

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 24th MAY 2011

PRESENT

Messrs E Hibbert [Parish Council Chairman], B Wiggall, D Mackellar, P Gaze, Mrs E Brent-Smith, [Parish Councillors], Mr K Pearson [District Councillor], Mr B Stanley [Chairman of Harescombe Parish Council], Mrs C Novoth [Neighbourhood Warden] Police Sergeant Adrian Smith, Mr Brent-Smith, Mrs R Cole [Brookthorpe Cameo Group], Mr D Harris [Village Hall Committee], Mrs A Rigelsford [Parish Clerk], and 13 parishioners

APOLOGIES

Mrs L Kemp [Village Agent] Mr Neil Carmichael MP Mrs J Nash [County Councillor] Mrs M Bone, Mr F Dowell and Mr K Terrett

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed and thanked all present for attending.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please see attached report

FINANCE REPORT FROM THE PARISH CLERK

The Clerk stated that she had just picked up the books from the independent Auditor and that he had found them to be in good order. With a balance of just over £20,000 the Council was now in a better position to fight large scale planning developments and carry out any actions as a result of the Parish Plan. With cuts to both district and county council budgets more services are being sent down to parish level to provide and that money is needed to carry these out.

The Council now has gained the Power of Well-being and can now work with other agencies or individuals for the parish. The summary of accounts had been circulated and explained by the Clerk.

Question Why was there a parish increase in for the Council Tax?

Answer This is due to a change in the Tax Base. The tax base changes when new properties are built, old properties become empty or parishioners qualify for a reduction in their Council Tax.

Question Why is there not more detail in the summary of accounts?

Answer This is a summary of accounts. The detailed accounts are available for viewing

Question How does the Council ensure value for money.

Answer The Council ensure that at least three quotes are obtained when looking for work to be carried out, and services are compared annually

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Please see attached report

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Please see attached report

POLICE REPORT

PS Adrian Smith from the local policing team explained that he had only been in position since 1st April but was working to provide a more co-ordinated approach and common thread with Stroud Nailsworth and Stonehouse stations. He explained that he had had problems obtaining the crime figures for the parish but would forward them as soon as he

had located them on the computer system. He was aware however that Brookthorpe with Whaddon was a low crime area.

Question Why was a local burglary apparently not being looked in to?

Answer He was unaware of this facts surrounding this particular crime but would look into this and report back.

Comment There has been a lack of attendance of police representation at meetings.

Answer This again would be looked into but he hoped that this situation would change and that the Parish Council could expect more regular reports and attendance at meetings in the future.

Comment I am more than happy with the Police attendance when there have been problems.

Question Could he provide regular articles for the newsletter?

Answer This could be looked at.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN'S REPORT

Mrs Carol Novoth reported that she had been busy keeping the parish free from rubbish and fly tipped articles. That she visits the parish or travels through it every time she is on shift. She is now a recognised first responder and was very active in the very bad weather of last winter helping out the more vulnerable with shopping, heating problems, and collecting medication.

PARISH WEBSITE

Mr Eric Hibbert stated that the website continues to be updated and indeed now has a blog that people can post any comments to. He however, holds the right to edit comments in line with any relevant legislation.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mr Chris Brent- Smith explained that he was always trying to make the newsletter more interesting but that more articles are always welcome. He enjoys being the editor and is now working closely with editors from other magazines.

PARISH PLAN

Mr Paul Gaze reported that there were now only a handful of volunteers working on the project. That attendance at the open event held just before Christmas was extremely disappointing. However, work has now started to prioritise an action plan and this will be published in due course.

VILLAGE HALL REPORT – Mr Don Harris reported hall bookings were now up and that Hares field Playgroup used the hall the most at 4 times a week. Work has started to look at a cheaper, greener and more effective way of heating the hall. Possibly a ground or air to air system.

BROOKTHORPE CAMEO GROUP – Mrs Rosemary Cole stated that the group was doing well with about 24 regular attendees. There has been a wide range of speakers and visits.

COMMENTS FROM BRIAN STANLEY - CHAIRMAN OF HARESCOME

PARISH COUNCIL

Brian explained that he was a relatively new Chairman and that in the passed his council had not been run on exactly legal grounds. However the Council works, with consultation with its community and they are fully behind the changes that have had to be made.

Including a raise in the council tax by 128% over the last two years. They are also carrying out a parish plan and has had wide consultation over priorities. Harescombe Parish council is working with other Councils regarding matters such as the Motorway Service Area and the Regional Spatial Strategy.

There being no other matters, everyone enjoyed the refreshments supplied by Councillors.

