

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Cllr. J. Grimble(Chairman), Cllr. T. Davey(Vice Chairman), Cllr. A. Williams, Cllr. R. Hunt, Cllr. C. Morgan, Cllr. R. Bailey, Cllr. I. White, Cllr. D. Hourahane, Cllr. J. Pepperell, Cllr. J. Jenner, Cty. Cllr. D. Cox, Sergeant Dawe, PCSO Colin Rider, David Lamboll, Louise Pyrwata, Tony Corlett, together with four members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None

THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING were duly approved and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all those attending this Annual Parish Meeting of Bishopsteignton. As you know this is a public meeting in which all persons registered as local government electors for the Parish are entitled to speak and vote. This is your meeting in which you will receive reports from various organizations and people within the Parish. Please feel free to comment, ask questions or raise any points that you wish to bring to our attention.

This is the second year in this Council's term of office seeing just two changes to its membership. The first was the retirement of Katie Hanley following her successful completion of the Play Area project in Cockhaven Close. The vacancy has been taken up by David Hourahane. The second is the recent resignation of Chris Booth. This vacancy is currently being advertised and we would be pleased to hear from anybody who is interested in becoming a Member of the Council.

Perhaps the main theme of this year's report relates to recreational facilities:

First, the successful completion of the refurbishment to the play area above the school in Cockhaven Close. Thanks to the Play Area Project Group new equipment has been installed and fencing replaced. This is now complete with a slide and awaiting final inspection. There are a few logs to move which will be tackled when ground conditions allow. Unfortunately this has been delayed due to exceptional wet weather.

Second, the sports area (formerly known as the MUGA) now has its own toilets – thank you Roger. These are to be painted appropriately by the Bishopsteignton Outdoor Art Group in the near future. These new facilities have been essential in supporting the promotion of the sports area. There has been an increase in new activities mainly with tennis and football, which has helped in moving the facilities towards being revenue self-sufficient. There are some modifications regarding the access and gates to be undertaken allowing easier servicing of the lights. The earthworks to the southern boundary are now substantially complete. The next stage is the development of a management group who will undertake day-to-day responsibility for the operation of the facilities. In the meantime a new caretaker will be in post from 1st April 2009.

Third, the Village Green. An exciting project taking advantage of new legislation contained in Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 whereby land over which inhabitants of a particular locality hold customary recreational rights can register this land as a Green which would secure the following benefits:

- Secure permanent registration of the land as a village green
- Protect the land from development – it is an offence to build on a green or to interrupt its use or enjoyment by the public
- Secure the right of local people to enjoy the land for recreation
- Give it a new status as land for the community, to be valued and enjoyed
- Ensure that prospective owners are aware from the outset of the established recreational function of the land, so helping to avoid any future conflicts

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT cont'd.

A piece of land known as Pathfields (adjacent to Horns Park and Cockhaven Close was identified as potentially eligible for registration and an open day was arranged in September to explore evidence that would show "a significant number of inhabitants of any locality or neighbourhood within a locality have indulged as of right in lawful sports and pastimes on the land for a period of at least 20 years".

Over 200 people who attended supplied evidence in support of the proposal following which a formal application was registered with Devon County Council. This is now subject to a formal process the outcome of which is awaited.

Fourth, the Lawns is a much appreciated recreational facility acquired in the not too distant past for the community by the Parish Council. The area is looking a little bit tired at present so a "Community Day" has been arranged for 18th April 2009 for the purpose of tidying up the area. The "Blitz Team" from Teignbridge will be in attendance as well as help being supplied by Devon County Council. The purpose of the day is for members of the community to join in for a few hours between 10:00am and 3:00pm to tidy up the recreation ground. The Parish Council will be supplying tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes (to the "workers"), so it is very much hoped this will be a fun day with the community pulling together to improve their environment. The police will be in attendance to answer questions and give out crime prevention advice.

Fifth, footpaths are a significant asset to our community and our appreciation is extended to Mike Howell for his monthly reports on their condition. There is an ongoing issue concerning the path between Coombe Lane and Broadmeadow (footpaths 1 & 2) which has yet to be resolved between the Parish and Teignmouth Town Council concerning its state on the boundary.

Additionally, concern has been expressed as to the condition of Durley Lane (on our western boundary). I am pleased to announce that Devon County Council has found some resources for us to initiate remedial work to address the flooding problem.

