

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ALL SAINTS PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at All Saints Village Hall, ALL SAINTS**

Meeting convened at 7.30pm, and the Chairman, Cllr. Alistair Forbes, welcomed all in attendance and pointed out fire exits and outlined fire evacuation procedure.

Present:

Cllr. Alistair Forbes (Chairman), Cllr. Jacqui Hubbard, Cllr. Andrew Lightfoot, Cllr. Anthony Nixon and Cllr. Robert Speed.

Clerk to Council, Paul Hayward.

11 members of the public.

1) Apologies

Cllr. Ian Hall (DCC), PC Simon Aldred, Dave Wicken (webmaster).

2) To receive minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2018.

These had been previously circulated to members. Proposed by Chair, and seconded by Cllr. Hubbard. Approved unanimously and signed as a true record by Chair.

Matters arising from these minutes. **None.**

3) Report from the Chairman of Council, Cllr. Alistair Forbes

May I welcome everyone here tonight and thank you for coming along to the Annual Parish Meeting which will be followed by the Ordinary meeting of Council. As before, may I begin by reminding those in attendance that this is not a Council meeting but rather a statutory annual event for the parishioners of the village and hamlets to hear what all the numerous groups in the parish, together with your elected representatives, have been getting up to over the last 12 months.

The Council has been extremely active in the last 12 months having taken over the lease of the former cricket field to provide recreational facilities for the parish, liaising with the hall trustees to provide digital and cinema facilities at the village hall for all parish residents and installing a night-time landing spot for the Devon Air Ambulance on the recreation field; Council previously provided a community defibrillator at the village hall which is available 24 hours a day in case of need and Councillors are considering the arrangements for a further First Aid training course to complement this. The Council also issued its Parish Information Booklet to all parish households, and will continue to update this as the months progress.

Council continues to operate at the highest level of openness, transparency and financial diligence (as our Foundation Quality Award attests). Council maintains stringent internal financial controls to safeguard tax-payers money and all decisions of Council are made in public at properly convened, and advertised, meetings where any resident can come along and challenge, query or perhaps even congratulate their elected Councillors.

This year, all the seats (including my own) on the Council are open for election and I would encourage anyone with an interest in the wellbeing and future prosperity of their parish to consider standing for election. The Clerk will outline the process during the Ordinary meeting afterwards and has the requisite forms available for prospective nominees. Certain rules and regulations apply, but the Clerk will outline these shortly.

I would like to thank all of our honorary volunteers who keep our footpaths, websites, trees and ditches clear and tidy and also to both the Neighbourhood Watch team and the editor of the Parish Newsletter for keeping us safe, well-read and up-to-date with parish goings-on.

As I previous years, we have been advised that Devon County Council's budgets have been cut as a result of reduced central government funding and increased statutory costs elsewhere, which means that the services they provide the parish with will be squeezed still further too. Council has taken steps to be more "self-reliant" be that by way of road repairs, grounds maintenance, flood resilience etc. but some things are still under the auspices of the higher authorities and we will, as a Parish Council, continue to cajole, harangue and pester them, and their Councillors, to ensure that the Parish is not forgotten when it comes to receiving its fair share of the pot.

As mentioned at last year's meeting, our parish is still part of the EDDC Yarty ward as before but we have lost our acquaintance with Yacombe parish but, as a consequence of the Boundary changes, gained new friends and allies in Hawkchurch; the revised ward now comprising of Chardstock, Membury, Hawkchurch and ourselves. We hope to work closely with those Parish Councillors, and the newly elected District Councillor, after May 2nd to establish a united front to fight for better services, better protection against rapacious development and better and stronger representation at the newly built Council HQ in Honiton which opened officially only last week.

My thanks as well to our Parish Clerk, Paul Hayward, who continues to keep the Councils financials in compliance with national standards, our parish administrative records precise & conformant and our bank account full; in this financial year (as before) he secured over £12,000 of grant funding (equal to our precept) in order to provide additional facilities both for the parish and the wider community. Paul only works part-time (clerking for 2 other councils too) but I should like to thank him for his diligence, professionalism and his ability to find money where none seemed forthcoming from elsewhere. I wish him every success with his professional exams which are due to be completed within the next few weeks which will not only provide him with a formal clerking qualification for the future but allow this Parish to do more, unconstrained by the rather antiquated rules that we are obliged to manoeuvre around by way of primary local government legislation.

