

Tuesday, 7th January, 2014

- 4097 An ordinary Meeting of Broadwoodwidge Parish Council took place in the Kennick Room at Lakeside on Tuesday, 7th January, 2014 at 1900 hours. The Chairman, Cllr. Worden presided. Cllrs. Crocombe, Hawken, Nobbs, Reynolds, Wonnacott and Woodard were present. C/Cllr. Parsons and D/Cllr. Watson also attended, together with our local PCSO, Raquel Rowe, and two members of the public, Mrs. Marion Kneebone and Mrs. Lorna Cartwright, our new clerk.
- 4098 As PCSO Rowe had to return to her other duties, the Meeting was preceded with her report that approximately £33,000-worth of sheep-rustling had occurred last summer, that several five-bar metal gates had been stolen from the Ashwater / Halwill area, and that a problem in Hoisworthy was thought to have been resolved with the arrest of a man linked to Bude.
- 4099 ♦ **Apologies for Absence:**
- 4100 · Cllrs. Banbury and Butler, detained on other business; also the current clerk.
- 4101 · **Cllr. Wonnacott proposed, Cllr. Reynolds seconded** that their apologies be accepted. **Carried nem. con.**
- 4102 Councillors present then introduced themselves to the new clerk.
- 4103 ♦ **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
- 4104 · All Councillors had been sent a copy of the Minutes of the September Meeting.
- 4105 · **Cllr. Crocombe proposed, Cllr. Reynolds seconded** that the Minutes be approved, taken as read. **Carried nem. con.**
- 4106 ♦ **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting**
- 4107 · None; but it was commented that the First Aid Course had been well-received by all who attended.
- 4108 ♦ **Correspondence**
- 4109 · There was no correspondence present with the Meeting notes, but Councillors had already been emailed copies of some items; and the Chairman said there was not much of significance.
- 4110 ♦ **Planning**
- 4111 · Councillors had the usual summary of ongoing planning applications.
- 4112 · **Six Wind Turbines in the Hollow Panson Area**
- 4113 · Cllr, Perkin had been asked to read through the paperwork (as his is the nearest property to the site, which is out of our Parish). There was much about new hedges for habitat, and the claim that noise would not be a problem. Cllr. Perkin will respond to District with comments and queries. There was no mention of visual impact. He had already agreed to differ with EDF at a meeting at St. Giles.
- 4114 · D/Cllr. Watson stated that the Applicants may withdraw, as the Planning Officer had found more issues with bats.
- 4115 · The Chairman asked if we should respond. Cllr. Perkin said he thought we should, but perhaps first consider the scientific report.
- 4116 · Cllr. Nobbs enquired about consideration of the impact on humans as well as on wildlife - bats etc. D/Cllr. Watson agreed that we ought to be just as important, but people in authority don't seem to think that way.

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- 4117 · It was agreed that our response would be that:
- 4118 · the Report had been read;
- 4119 · we cannot comment on the scientific content; and
- 4120 · we are disappointed with there being no further information on the visual aspect of the project.
- 4121 · **Proposed by Cllr. Nobbs, seconded by Cllr. Perkin.**
- 4122 · C/ Cllr. Parsons wished it to be noted that he had remained quiet throughout this discussion due to his positional interest (his dwelling is very near the proposed site).
- 4123 · **Town Farm**
- 4124 · Yet another amended application for this part of the original site. This time, six houses are proposed, some with three bedrooms. It was suggested that the area was too small for even four houses (some approved), and that our original comments on earlier proposals are still valid and should be reinforced.
- 4125 · The site would become over-developed and the proposed dwellings would more resemble new-builds rather than barn-conversions.
- 4126 · There is not enough space allocated for vehicles.
- 4127 · It was further commented that it would be impossible for most caravans to negotiate the access proposed for them.
- 4128 · None of the dwellings is designated 'affordable'.
- 4129 · Problems with the site's services were also foreseen.
- 4130 · Apparently, the Planning Officer has already pointed out that the style of the proposed buildings would not be in keeping with the Listed nature of the rest of the overall farm site.
- 4131 · D/Cllr. Watson offered to call in the Application.
- 4132 · **Highways**
- 4133 · There are many concerns over drainage and consequent flooding. Our allocation of one and a half days for lengthsman is totally inadequate. Priority areas:
- 4134 · Grinnacombe Moor.
- 4135 · Rabbit Hill (Middle to Lower Grinnacombe).
- 4136 · The hills at Kellacott to Drownsmill.
- 4137 · To a lesser extent (flooding not a danger to dwellings): Broadwood Hill and Slew.
- 4138 · Potholes are still high on the agenda: one section of road has 58 in 150 metres! C/Cllr. Parsons said that potholes are the biggest headache for DCC and that Cabinet is reviewing its contract with SWH with a view to taking joint control.
- 4139 · Devon is the County with the largest area of roads, but DCC had apparently been voted *the best respected and liked Council in the Country*. (Vice Chairman: "Not sure we were asked.")
- 4140 · There was a £650m deficit on Highways, but the budget for 2012-13 was just £30m.
- 4141 · C/Cllr. Parsons stated he fights for rural work to be done, and has had several meetings with Simon Philips (Head of SWH in our area).
- 4142 · D/Cllr. Watson said he is disappointed with the quality of repairs, particularly of potholes, for instance in Clawton; and Cllr. Woodard questioned the wisdom of loose surface dressing where the surplus lands up in ditches and blocking drains.