The appeal regarding public rights of way at Mellands Copse was determined in the Autumn resulting in the application being overturned.

Sixth, and finally, an asset tidying up exercise has resulted in two small parcels of land adjacent to Wallace Grove and Radway Hill being transferred to the ownership of the Parish Council.

As you are aware the Council manages its own village cemetery and takes a keen interest in providing a first class service for the local community. As part of continuing enhancements the storeroom has been refurbished and the area tidied.

A few years back the Parochial Church Council closed its own churchyard and eventually took the decision it would like to transfer responsibility for maintenance to the Local Authority in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

Following notice of intent discussions took place with Teignbridge District Council during 2004 for the Parish Council to undertake the work financed through the District's burial grant. The Parish Council had made it quite clear that it was in no position to take on the potential long-term liabilities of such a transfer but were willing to help TDC in the day-to-day maintenance by adding it to their own contract so long as this was financially underwritten through the burial grant. It was understood that the District Council would underwrite all other liabilities. Thus when the formal request was made by the PCC in 2005 the Parish Council accepted the arrangements on the understanding as just outlined.

However, it has now come to light that Teignbridge District Council would claim that the Parish Council did not properly serve notice on the District Council within a three-month period for this liability to pass to the District Council. This is a little disconcerting to say the least as Teignbridge never explicitly advised the Parish or Parochial Councils of the conditions contained within Section 215 of the Act despite knowing the Parish is in no position to underwrite potential long term liabilities on its own.

This issue is to be taken up with the Chief Executive and Leader of Teignbridge District Council to clarify and resolve the long-term position.

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT cont'd.

The Bishopsteignton Enhancement Group, as part of the Parish Plan, have made significant progress in pursuing the scheme for the development of the top of Bishops Avenue. Following public consultation the design stage has been completed and currently negotiations are taking place to prove the business case and secure appropriate finance. It is anticipated a further public display of the scheme will be arranged for the beginning of June.

No report would be complete without mention of those involved. To all fellow Councillors I would like to express our sincere thanks for your contributions and hard work undertaken on a voluntary basis throughout the year. Your support is much appreciated.

As to our Clerk, what can I say? Her commitment to the community is second to none. I believe I am speaking on behalf of everybody when I say to Claire – “thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the Parish of Bishopsteignton”. And, thanks to you all.

POLICE REPORT – Sergeant Russell Dawe

The past year has seen a drop in crime within the village boundary, with the number of reported crimes being 57 last year down to 42 this year which equates to a 27% reduction. Much credit for this reduction must go to P.C.S.O. Colin Rider for a lot of hard work especially considering that there has been no Neighbourhood Beat Manager. 10 burglaries have been recorded, 3 of which were to dwelling houses and 3 to sheds and residents are asked to tighten up security where they can. There has been 4 incidents of damage, 3 assaults and 4 vehicle incidents. The rest of the crimes were theft and drink driving. A new Neighbourhood Beat Manager, P.C. Rob Harvey, has been appointed and it is hoped that he will commence his new role shortly. Speed checks have been carried out on the A381 and a number of warnings and penalties have been issued, however there was not a massive amount of speeding found. Thanks to DCC a speed trolley has been acquired. This is primarily an educational machine which flashes up the speed of drivers when driving above the speed limit. It is highly visible and can be located anywhere. It will be manned by P.C.S.O. Colin Rider and if there is a problem with speeding further action will be taken.

Cllr. Davey raised his concerns on the amount of accidents on the A381, particularly between the 2 entrances to Wear Farm. Sergeant Dawe agreed to obtain the statistics for this section of road and advised the meeting that if a problem was perceived the SCARF process would be implemented. Cty. Cllr. Cox felt that the problem on this section of the road was due to the speed being the national limit and drivers were not driving according to the conditions. Cllr. Davey asked at what time of day the speed checks were carried out and was advised that it was around 11am. Councillors felt that due to the amount of traffic on the road at this time a true picture would not be recorded and asked that speed checks be carried out in the evening /night.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Devon County Council had just been audited by the Audit Commission and been given a 4* rating and was considered to be an excellent authority and spending the council tax payers money wisely. In County Life Devon had been named as the best county in the country. In comparison Dorset was credited a 3* and Torbay a 2*. DCC had not lost any money in the Iceland collapse nor through other collapses. The Airport money of £48 million in fact raised £90 million for Devon due to match funding. The roads have been given Beacon status.

