**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 26th APRIL 2018 IN THE GEORGE V MEMORIAL HALL**

**AT 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Chairman Stephen Hasell

Parish Councillors: John Butler, Nikki Orchard, Sheila Muir, Pete Davies, Dave Authers, Rupert Snook & Adam Pilgrim

County Councillor Ray Radford

Village Hall Committee Chairman Mrs Jane Pilgrim

Clerk Mrs Leslie Findlay

There were several residents attending from both Holcombe Rogus and Burlescombe Parish

**Apologies**: District Councillor Heather Bainbridge and Parish Councillor Katie Smith

The Chairman opened the meeting and warmly welcomed the members of the public.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

There were no matters arising from last year.

Matters arising:

Mr Bryce Mills (Burlescombe Parish) outlined the concern of residents in the Canonsleigh area of Burlescombe regarding the forthcoming public consultation on altering the route of the quarry lorries up Longwood lane. He outlined the concern for dairy farmers trying to take their cattle across the lane up to four times a day and asked if HRPC would be objecting to this alternative route. The Chairman explained that this was a public consultation with three proposals (later amended to one) on the table and it was for every individual to put forward their views at the public meeting. These views would be collated before any further action could be considered.

The Chairman read out his report and the all the other reports were available to read.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Stephen Hasell

Chairman

Attached – All Reports

**Chairman’s Report, 2018.**

The Parish Council have had another busy year. Meetings are held once a month with a summer break in August and December. This year we have had several planning applications to deal with and with such a wet winter the amount of pot holes seem to be never ending.

The Finance Committee is in a good position as the solar monies are mounting up and several projects, such as the Community Playground, are coming forward that can be helped by the parish council in a positive way.

The Snow Wardens had a short spell in February when their efforts in keeping the roads clear helped everyone in the community to stay mobile even if the main roads seemed untouched by the Highways Authority. The yearly drain cleaning has kept flooding to a minimum. A big thankyou to David and Andrew.

This year we see the retirement of Sheila Muir who has been on the Council for 30 years. Sheila will be greatly missed because of her knowledge of all that has gone before and now she deserves a rest. Last year Sheila had the honour of being invited to Buckingham Palace for a Tea party with the Queen and a few other guests. Just a warning to other councillors it took 29 years of trying! A huge thank you goes to Sheila from Holcombe Rogus.

All the Parish councillors have served their community well and should be thanked for their commitment in making the parish a great place to live.

Last but definitely not least …

I would like to thank Leslie our Clerk for all the hard work she puts in. Leslie keeps us informed on all things that the Parish Council needs to know and we could not do without her expertise.

Stephen Hasell

**Planning Report by John Butler, Chair of Planning Committee**

1. **Planning Applications considered in 2017-18**

The Council and its planning committee considered some 18 applications for planning permission, listed building consent and notifications to carry out tree works in the Conservation Area during the year. In the main, these were small scale domestic residential works and works to trees. The decisions taken by Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) were largely consistent with views of the Council, as statutory consultee.

However the following significant planning applications were considered in 2017/18.

* Application by Aggregate Industries to vary the working scheme for quarrying operations at Westleigh Quarry Complex to allow the extraction of an additional 600,000 tonnes at Rocknell Quarry. Devon County Council is the minerals planning authority for this application. The Council objected to the proposal until satisfactory alternative traffic arrangements had been provided to alleviate the impact of quarry lorries on the existing traffic route and, in particular, the significant adverse impact on those living in Burlescombe. Devon County Council is considering this application and the Council awaits the decision.

There is to be a Consultation organised by Devon County Council on an alternative traffic scheme via Longwood Lane to be held at Burlescombe and Westleigh Community Hall on 10th May (4pm to 8pm) and it is important that as many parishioners as possible attend this and make their views known.

* Application for recycling and soil screening/storage facility at Ayshford. This application was refused by Devon County Council and is currently subject to an appeal.

1. **Planning Appeals**

* The Council currently awaits the results of the appeal relating to the application for a recycling and soil screening/storage facility at Ayshford as mentioned above.
* The Council awaits the results of the appeal against the refusal by MDDC of planning permission to remove a condition requiring the removal of an agricultural building on land to the north of Wardmoor within three years of cessation of use.

1. **Local Plan Review**

It was reported at the Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April 2017 that the Council had, in response to the local plan review consultation, expressed concern about the impact of material retail development at Junction 27 on the towns of the Cullompton, Tiverton and Wellington. The public examination by an Inspector of the local plan review- due to take place in September 2017 – was adjourned since MDDC had been advised by Counsel that the sustainability appraisal carried out by MDDC should be updated. A new date for the examination has yet to be set.

