

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Of the Full Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held On Wednesday 28th April 2010 at 7.00pm
in the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards**Members Present:** Cllr Mrs S Smith, Chairman

Cllr Mrs V Bell

Cllr R Dudman

Cllr N Hindmarch

Cllr Mrs A Warman

Cllr R Bryan

Cllr M Dyer

Cllr Mrs J House

Cllr R Warman

In attendance: Mrs Ann Jacobs Clerk, DCC Cllr P Richardson; Mr S Davies of Avon Heath Country Park and one member of the public.

Avon Heath Country- Mr Steve Davies, Manager of the Park gave a report on the future plans and management of the Park.

Conservation Volunteer Co-ordinator: Mr Kliger then gave a short report on the current work of the Parish Volunteer groups.

County Councillors Report – A copy of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting and appears as Appendices A and B to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The content of the report was noted.

Cllr Mrs Warman reported that she had received a lot of complaints about the lack of bus stops in the Parish. If you live in Sandy Lane it is a long way to walk to the nearest stop. This needs mentioning at TAG.

Cllr Mrs Bell asked Cllr Richardson about the bus passes. When routes changed previously there was a problem with the bus passes being accepted in Ringwood. Cllr Richardson reported that these are private companies and it is a trial, he will find out if the passes will be accepted by them.

Open Forum: None

7.37pm - The meeting opened.

518. Declarations of Interest - Cllr R Warman declared a personal interest in the Youth Club.

Cllr Mrs Warman declared no interest based on the agenda, unless the VHMC was to be discussed. Cllr Dudman declared no interest based on the agenda.

519. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Crow; Cllr M Packham; Cllr C Preece and Cllr G Willetts.

520. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31st March 2010 Pages 79-82., were agreed and adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr Mrs V Bell.

521. Matters arising from the Minutes for information only:-

1. Abbey Rose footpath – The National Rights of Way have written to advise that as there is no imminent threat to the footpath the application will follow the normal procedure which we are advised could take at least 4 years to complete. This is due to a lack of staffing resources at DCC.

522. Minutes of Committee Meetings – The Council adopted the following approved Minutes:-

- i) Planning Committee 11th March 2010: Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr R Bryan
- ii) Amenities Committee 3rd March 2010 pages 73 & 74: Proposed by Cllr M Dyer, seconded by Cllr R Dudman.
- iii) Finance Committee 3rd March 2010 pages 75 & 76: Proposed by Cllr Mrs V Bell, seconded by Cllr R Dudman.

523. Correspondence - The following correspondence was duly noted:-

1. Response from Angus Campbell, Leader of DCC in respect of Flyposting
2. St John Ambulance Dorset – notification of door to door fundraising collection (for direct debits – not cash)
3. Mobile Library Service schedule
4. DCC – No excuse campaign posters
5. Minute 474 - A response has been received from Cllr Mrs Warman
6. EDDC Council's Corporate Plan Draft open for consultation comments
7. Open Spaces Society letter requesting additional funds.

524. District Councillors' Update:

1. Cllr R Dudman reported that a Licensing meeting was recently held. Meetings are currently slow due to the impending election.
2. Cllr Dyer reported: A joint Working group has been approved to work with Christchurch Borough Council. He is the next designated Chairman of EDDC Members are welcome to attend the appointment meeting on May 10th, but Cllr Dyer will need prior notice. The Chairman congratulated Cllr Dyer on behalf of the Council.
3. Cllr Mrs A Warman: EDDC and Christchurch Borough Councils are combining teams but there will only be one manager for each and one Chief Executive. There is a proposal for quite a large development at St Ives House and an open day will be arranged.

525. Reports from Members representing the Council on outside bodies:-

1. DAPTC – Last meeting was on 14th April at Holt and held in the new hall. Cllr Hindmarch has circulated a letter about Local Strategic Partnerships and closer working relationships, noted. The new method of calculating subscriptions was unanimously agreed. Holt Parish Council pointed out that the DAPTC subscriptions are likely to be their biggest outlay, but the Council is happy to pay this because of all the help given to their Clerk.
2. Homewatch – No minutes currently available as Cllr Dudman was unable to attend. He will report at the next meeting.
3. TAG Meetings:
Transport: A report from Cllr Smith had been circulated
4. PACT: Next meeting 2nd June 2010.
5. Parish Plan meeting – No meeting held.

526. Village Hall Management Committee:

- i) Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2010 were circulated and noted. .
- ii) A request to park cars on the recreation ground on Saturday 4th September from 9am to 10pm was received. Cllr Mrs Warman reported that the request was for the community day, as she has been led to believe that there will be a good attendance and the date clashes with a Bowls match. This was discussed. Members raised concerns over insurance, the access, health and safety; responsibility for damage to the ground restricting access for other site users. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Warman as Chairman of the VHMCM will look at the issues raised and bring further information to the next meeting for open and serious consideration. Proposed by Cllr Mrs V Bell, seconded by Cllr R Waman. Cllr Mrs Warman abstained from the vote, rest were in favour.

