	725.00
		VAT	494.26
		Website & BT	415.59
Refunds	65.00	Councillors' expenses	106.08
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	25,379.60		13,189.14
Deposit.Account.	10,969.11		
Current Account	<u>1,221.35</u>		
	12,190.46		
+ Expenditure	<u>13,189.14</u>		
	25,379.60		
** Precept comprises	£7,600.00		
+ Council Tax support	<u>270.00</u>		
	£7,870.00		
-	- DALC subscrip.		
-	<u>131.74</u>		
	£7,738.26		

8 OPEN SESSION nil as this had been covered during the Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed 9.45 pm