

NORTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meetings held on 3rd May 2016 at St James Church, Avonwick

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESENT: Councillors Bell, Gabriel, Grevatt, Hunt, Luscombe, Seager-Berry, District and Parish Councillor Steer and County Councillor Vint

APOLOGIES: None

ELECTION: The clerk called for nominees to take the chair for the year ahead. Councillor Gabriel was proposed by Councillor Seager-Berry seconded by Councillor Hunt. There being no other nominees Councillor Gabriel was elected. The Chairman called for nominees for Vice Chairman. Councillor Hunt was proposed by Councillor Luscombe seconded by Councillor Bell. There being no other nominees Councillor Hunt was elected.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Chairman's Report: Councillor Gabriel reported on the progress of the Parish over the preceding twelve months. He stated that the elections held in May 2015 saw an unprecedented number of candidates standing for the available seats which made for an interesting contest which validated the return of four existing Councillors, two new ones and the return of one who had had a break having previously served on the Council. Councillor Gabriel wished to thank the two new Councillors for their enthusiasm and dynamism. He gave particular thanks to them for their efforts in launching the new Council website.

Councillor Grevatt has been co-opted onto the Community Hall Project Committee. This has resulted in an enhanced communication between the Parish Council and the Committee. The Parish Council has endorsed the good work of the Hall Committee up to this point.

Planning applications have been considered as usual. The Council has been pleased that no further plans have been approved for wind or solar farms in this AONB. The failure of a disastrous plan for a waste handling facility adjacent to Blue Post was noted.

As usual the Parish Council has made every effort to control expenditure so as to avoid any increase in the precept. Councillor Gabriel believes it to be a shame that it is not more widely recognised that Councillors receive no stipend for their council work and have unanimously agreed not even to claim expenses incurred. Regular requests for funding that are received are always carefully adjudged for their relevance and benefit for parishioners. When turned down it is not due to meanness but to ensure that, as a Council, we deliver value for money.

Councillor Gabriel noted that the general state of the roads is not good. Although this is out of our control we do keep on at Devon Highways.

Councillor Gabriel gave his thanks as usual to the parish clerk for his diligence and hard work. Councillor Gabriel wished to point out yet again that the clerk's refusal to claim a salary saves the Council and therefore the Parish, several thousand pounds per year.

Feoffees Report. Councillor Seager-Berry reported that the trustees of North Huish Feoffees, Bowden and Perring Charity – Mr John Hall Chairman, Mrs Janet Cousins Secretary/Treasurer, Mr Mike Bradley, Mrs Maggie Luscombe, Cmdr. Andrew Mitchell, Mrs Valerie Pearse and Mrs Marigold Seager-Berry met twice in 2015. In August and November prior to Christmas 2015. At this meeting the Trustees allocated £400 (£100 to each of four families). This left a balance which the trustees agreed could be allocated if there was anyone in need during the coming year. The rent from the field known as Mary Park provides the funds to distribute in the Parish.

The Chairman of the Avonwick and North Huish Community Hall Project, Mr P Tyler, reported that during the past twelve months significant progress had been made largely due to the Awards for All grant funding which permitted the following to be commissioned and completed:

- The Community Survey Report Published
- The appointment of an Architect and Solicitor
- An initial Hall Floor Space Assessment
- A site Constraints Desktop study
- A legal Review of site constraints
- A Capital Funding Plan
- An Initial Pre-Application Meeting with SHDC Planners and DCC Highways to clarify requirements for the development of the site
- An assessment of the options on the site for the Hall and Parking Layout

The committee has both gained and lost members during the year and really needs some more people to come forward to help keep the project moving forward.

Last September the successful Apple Pie Fair raised more than £700 for the project. Plans are in hand for another Apple Pie Fair on 18th September.

The community website is currently being refreshed.

The committee appreciates the endorsement of the Parish Council for the work so far achieved and it looks forward to significant progress in the year ahead.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

OPEN FORUM: There were two members of the public present. The state of the brown tourist signs was noted. The parish was asked to facilitate the cleaning of these signs particularly in the Kittaford Cross to California Cross area. Flooding to gardens in Church Walk was reported. Action Cllr Steer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillor Seager-Berry left the room while the Council discussed the granting of a donation to Avonwick Church Council

The **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 6th April 2016 were confirmed and signed. Proposed Councillor Hunt seconded Councillor Bell.

MATTERS ARISING:

It was noted that the blocked buddle hole noted in the previous meeting had been cleared. The damaged down pipe had also been repaired and the notice board in North Huish had been fixed.

REPORTS: County Councillor Vint reported that during this year of major cuts to County Services, Highways have been one of the areas affected. Some roads have been redesignated as green lanes and there has been a reduction in funding for pothole repairs. The library service has been handed over to an independent trust and volunteers have taken on work that was previously undertaken by paid staff. It is felt that a good service is still being provided. The contract for broadband provision has failed. It is not known how this will affect the future roll out of the service but the signs are not good at present.

District Councillor Steer reported that planning applications continue to make up a significant part of the District Council's workload. Where refused applications go to appeal the planning inspectors tend to agree with the decisions of the planning committee. A review of the planning department suggested that there should be no change in its practices.

PLANNING: The council was informed of the following planning decisions:-

- Conversion of barn to a dwelling at Manor Farm, North Huish. Approved
- Rear extension ay Hamiota, Avonwick. Approved
- Amendment to application at 9 Higher Moor, Avonwick. Approved

The Council gave its support to

- Request for outline planning permission for a permanent agricultural worker's dwelling at Lower Greenslade Farm subject to a positive Agricultural Appraisal and adequate screening.
- Request for refurbishment of barn and rebuild of orangery at Penson provided that the orangery is a stand alone building and not linked to the new agricultural barn/ garage.

The council wished to hold a site meeting at Colmer View Farm before making decisions concerning an application there.

Specific items of **CORRESPONDENCE** were noted as follows:

An email had been received from a parishioner seeking a response to an earlier email that she said she had sent to the Council. The Council does not appear to have received the first email and has requested a copy of it in order to give it due consideration

FINANCE:

This balance is made up as follows:

Balance c/f 149.40	£ 9098.37	P3 Money	£
Income (interest)	£ 0.41	Council funds	<u>£ 8769.38</u>
Expenditure (pp grass)	<u>£ 180.00</u>		
Balance c/f	<u>£ 8918.78</u>	Total	<u>£ 8918.78</u>

The Council agreed to pay the following: Insurance cost of £418.57. Proposed Cllr Steer seconded Cllr Hunt. Lengthsman costs £1188.00. Proposed Cllr Bell seconded Cllr Hunt and a donation to Avonwick Church Council £220.00. Proposed Cllr Gabriel seconded Cllr Bell. The donation is in recognition of the use of the vestry for parish council meetings.

The Council approved the Annual Accounts. Proposed Cllr Seager-Berry seconded Cllr Hunt

The Council signed the Statement of Assurance. Proposed Cllr Bell seconded Cllr Steer and approved the Annual Return Accounting Statement for the year ending March 2016 Proposed Cllr Steer seconded Cllr Seager-Berry

HIGHWAY MATTERS: The road surface from Woodland Barton to Kittaford Cross is still considered to be in need of repair. Action clerk.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 7th June 2016 at 7.30pm at St James Church, Avonwick.