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- 4143 · Cllr. Perkin was concerned about icy roads in locally flooded areas.
- 4144 · Overall, there was general disappointment that we are not getting what we pay for in rates and taxes being applied to local infrastructure and maintenance. Other spending was considered unwise and unnecessary, and should be reserved for when surplus funds are available. It was mentioned that the 'bonus' from the sale of Exeter Airport seems to have been frittered away.
- 4145 ♦ **Accounts**
- 4146 · Councillors had a statement of the latest position, together with a draft reforecast for this financial year, and a proposal for a budget for 2014-15.
- 4147 · The Leader of DCC, Cllr. John Hart, has said that, in future, parishes will have to do the work which can no longer be afforded by County or Districts. We will therefore have to raise our precept in order to have enough in reserve for such works considered by the Parish to be essential. (At this point, C/Cllr. Parsons left the Meeting.)
- 4148 · In considering the amount by which to raise the precept, it was remarked that, until we know more of what County and District are proposing, we are not in a position to decide as we would be *guessing in the dark*.
- 4149 · Although conscious that a rise in our precept would increase the Parish proportion of the Council Tax (probably not compensated by a reduction by County or District) **Members voted** that we should precept on TDC for £2,000 more than last year. **Proposed: Cllr. Reynolds, seconded: Cllr. Crocombe.**
- 4150 · The extra money is to be treated as a reserve until County's and District's intentions are fully known; and an explanatory letter should be scribed and distributed, preferably by District with the next Council Tax bills.
- 4151 · **Cllr. Wonnacott proposed, Cllr. Reynolds seconded** that the clerk's expenses for the period since the November Meeting be paid. **Carried nem. con.**
- 4152 · The Chairman then explained the situation regarding TAP funding. In essence, it is a grant from County to the Districts to be made available to parishes who *jointly* apply for funding for projects of local value.
- 4153 · There had been a (resolved) misunderstanding over the grant to the Ivyhouse Gardening Club (membership drawn from the parishes of St. Giles, Virginstowe and Bww, with a few others). However, the cheque was now happily presented by our Chairman to Mrs. Marion Kneebone representing the Club for this purpose.
- 4154 ♦ **Any Other Business:**
- 4155 · The Chairman picked up on the audit and also wind turbines / alternative energy. C/Cllr. Parsons defended the position, and a discussion on business rates ensued (e.g. £?5m in business rates to TDC).
- 4156 · The Holsworthy Area Advisory Group was explained. Representatives from Bww and other parish councils within that area have been meeting for many years to discuss important issues affecting the local region. District makes representations there, and this gives opportunity to discuss and share topics which affect rural area rather than towns and cities.

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- 4157 · Mr. Gilbert Rendle: We have been asked to supply extracts from Minutes concerning the problems and disputes with his neighbours. An allegation has now been made that Mr. Rendle refused mediation. The previous Chairman, Cllr. Woodard, stated that the allegation is untrue, as he had been the intermediary from the start of the problems. He later involved Torridge District Council whose Planning Inspector decided the planning issue in Mr. Rendle's favour. A Legal Case Review is to take place on 25th March, and a Hearing has been arranged for 28th January.
- 4158 · Church Lea Barn: Mrs. Towers had complained that water had flooded her property. Cllrs. Worden, Woodard and Crocombe met on the Village Green to establish the source of the problem, It would appear that that it partly arose from the redesigning of the surfaces and drainage within the boundaries of Church Lea Barn itself. It was suggested that a nine-inch pipe feeding into a six-inch pipe would be likely to cause a problem or two. Also, paving areas formerly made up of soil, stone and gravel does not allow for water to soak away as was previously the case. However, some work could be done to improve part of the run-off from the track to the East of the Green. This is our responsibility; but it has not been helped by previous Council decisions concerning crossovers and usage / maintenance.
- 4159 · School Playing Field: The Chairman updated the Meeting on the events concerning proper ownership. A solicitor will be required to establish the true current ownership in *trust*, whereafter St. Giles will return ownership.
- 4160 ♦ **Closed Session***: Motion in accordance with Standing Order 62 **proposed by Cllr. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr. Crocombe. Carried nem. con.**
- 4161 ♦ **Dates and Times of Next Meetings**
- 4162 · Tuesday, 18th March, 2014 in the Kennick Room at 1900 hours.
- 4163 There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 2125 hours.