The SCARF process was taking place on the A381 and DCC Highways had been asked to look at the implementation of a 40mph at the Wear Farm end of this road in line with the 40mph between Bishopsteignton and Teignmouth. DCC Highways had also been asked to look at using different surfaces on the road which would afford more grip as well as highlighting the change in road speed, by the 30mph signs near Stone Lodge. The Probation Service would be cleaning up St. Johns Churchyard and undercoating the toilets at the Recreation Ground. A great pleasure this year had been to write to Bishopsteignton School to congratulate them on the outstanding OFSTED report which had recognised the good work that the school had been doing.

Cllr. Hunt asked if there was any progress on the Cycle Route. Cty. Cllr. Cox felt that the County Engineers had consulted everyone except the public and that were being influence by Network Rail and Natural England and that the best way to move this forward and redress the balance was to set up a joint working party with Teignmouth Town Council, Bishopsteignton Parish Council, Land Owners, Cyclists and other interested parties. Concern was raised that the Community had never been properly consulted. Mrs Knapman reminded the meeting that a public consultation day had taken place at the Community Centre around 7 years ago but only one route had been proposed. After further discussion it was agreed that a joint working group be set up and Cty. Cllr. Cox agreed to progress this.

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

This is my second annual report as district councillor for Bishopsteignton and I will highlight the issues that have had most impact on Teignbridge as a whole and on our community in particular.

The changes in the management structure of the council which were introduced following the appointment of Nicola Burbeck as Chief Executive in 2005-6 and were described in last year's report relating to that year. The council has continued to work collaboratively with other district councils, and still awaits the emergence of the declared governmental aim to reform local government within England (please see below). However, Teignbridge's stated ten year goals, which can be viewed on the council website, stand under the present dispensation:

- Creating jobs and increasing household incomes;
- Promoting and improving the well-being of residents and communities;
- Being a dynamic and customer focussed council to support citizens and developing citizenship;
- Enabling the provision of sufficient affordable homes;
- Maintaining clean streets, parks and open spaces.

After the LDF

A cross-party group of councillors is working on a new local development framework (LDF), following the rejection of the earlier model in 2007. Until such a framework is in place, there is a danger of what are described as "bolt-on" developments that are likely to be upheld by inspectors' decisions.

It is my understanding that Bishopsteignton and Luton have reached their level of affordable housing and that this information needs to be made to the committee drawing up the new LDF. The committee should also be aware of the parish plan.

Council Tax

Teignbridge Council has decided on an increase of 3.5% and the details of specific increases can be found below:

	2008/9	2009/2010	£ +	% +
Devon County Council	1063.89	1094.67	30.78	2.9
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	66.58	69.18	2.60	3.9
Devon and Cornwall Police Authority	142.19	149.22	7.03	4.9
Teignbridge District Council	142.29	147.27	4.98	3.5
Parish Precept	21.55	22.89	1.34	6.2

The total annual increase will therefore be 3.3% (compared with 4.6% last year).

Local Government Reorganisation

We have still not been made aware of the government's intentions with regard to local government reorganisation and it seems almost certain that the present two-tier system will continue, at least for the next two years (DCC elections are scheduled in May this year and district elections in May 2011).

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT cont'd.

Local issues

Although the report from the government's inspector represented only a partial success in that it appeared to pave the way for a second mast to be constructed at Lea Park Nurseries, this has not yet been built and it does appear that the danger of proliferation may have been averted. This debate centred on the appeal against Teignbridge Council's decision to oppose the second application. A number of new planning matters have come to dominate concern within the village and I refer to some of the more prominent decisions. I, with the support of the parish council, opposed the proposed development of Michael's Field into a sports ground, but disappointingly this was supported by most councillors on the Development Control Committee.

The decision to oppose the building of a new house within the grounds of St John's House (former vicarage) was, after a site visit and a lengthy debate, rejected by councillors (against the advice of officers). Perhaps more surprisingly – but to the delight of those who had opposed this – the council's decision was upheld by the government inspector and the appeal was refused.

More recently, a proposal to erect a wind turbine on land on the outskirts of the village which had been strongly opposed by the parish council (in the words of its submission) but supported by planning officers was decisively (though not unanimously) rejected by councillors.