1. **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

The Government has issued draft revisions to the NPPF. The proposed revisions are intended, in particular, to make the most efficient use of urban land and boost housing delivery rates, while strengthening greenbelt protection. The presumption in favour of sustainable development would be triggered where a council cannot demonstrate a five-year housing supply or delivery has been substantially below the housing requirement over the previous three years. These proposals are unlikely to have any real impact on Holcombe Rogus given the limited potential for additional housing within the settlement limits of the village. The current consultation on the revised NPPF ends on 10th May and the Government‘s intention is to produce a final version in the summer of 2018.

1. **Section 106 contributions for public open space.**

Where there is a planning application for housing development within the parish there will be an opportunity for the Council to secure financial contributions to its public open space. However, it will be necessary for the Council to be specific as to the particular open space provision so that the developer can be required to pay a specific financial contribution under a Section 106 Agreement. It is understood that the previous practice of MDDC pooling contributions for unspecified public open space provision across the District will no longer apply.

1. **Planning changes generally**

In the forthcoming year there are likely to be further changes in planning policy and legislation with the aim, in particular, of encouraging the provision of additional housing.

It is should also be noted that new Regulations have been made enabling councils to increase planning application fees by 20% on condition that the increased income is re-invested in planning services.

JHB

**CLERK/RFO REPORT**

The main issues this year for the Clerk have been the introduction of the new External Audit and more importantly the Data Protection regulations. It will be interesting to see in the year ahead if it makes much difference to a small Parish Council other than lots more paperwork!

As the Parish Council has income and expenditure below £25,000 we are not required to have an external audit but are still required to complete all the documentation which will be available to view on the website.

The Parish Council received the following funding in this financial year:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Precept | 6359.11 |
| Council Tax Grant | 145.90 |
| Interest | 4.08 |
| Lightsource Solar | 5305.54 |
| VAT reclaim | 393.80 |
| P3 grant | 1000.00 |
| TAP Fund grant | 1000.00 |
| Locality budget grant | 500.00 |

Grants

This year we have received £1000 awarded from the Town and Parish Fund to purchase a Community Notice Board which has been erected on the school wall for everyone to use.

The Parish Paths Partnership (P3) is a scheme funded by DCC to allow the Parishes to become responsible for their own footpaths and ensure that they are maintained. As this is our first year, we have an extra amount to cover the initial costs to get the stiles and gates replaced/repaired and it is hoped that the footpaths will be well used over the years ahead.

The Locality budget grant assisted with the cost of cleaning the drains in the village. This annual work has definitely reduced the flooding issues in the village.

Assets

In addition to the new notice board the Parish Council have purchased the old phone box in the village for £1.00. As yet, no permanent use has been found for it but it has had seasonal additions which have been very effective.

Solar Fund Expenditure

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Broadband for the village & Hockworthy | 1385.00 |
| Folding tables for the village Hall | 411.87 |
| Trolleys for the tables | 341.65 |
| Community Notice Board | 465.86 |
| Village sign | 215.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **2819.39** |

Training

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COURSE** | **DATE** | **ATTENDEE** |
| General Data Protection | 4.7.17 | Parish Clerk |
| Website protection | 5.7.17 | Parish Clerk |
| DALC AGM | 10.10.17 | Cllr Pilgrim |
| New Cllr Course | 13.12.17 | Cllr Smith |
| General Data Protection | 13.3.18 | Parish Clerk |
| Planning training | 28.3.18 | Cllr Butler/Parish Clerk |
| Local Clerks Meetings | 3 x a year | Parish Clerk |

The Precept for 2018/19 has been raised to £7,300

Leslie Findlay

Responsible Financial Officer/Parish Clerk

**Councillor Adam Pilgrim’s Report**

I have been a member of the Parish Council since 2014.

My Parish Council responsibilities include;

**The Grand Western Canal**

**The Environment**

**Grand Western Canal**

I represent the Parish Council on the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee (GWCJAC) and have attended its meetings in October 2017 and March 2018.

The Canal Manager, Mark Baker, hosts an annual Inspection Tour for members of the GWCJAC when he shows members highlights of works on the canal. These have included a demonstration of the new automatic weir at Burlescombe and a visit to the new manually-operated weir near Tiverton.

I have also attended an open meeting in Burlescombe at which Clive Tompkins of Aggregated Industries was pressed to expedite a long-awaited device for transferring excess quarry water from Fenacre Brook to the canal when needed and address concerns about quarry traffic.

I liaise with the Canal Manager about maintenance items that occur from time to time.

**Environment**

I had dealt with a weed-killing accident on a hedge bank at Lowdwells; exploring ways of speeding-up re-colonisation and de-fusing a dispute about the matter between two members of the Parish.

