

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Cllr. T. Davey (Chairman), Cllr. J. Grimble (Vice Chairman), Cllr. A. Williams, Cllr. C. Morgan, Cllr. M. Bryan Cllr. Mrs Pepperell, Cllr. J. Jenner, Cllr. I. White, Cllr. R. Hunt, Cllr. D. Hourahane, Cllr. R. Bailey Cty. Cllr. Clarence, together with 33 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: P.C.S.O. Colin Rider.

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

1077 **PARISH PLAN**

Cllr. Hunt reported that on behalf of the Bishopsteignton Enhancement Group(BEG) he wished to put forward a proposal “that the Parish Council contributes £30,000 to the Bishop’s Avenue scheme and pays for this by taking out a 20 year loan through the Public Works Loan Board.” Cllr. Hunt reported that the scheme to enhance the top of Bishop’s Avenue would cost £320,000 from an accounting view point as this cost included an estimate from TDC for the transfer of land asset and that the actual cost was £210,000. In principle DCC had agreed to contribute £120,000 and TDC £130,000 which included £110,000 transfer of asset, therefore the actual contribution would be £20,000, and these amounts had been pencilled in to next years budgets but would need to go through the formal consultation process and DCC would want to see a contribution from the Parish Council. Cllr. Hunt went on to explain that the money set aside for this project was not new money and if the scheme did not proceed would be allocated to other projects in Devon. He reported that the BEG had tried to obtain funding from other sources, such as lottery and land fill, but because this scheme involved road enhancement and parking was unsuccessful, but even had the BEG managed to obtain monies through grants there would have been a need for the Parish Council to contribute as match funding would have been required. Cllr. Hunt explained that should the Parish Council agree to contribute towards the scheme the BEG would go back to TDC to try to obtain more money. Cllr. Hunt reported that this scheme had generated from the Parish Plan where residents had identified a need for the top of Bishop’s Avenue to be improved, that a very full consultation process had taken place with the last consultation in June 2009 resulting in over 300 residents registering their support and that it would be principally Bishopsteignton residents who would benefit. Cllr. Hunt explained that the amount involved represented 7.5% of the current precept, equating to £1.72 per year for the average Band D property which was less than ½ p per day and that the enhancement scheme was a good sound project which had been very well received outside as well as overwhelming support from the villagers and tremendous support overall

Cllr. Grimble raised his concern that the TDC element was only £20,000 in cash plus the transfer and that there was still a need to find the extra £40,000. Cllr. Hunt reported that if the Parish Council agreed, the BEG would be looking for a higher contribution from TDC.

THE CHAIRMAN SUSPENDED STANDING ORDERS to allow members of the public to speak.

Sarah Lord handed a petition to the Parish Council which had been signed by over 160 people in the village “who objected in principle to this funding and to the associate increase in taxation”. She went on to raise these concerns and the fact that there had been very little publicity for such an important decision and questioned whether it was the right time for a Parish Council with little or no collateral to be considering taking out a loan with no assurity that it could be repaid. She explained that residents were not willing to pay for an increase in the District and County Council budgets. She also raised her concerns over the loss of an asset in terms of the land involved and asked that the Parish Council consider these points and the impact on financial security when making their decision.

Dr. Dent expressed her support for the petition and raised her concerns over health and safety issues relating to shared spaces, traffic and parking and the lack of physical barriers and kerbs which were a problem for the blind and partially sighted. She explained that the RNIB’s position was that shared spaces schemes should be put on hold until the results of research being carried out by DIPAC was known.

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2.11.09 (Continued)

1077 PARISH PLAN cont'd

Ian Johnson from the BEG explained that the group had carried out extensive research and made representation to the appropriate associations and although there were concerns over shared spaces, this project was classified as a safe space. Mr Johnson went on to report that raised inserts, a tactile surface and spaces delineated with clews were planned but that DCC engineers would look at these issues.

Martin White agreed with the scheme and to an increase on the precept and felt that the proposal would look nice in the centre of the village and that if the funds from DCC and TDC were not used for Bishopsteignton they would go to other villages.

Chris Taylor reported that there were similar schemes all over the continent which looked very attractive and if people were worried about the ½ p cost per day this scheme could only increase the value of property in the village as well as being a nice place to live.

Peter Hepworth, a member of the BEG, reported that he was amazed and impressed at the public open spaces on the continent and that this was a window of opportunity which should be grasped by both hands. He reported that the Millennium Celebrations had been held in this area were magical but that they would have been even better with a clear open space which with imagination and at the behest of residents could be a catalyst for future events.

