

Parish Council Meeting 13/01/2014

Present : Chairman M Simmons, Parish Councillors I White, R Broome, T Flower, B Long and H Godwin Also present County Councillor S Barker, District Councillor M Colclough together with 3 Parishioners.

Apologies for Absence – Cllrs.D Smith and A Hall

Declaration of Interest Members are reminded of their responsibility to update their Notice of registerable interests and to state if they have any matter proposed for discussion.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 9th December 2013 – Approved and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor's Report - Cllr. Stuart Barker reported that DCC is still unsure of Government Funding for the coming year and indications that future years will see more funding reductions. We were updated on ongoing consultations re the provision of care facilities in the future and told that the cost of funding one place in County Council care equals the cost of funding two places in the Private Sector.

District Councillor's Report - Cllr. Mary Colclough confirmed that the Solar Farm application has been approved by the District Councillors. She also advised that the Local Plan has been found sound by the Inspectorate. Council Tax will be frozen for a further year and to help fund increasing costs there is a proposed increase in Car Park charges.

PCSO's Report – It has been reported that an attempt has been made to break into the shop and vehicles broken into during the period that Lights are now switched off between 12.30am and 5.30am. It was agreed that we would monitor future incidents.

Environment

1.Planning Applications Received

13/03479/FUL –HM Prison, Channings Wood - Single storey detached building to form Waste Recycling Facility – No adverse comments.

13/02129/MAJ –Rydon Farm – Installation of ground mounted Solar Array – approved at Planning Committee Meeting at Teignbridge 13.01.2014

2. Public Toilets at the Jolly Sailor – It was reported that covering Holidays for cleaning the Toilets would cost around £250 per annum which we can absorb and, having voted on the matter, therefore now formally advise Teignbridge that the Parish Council has agreed to take on the Toilet Block and will await more details of the transaction.

3. Dog Fouling – We are still enquiring as to a cheaper Dog Bin for the Green

4. Luxton Road Play Area Goal Posts– We are still looking into alternative costs for refurbishment or replacement.

5. Lights – Turning out Street Lights from 12.30am until 5.30am is now in place in Owell and we will await reports of any ill effects resulting from this DCC decision. Chairman has received a phone call from a resident in Canada Hill suggesting that turning out the lights will lead to an increase in crime and pointing to an attempted break-in at the Shop –see also report under PCSO.

6.New Snow Warden Sought –Ted Wilkins wishes to relinquish the post and Cllr. Broome mentioned a possible candidate and will make further enquiries.

Paths and Highways

Cllr. Barker agreed to chase up the Cycle/Footpath and it was reported that the Cherry Trees on the Green are in need of removal and replacement. It was also reported that, probably because of Sat.Navigation leading people astray, Vans and other vehicles are trying to use Mill Lane as a through road and ending up at the river. There is a “No

Through Road” sign at the end of Mill Lane and we will consider what further measures could be made.

Communications

1. Proposed Engagement Strategy update –We continue to increase engagement with the Community via the Web-site and will consider further the Parish Branding exercise that has been in discussion previously.

Community

1. Community Engagement update – A new Newsletter will be distributed in March 2014 and Cllrs Hall and Godwin are looking for any suitable Photographs for the publication. The possibility of Beating the Bounds later in the year was raised and perhaps a preliminary expedition to identify the Boundary Markers could be undertaken.

Democracy –

1. Casual Vacancy – Following the resignation of Denis Hyne, we have heard from Teignbridge that there has been no response to the “Casual Vacancy Notice” and so are seeking candidates. Jason Larkworthy attended the Meeting and has been asked to attend the next meeting and if there are no other candidates, he meets the criteria for a Parish Councillor. If there are any other candidates we can hold interviews preceding or following the next meeting depending on the time available.

2. Finance Report

Cheques agreed since the last meeting –TDC £81.64 Emptying the Dog Bin for three months, S Jones £90.00 Grass cutting.

Budget for 2014-2015

<i>Office & Clerk</i>	<i>£8,300</i>
<i>Maintenance & Church</i>	<i>£6,400</i>
<i>Play Area & S137</i>	<i>£3,300</i>
<i>Newsletter & Improvements</i>	<i>£1,750</i>
<i>Toilet Maintenance</i>	<i>£2,250</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>£22,000</i>

Consideration of Precept for 2014 – It was agreed that the above Budget be accepted, proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Broome and agreed by all Councillors present. The Clerk will advise Teignbridge by 3rd February of the requirements.

3. Neighbourhood Planning Update – A meeting is to be arranged in the New Year.

New Business –We are entering the Best Kept Village competition and Cllr. Long agreed to furnish a Map for the entry.

Date of next meeting – The next meeting will take place on Monday 10th February 2014 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

Chairman
10th February 2014