I monitor weekly bulletins from the Rural Services Network in order to be aware of information or initiatives that may help our Parish.

I am happy to be made aware of any general concerns from members of the Parish.

Adam Pilgrim

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

I have been your County Councillor for 13 years now, known as Willand and Uffculme Ward, time flies when you are enjoying yourself.  As well as representing Holcombe Rogus Communities I have another 10 Parishes, Willand, Uffculme, Culmstock, Hemyock, Clayhidon, Sampford Peverell, Burlescombe and Westleigh, Huntsham, Hockworthy and Clayhanger. As a MDDC Councillor I also represent Halberton and Uplowman.

This year has been very different to all other years, last year I was elected to be the Chairman of Devon County Council, that has taken me all over Devon, this year to date I have attended over 170 meetings/events and have met a variety of different people including many on royal occasions. It has been difficult to attend as many Parish Councils as I would have liked, because of the demands of being County Chairman.

From a County perspective, there are many issues relating to Holcombe Rogus and that is the HGV traffic, which is a one way system that comes through Holcombe Rogus Parish on to the Westleigh Quarry and then out through Burlescombe, this very much affects us  here in Holcombe Rogus, ranging from the Quarry ROMP application, concerns about an agreement on water levels in the canal between DCC, EA and the Quarry Owners, and the desire to improve any HGV traffic routeing, without removing traffic from one area and transferring it to another, this will prove to be very challenging. Therefore I urge as many as possible to attend the consultation set for 10th May in the Burlescombe Village Hall. The Chairman of Holcombe Rogus sits on the Quarry Liaison Group, who will try and pull all the comments together. We need some guidance as to what is acceptable or what is not acceptable. If there is an acceptable scheme, it is going to be expensive.

I do enjoy my job, it is difficult to please all the people all the time, but I can but try to please as many as possible. I suppose one of the concerns locally, because of the bad winter we have had, it creates potholes and bad road surfaces. What has to happen in these cases, it has to be reported on the Web, it will then create a reference number and is logged and County has to repair in a certain time, according to the road classification, if is not reported this way, County may not be aware of it and it will not be done.

It`s worth saying that I do have a couple pots of money to help local charities/organisations/groups, just make an application to me and we can see what we can do.

One of the funds, TAP fund (Town and Parish), to be renamed Communities working together, last year was unclaimed in this area, known as Willand & Uffculme and because it cannot be carried over to the next year, £3800 was lost to another part of MDDC, I don`t want that to happen again. This fund has to be applied through the Parish Council.

Regards,     Ray Radford

**FOOTPATH REPORT**

The footpaths have all been walked and reported on and we have now become part of the P3 project. We have received our first grant of £1000 and so work on repairs and replacement gates can begin as soon as the contractor is free.

We are also replacing the three central stiles with gates as people have found them difficult to use.

We are still waiting on the landowner to sort the diversion on footpath 23, at Ford Farm, and hopefully he will complete this soon so the diversion can be officially confirmed.

This work means we will soon have footpaths that are clear and easily accessible with working gates.

Katie Smith

P3 Representative

**Playgroup Report**

Playgroup have reported they are doing well this year and numbers are on the rise again!!!  There is also a good number of younger children so in September when some leave for School there should still be a good number attending!

Previously they were attached to a Burlescombe group that they got up and running again once the school was no longer able to finance someone to run it.  This group has also taken off with good numbers so they have now separated enabling Holcombe Rogus under 5's to sort through their resources and focus on items more suited to the village hall surroundings!

A lot of their toys are very old so they are slowly working through updating/renewing items to maintain a good standard.

We hope the group continues to grow so they are able to maintain the good work and sorting out they have done this year!!!

From September a new name/organiser will be needed to step up!!  This is just a Mum/Dad/Grandparent or Carer that attends regularly and are able to make sure there’s a rota for people to take turns in setting up!!!

Nikki Orchard

Playgroup Organiser

**Roads Report April 2018**

In the last month a parishioner has adorned our village signs with the addition of a ‘POT’ to our Holcombe Rogus signs.

This is a sad indictment to the state of the roads in our small community over the last few months. Essential to all of us, the council, as well as our parishioners, have implored our highways team to attend to the disastrous condition of our road network. The safety of all is compromised by the neglect to the infrastructure. Hopefully the situation will be addressed quickly once the back ground land has dried out enough to back up the repairs needed. As we report though very little has been achieved and great care is needed in negotiating the bye-ways of Holcombe Rogus.

Our District and County councillors are to be thanked for their endeavours on our behalf, but be warned, we do need a lot more action.

Rupert Snook