Finally, my most sincere and heartfelt thanks go to my fellow Councillors who have, as ever, continued to give up many hours of their time in the service of the parish and the residents; always available at the end of a telephone line, or an email address, and coming out in all weathers, they have served as Parish Councillors for the greater good of their community and I think it is only right that we formally applaud their dedication and thank them for this steadfast duty.

4) Report from Devon County Councillor, Ian Hall.

No report provided. Councillor unable to attend due to illness.

5) Report from East Devon District Councillor, Paul Diviani.

No report provided. Report from Police Representatives

6) Report from All Saints Village Hall representative, Cllr. Andrew Lightfoot

Village Hall is in good health financially. Income £10,700 to date, with another months revenue yet to be received. On target to equal last years receipts - £12320.

Bank Balance (reserves) had increased by £2000+ over last 12 months.

Last year has seen a great deal of new equipment installed in hall (partly thanks to the PC) New Chair on order. Projector and screen will be a great asset to the hall and community and Trustees looking forward to the first screening.

Hall maintenance ongoing. New website planned and "re-branding" of the VH proposed incl. a live online booking service and payment processing function.

Chair thanked all Trustees for their hard work and service to the parish community.

7) Report from Police Representatives

No report submitted to Council.

8) Report from Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators, Libby Dibble & Michael Shaw

Michael outlined the ever present scourge of telephone and online scams in and around the parish which adversely targeted elderly residents. He asked anyone affected to contact either him or Libby so that an accurate record can be kept of the problem. Concern was raised that no police representative was available to attend, or to liaise with NHW parish team as had been mentioned at previous Parish meetings. Police presence in rural areas was an ongoing concern with thefts and other ASB a constant worry and cause of distress to many residents.

9) a) Report on P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) from Tim Pedder.

Tim thanked Libby for her service to parish as Hon. Footpath warden for many years. Since taking over the reins, Tim has walked all paths (bar one) and is happy to report they are all in good order. FP34 diversion is still pending as one objection yet to be withdrawn but, as a result, existing footpath remains open still. A meeting with the P3 officers at DCC has been arranged.

9) b) Report from Tree Warden, Kevin Feeney.

No report submitted to meeting.

10) Report from Webmaster, Dave Wicken.

Verbal report given by Clerk as Dave was unable to attend:

In 2018 the software used to support the parish website was made obsolete by the software developer, which necessitated a transition to a new platform. The webmaster thanks Ellis Holt for facilitating this and the parish clerk for liaising with our service provider. Some new additions include a web-page for the All Saints Pantomime Society - who thank the ASPC for their generosity in offering this – and some aerial photographs of the various hamlets that make up the parish on the Photographs page. Parishioners are invited to submit photos of the parish, and the life within it, for inclusion on this page. A couple of very useful recent additions are a footpaths map for the parish and a new local information sheet. These may be found on the Local Activities page.

Dave Wicken, ASPC webmaster

11) Open Forum for Parishioners.

Michael Shaw raised concerns about the state of parish roads and the failure of DCC to specifically repair the Socks Hill section of highway that is in desperate need of major repair, not just cosmetic tinkering. Hilary Pritchard said that she feared a serious accident would be caused before long. The absence of Cllr. Hall was regretted as residents wished to take him to task over his promise to ensure the works were carried out in this financial year (18/19). Chair asked those in attendance to vote, by show of hands, as to the following statement:

“Are you generally dissatisfied with the standard of County Council highways works, control of expenditure and speed of response to queries and concerns? “

Show of hands was unanimous.

Open Forum Continued:

There was a representation from Tom Galvin, on behalf of Christine Galvin, regarding the issue of the Parish Council's recent Land Ownership letter. As this matter was being discussed at the Ordinary meeting to follow, Mr. Galvin agreed to discuss in that session.

12) Date of next Parish meeting:

3rd March 2020 Tuesday. 7.30pm

With no further business to attend to, the parish meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____