Jean Knapman reported that she had been a resident for over 70 years and that in that time the village had lost so much because of concerns of residents and that she would be very disappointed if this scheme did not go ahead as it would be a big asset to the village.

Cllr. Williams raised his concerns at some of the comments made when presenting the petition and explained that he and the BEG had visited a similar scheme in Axminster and spent the whole day there talking to various residents and they unanimously support their scheme.

Mrs Kavanagh appealed to councillors to give financial support to the scheme as she had been instrumental in obtaining the hump and would love to see this area improved.

Cllr. Morgan reported that since he had been in the village the Parish Council had obtained assets such as the sports area and hopefully the village green and that the car park should not be used.

Colin Day explained that this area had been identified by the Parish Plan as one that needed looking at, but that it was possible that the land may not need to be transferred.

Cllr. Grimble reported that it had always been felt that the land, irrespective of who owned it, should be in the hand of one authority.

Concerns were raised as to the build time and the disruption and Colin Day reported that there was not a massive amount of work to be carried out and that these issues would be looked at by DCC. Residents asked where the costs were if there was not major structural work involved and were advised that the cost included fees and that the specification by the Highways Authority would be different to construction on private land.

STANDING ORDERS WERE RESUMED

Cllr. Grimble felt uneasy as we as a Parish were being asked to contribute and there was an issue on principle in putting the parish's' precept to funding the scheme. Cllr. Grimble also raised the fact that there were two pieces of land involved and that TDC had put in £110,000 asset transfer for their land and as the Parish Council land was of a similar size a £100,000 asset should be included.

Cllr. Peperell reported that if the Parish Council kept hold of the land there would be a long term liability on the village to maintain it, but that there was a need to have control over the Millennium Stone and the tree which was sacrosanct.

Cllr. White felt that the community that was going to benefit from this enhancement was Bishopsteignton and that if the land had to be transferred it could be covered by a covenant. He went on to express his disappointment at the offer from TDC but felt that if this village does not accept, some other village would get the funds.

Cllr. Peperell reminded councillors that in the past Bishopsteignton had had the chance to buy land offered to the Parish Council but due to objections from neighbours, these had been lost. She went on to say that if the Parish Council did not have the foresight to see what could be it could effectively put an end to the whole scheme which would be a tragedy when you considered the support from DCC, TDC and the County Councillors and would not make any difference to the rates. Cllr. Peperell felt that Bishopsteignton needed this project and deserved it.

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2.11.09 (Continued)

1077 PARISH PLAN cont'd

Cllr. Hourahane felt that this was a golden opportunity to invest for the village, the junction was dangerous and the area an eyesore and real mess and this scheme would enhance it.

Cllr. Morgan raised his concern about the finances and lack of reserve especially as the Parish Council already had an existing loan which had been taken out to cover the shortfall on the Sports Area and that there was still uncertainty over the situation of the closed churchyard at St. John's.

THE CHAIRMAN SUSPENDED STANDING ORDERS to allow Cty. Cllr. Clarence to speak.

Cty.Cllr. Clarence reported that he had attended a meeting on the 24th July 2009 with Ed Chorlton, DCC to brief him on the financial situation and where we were. He reported that he had been advised that all three councils would be expected to contribute and this had evolved into seventh's with DCC picking up the lions share of 4/7th 's with TDC expected to contribute 2/7th's and the Parish Council 1/7th. Cty. Cllr. Clarence reported that the £120,000 from DCC was in their budget and that the difficulty may well not be Bishopsteignton Parish Council but TDC and it needed hard cash to make it happen. He explained that Rural Aid had granted £5000 to the Parish Council which could in effect reduce the Parish Council's contribution to £25000. He felt at present the contributions were disproportionate, but was here to represent the majority and to back them up.

STANDING ORDERS WERE RESUMED

Cllr. White reported that he was Chairman of a charity which gave away about £8million a year and that they ask for a 10% contribution from the applicant and suggested that it might be possible to persuade the other partners to accept 10%.

Cllr. Grimble expressed his concerns that it seemed to be a take it or leave it situation.

Cllr. Hunt repeated that this was the right time to do something, that the plan had been well thought through and that he believed that the £30,000 was a sensible division and that the Parish Council needed to make a commitment.

Cllr. White made a proposal "That the BEG negotiate the Parish Council's contribution up to 10%", but this was not seconded so the substantive proposal from Cllr. Hunt was taken "that the Parish Council contributes £30,000 to the Bishop's Avenue scheme and pays for this by taking out a 20 year loan through the Public Works Loan Board." Seconded by Cllr. Pepperell. 6 For, 5 Against. Carried.