This year I have been able to grant £1000 towards the fabric of the community centre, £200 to the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society and have committed a further £200 to the Bishopsteignton Play Group. Although there is a small amount left unspent, this will roll over and be added to next year's councillor's fund of £1500.

Cllr. Williams reported that the Planning Officers had addressed the Development Control Committee and asked the District Councillors to think very carefully on Planning Grounds before asking for application to be placed on category B and that he had found this very worrying. Cllr. White raised his concerns about the accuracy of plans and that ridge height were never shown. Mr. Corlett offered to volunteer his services to assist in getting the Village Design Statement adopted by TDC.

PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT – Louise Prywata, Head Teacher.

The excellent Ofsted report recognised the outstanding features and had given the school a big boost. The school now had a Director for Learning and was not just about educating within the 4 walls but extending within the community. There was now a Breakfast Club which helped working parents as well as afterschool clubs. The school was very keen to involve the community and had held a French Day with the help of the Twinning Association and were planning a Science Week where they hoped that experts from the community would be involved. At Christmas the school had gone out to places within the village and Luton. The School Council was very active, extra toilets had been provided for Uganda and they had been involved in raising funds for Comic relief. The School continues to offer lots of clubs and are making strong links with the Pre-school and involving parents more. David Lamboll, Chairman of the School Governors, reported that since the appointment of Louise Prywata, the Governors were very pleased at how things were progressing.

The Chairman congratulated the school on their achievements and this was reinforced by those at the meeting.

UNITED CHARITIES REPORT – Tony Corlett

Trustees

The Trustees are:

A M Corlett	G Howarth	Rev. S West
Mrs. M Rawlins	Mrs. R Martin	Mr. D Wright

Community Support

A contribution of £200 was made to the School for disadvantaged children.

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009

UNITED CHARITIES REPORT cont'd.

Church Houses

Early in the year Mrs. Reding gave her notice due to ill health. The vacancy was advertised only one candidate applied. Mrs. Beswick was appointed and took up residence in the summer. Despite very short notice Alan Howard decorated the flat before Mrs. Beswick took up residence, the Trustees were very grateful.

Sundry repairs were carried out to the balcony and garden fence.

The current occupancy is:

Flat 20 Mr. & Mrs. Taylor

Flat 22 Mrs. Hanlon

Flat 26 Mrs. Beswick

Flat 24 Mrs. Whyte

The residents are in good health.

Peter James continues to do excellent work in maintaining the buildings.

The garden is being cultivated by two sets of gardeners who are growing fruit and vegetables. They are also responsible for cutting the grass. Mr Taylor has done much work in the garden this year and the Trustees are grateful for his efforts and the help he has given.

As in previous years the trustees believe the Church Houses should be self-financing so a further rent rise was agreed. It was decided to increase the rent by £3 a week to £57, from 1st April 2009.

Finances

The Balance Sheet for 31st December 2007 showed the funds decreased by over £1,000, due to poor investment performance and a small (£280) excess of expenditure over income.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Knapman reported that a few years ago clubs and societies had been contacted and asked not to put notices up prior to 2 weeks before an event. She asked that the Parish Council re-iterate this request as there was not enough space to advertise events and that to do so too early was counterproductive. This was agreed and clubs and societies also asked to ensure notices taken down after the event.

On behalf of the Community Centre Committee, Mrs Knapman thanked Cllr. Williams, Cty. Cllr. Cox and all those that had helped with funds to enable the centre to get back into reasonable shape. She reported that the parlour was now ready for use again. The Chairman congratulated the Committee on an extremely good job.

Cllr. Hunt reported that the new website had lifted the status of Bishopsteignton and congratulated those responsible. Cllr. Davey asked how this was funded and Sarah Lord who was responsible for setting up the website advised that a small sum was paid by business who advertised on the site.

Cllr. Pepperell reported that 15/16 people were now interested in obtaining an allotment in the village and that a meeting had been arranged for 26th March 2009, when Rick Hayes, Regional Rep for the South West Allotment Association, would be attending. Cty. Cllr. Cox reported that the onus to provide allotments had transferred from the District Council to the Town/Parish Councils. This to be investigated. Cllr. Pepperell also reported that there a Garden Share scheme had been suggested, using gardens that owners could no longer maintain and this would also be looked into. Tony Corlett informed Cllr. Pepperell that use of the garden at the back of the Alms Houses could be a possibility in the future.

DATED

CHAIRMAN