1078 CEMETERY

Cllr. Grimble had circulated a draft of the letter to be sent to Alan Connett, Leader of TDC regarding the closed churchyard at St. John the Baptist Church for which the Parish Council had taken over the responsibility by default and asking for a meeting. This was discussed and it was felt that as the transfer of responsibility was in accordance with the Burial Act, Richard Younger-Ross MP should be contacted. After further discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should send this letter and the Parish Council await the outcome of the meeting before involving the MP.

The Clerk reported that she had written to Jon Bairstow, Tree Surgeon, asking him to replace the headstone which had been damaged by fire at St. John the Baptist Churchyard and he had telephoned her advising that he had a piece of slate suitable, but was concerned that this would look out of place with the old memorials and that the owners of the memorial were the families descendants not the Parish Council. The Clerk reported that she had checked the Burial Regulations and in the event of not being able to contact the descendants, the responsible authority, in this case the Parish Council, did have the right to take action on damaged headstones. After further discussion it was agreed that Mr Bairstow be instructed to replace the damaged stone.

A Cemetery Committee site meeting was arranged for Tuesday 17th November 2009 at 9am to look at the Garden of Rest.

A letter had been received from Hilary Corlett for the PCC raising their concerns that the contactor for TDC had used a flail to cut the hedge at St. John the Baptist Church and asking the Parish Council to raise this matter with TDC as the previous time when a flail was used the wall had been damaged. This was discussed and whilst the Parish Council supported the concerns it was felt that the PCC was still responsible and that they should liaise direct with TDC. A letter to be sent to the PCC.

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2.11.09 (Continued)

1079 **MAINTENANCE**

None

1080 **TRAFFIC CONDITIONS**

The report from Brian George, Area Engineer, DCC, on the meeting held in August to look at traffic issues around the village was still awaited. To be chased

A response had been received from Derek Moss, DCC, regarding the concerns of speeding in Forder Lane and advising the Parish Council that according to the recorded collision data between 1st January 2005 and 24th August 2009 there had only been one collision recorded and that with regard to the request for the speed limit of 30mph to be extended, the County Council policy was currently under review but it would be unlikely that this request would meet the guidelines. This matter was discussed and agreed to await the completion of the review and that a copy of this letter to be sent to Mr Robertson who raised this matter.

A letter had been received from Nick Boulton, DCC Highway Engineer regarding the concerns raised over the felling of two oak trees between Rowden Cross and Gypsy Corner. Cllr. White reported that he had found out that one of the trees had been leaning over the road and DCC had seen this when driving past and asked Geoff Lang the landowner to have this tree cut down. He went on to report that DCC do not carry out extensive surveys on a minor road. Cllr. White informed the council that Geoff Lang had visited him and was prepared to plant 4 oak trees on his land if the Parish Council were prepared to pay for them. This matter was discussed and it was agreed that a letter be sent to DCC asking them to reply to all the points and not just the first two, that the Cllr. Davey would see if he source some oak trees and Cllr. Williams to liaise with the school to see if they would participate in planting the trees.

The Chairman reported that there had been another accident on the bend between the two entrances to Wear Farm in which the driver had been very lucky to escape without serious injuries and reminded the council that requests for crash barriers had previously been made to DCC and felt that these requests should be re-iterated before there was a fatality.

THE CHAIRMAN SUSPENDED STANDING ORDERS to allow Cty. Cllr. Clarence to speak.

Cty. Cllr. Clarence reminded councillors that he had made enquiries on their behalf about the machine that had been working on the A381 and had been informed by DCC that this area had been identified as being too slippery and the machine had been used to improve the grip and he thought that the Parish Council may like to remind DCC of this.

STANDING ORDERS WERE RESUMED

After further discussion it was agreed that a letter re-iterating the request for crash barriers or anti skid measures to be sent to DCC and Cty. Cllr. Clarence was asked to take this up with DCC.

A letter had been received from DCC outlining their Part-Night lighting policy.

Cllr. Morgan reported that a Disability Discrimination Act inspection had been carried out at the Post Office and that the inspector had walked up from Bishop's Avenue and raised his concerns on the camber on the pavements as well as the condition of the pavements outside and on the opposite side of the Post Office.. This was discussed and a letter to be sent to DCC.

1081 **COUNTRYSIDE & RECREATION**

Cllr. Hunt reported that the use of the sports area was going pretty well, there had been some minor bad behaviour by children, but that new combination locks had been put on the gates which should help alleviate this. He reported that included in the financial information the clerk had sent out to all councillors, had been the sports area which showed that income from users as opposed to donations, was in the region of £3,000 which was a substantial improvement on the previous year and this information would need to be discussed when setting the precept for next year. He reported that there was now a football team using the area on a Friday evening and that the campaign to increase usage was continuing.

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2.11.09 (Continued)

1081 COUNTRYSIDE & RECREATION cont'd.

Cllr. Pepperell reported that the Community Day had been a big success and thanked Cllr. Davey for bringing the machines and his hard work which had made such a visible difference to the area as well as his skills in carving out the benches which were receiving lots of positive feedback. The Clerk reported that the £100 from Cty. Cllr. Clarence for this event had been received and the Parish Council thanked him for this donation.

Cllr. Bryan reported that more VP graffiti had appeared on the road signs in Coombe Valley and PCSO Colin Rider to be informed.

1082 PLANNING

THE MINUTES of the Planning Meeting held on the 19th October 2009 were duly approved and signed.

Cllr. Williams reported that he had spoken to Steve Robinson regarding the invitation to attend a meeting at the Parish Council to report on the changes to Permitted Development Rights in October 2008, and he had suggested that Ian Perry came along who would be able to answer question on the changes but would not want to answer questions relating to Bishopsteignton. Cllr. Williams proposed that this be arranged for the February Meeting. Agreed.

09/02847/FUL Hamblecombe Barton Farm Luton Extension of existing timber framed agricultural building - no comment

09/03166/FUL 19 Teignview Road Alterations and extensions to provide additional living accommodation - no comment

09/03188/AGR Westhayes Farm Luton Agricultural machinery shed - no comment.

09/03242/FUL 15 Bishops Avenue Extension and raising roof to create first floor - the Parish Council object, this would alter the street scene and set a precedent. The Parish Council ask that this be put on category B if the District Council are of a mind to approve.

1083 MEMBERS REPORTS cont'd.

None

1084 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Hunt agreed to look into the request to write to MP's to ensure that the Sustainable Communities Amendment Bill becomes law.

The Chairman reminded councillors of the Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November 2009, 10.30am at the War Memorial and asked for support from the Parish Council.

THE CHAIRMAN THEN SUSPENDED STANDING ORDERS to allow members of the public to speak.

Mrs Knapman reported that many requests had been made to DCC to alter the camber on the pavement on Fore Street, but had been unsuccessful. She also reported that the footpath sign at the Golf Club end of Postman's Path was missing. DCC to be advised.

Mrs Grimble reported that the parking on the zig zags outside the school was still a big problem and the Chairman reported that PCSO Colin Rider did go along, but that when he was seen parents parked elsewhere. PCSO Colin Rider to be asked to visit the area again and see what could be done.

Mrs Grimble reported that the Netball League were very impressed with the Sports Area and would like to play there is the issue of the lights could be resolved. The Chairman reported that this had been discussed in detail and agreed that a planning application to extend the lighting period would not be submitted due to the concerns of nearby residents, but if there was any way that the Netball League could rearrange their matches within the agreed times, they would be welcomed.

DATED

CHAIRMAN

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2.11.09 (Continued)

Mr Ford reported that the Scout Group was now functioning again after a short interlude as they now had a new leader and currently there were 18 Cubs and 11 Beavers. He reported that it was hopeful that a new Scout section would start soon and confirmed that the Cubs and Beavers would be attending the Remembrance Service.

Cllr. Hourahane, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, thanked the Parish Council for their donation.

CHEQUES SIGNED

000922	Post Office - EDF Energy - Sports Area Electricity	£ 58.93 (VAT £ 2.81)
000923	Enigma Signs - Recreation Ground & replacements Signs	£ 548.09 (VAT £71.49)
000924	Teignbridge Citizens Advice - S137 Donation	£ 60.00
000925	Victim Support - S137 Donation	£ 30.00
000926	L.M. James - reimbursement for Sports Area	£ 10.99
000927	HM Revenue & Customs – Tax & N.I.	£ 177.29
000928	Mrs C. Colyer - Salary & exps + Sports Area Shed Paint	£ 852.72
000929	Royal British Legion - S137 donation	£ 70.00
000930	Bishopsteignton Parish Council – Transfer to RBS	£8000.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (UNTIL 31st OCTOBER 2009)

Lloyds TSB (Treas. A/C)	£ 23556.22
Lloyds TSB (Prem.Int. A/C)	£ 445.86
Bank of Scotland	£ 12574.26
TSB	£ 935.98

PAYMENTS	£ 8686.96
RECEIPTS	£ 7092.33

DATED

CHAIRMAN