RESOLVED: Chairman of VHMCM will look at the issues raised and bring further information to the next meeting for open and serious consideration.

- iii) Liaison Committee Minutes 23rd March 2010 were circulated and noted.

527. Drains at the Braeside Road complex – Minute 463 (iii) refers. Cllr R Warman reported: He has looked at the various leases and they are all slightly different due to the time span covered. When looking at the responsibilities for the drains, the Council should look at all the underground services. The issue has arisen with a drain at the rear of the Youth Club/Tennis Club being blocked and the Youth Club refusing to accept liability. Disputes and how to deal with them in future is the problem. This was discussed. It was agreed, unanimously, that the drains issue only is referred to the Liaison Committee, and the means of handling disputes in this respect. Proposed by Cllr M Dyer, seconded by Cllr R Bryan.

RESOLVED: The Liaison Committee meet to discuss and recommend a means of handling disputes in respect of drains.

528. Annual Return 2009/2010 – A Copy of the return was circulated to Members.

- i) Members attention was drawn to the Annual Governance Statement. It was agreed unanimously that this was accepted and signed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs V Bell, seconded by Cllr R Bryan.

RESOLVED: to accept and sign the Annual Governance Statement as presented.

- ii) The Annual Return for 2009/2010 was circulated to Members. It was noted that the RFO recommended that the Fixed Assets are restated in accordance with “White Folder” Guidance and seminar advice. This was discussed it was agreed unanimously to accept the assets register as stated and to approve and sign the Annual Return as presented.

RESOLVED: To agree the restated assets and approve and sign the Annual Return as presented.

529. Bournemouth Airport – Cllr Bryan reported attending a meeting at Hurn Parish Council and meeting with representatives of the Airport. As a result an invitation for the Council to tour the Airport has been received. Eight Members expressed an interest. The Clerk will contact Sally Windsor and ask for a proposed date.

530. Flooding Operational Response Plan – A copy of the EDDC Operational Response Plan for Flooding has been received. Cllr R Dudman reported: The Plan will be held in the Parish Office for Members to view. Although in the past there has been substantial groundwater South of the A31, to Cllr Dudman’s knowledge, no property has been flooded. Poole Hospital is the designated receiving hospital in the event of an emergency. Cllr Hindmarch asked if there is any provision to upgrade the Wayside Road pumping station. Cllr Dudman will enquire. Cllr Dyer reported that the pump was recently upgraded, there is an emergency pumping overflow on the station. Noted.

531. Millennium Plaque – Cllr Mrs Warman responded as Chairman of the VHMC: The VHMC cannot accommodate the plaque due to health and safety reasons. Some of the tiles are broken and unique and cannot be replaced. Redecoration of the main hall is now underway. If put outside the same damage will occur again. Cllr Bryan responded that Perspex could resolve the issue of future damage; health and safety. He understands some people do not like the look of it. This is a historic item, he will continue to store it for now whilst thought is given to a possible course of action.

532. Youth Club - Cllr R Warman reported:

- i) Cllr Warman attended briefly in the morning which was quite busy with a number of people outside. The day seemed to go well. Mr Skeats the ex-Chairman of the Club has informed him that he has found a possible new Chairman and 1 or 2 more parents to sit on the Committee. Overall a positive result.
- ii) Club Management Committee – Cllr Warman has been in contact with the Charity Commission as the Club does not have enough Trustees to be quorate. There are issues as they are required to have 8-15 Committee Members each of whom has to be a Trustee. A revised Constitution was drafted but never adopted. There is currently no way of electing a Committee as it has to be done at an AGM. A meeting was called for 27th April, by Mr Skeats but with very short notice and poor information Cllr Warman and others did not attend. The Commission know that the Club is in difficulty and their advice will be sought on rewriting the Constitution.

Cllr Dyer reiterated that as both Cllr Mrs Smith and he are ex-officio Members until the Club starts again it is not proper for them to attend unofficial meetings.

The Chairman made a statement to Members a copy of which appears as appendix C with these Minutes in the Minute Book. It was reiterated that the apology was for the disrespect shown to the Council by the treatment of their official observer and representative at Youth Club meetings and was not because the Chairman had been personally upset.

533. Street Lighting Request Ringwood Service Road – An incident near to the Post Office junction was reported together with a request for additional lighting. This was discussed. Members were

very concerned about the event reported and sympathised with the issues raised. Members questioned whether additional lighting would make a difference; there could be issues with the A31; to their knowledge no information had come through on Homewatch. The Clerk was asked to check for further information with the Police and ask why Homewatch was not advised of the incident.

534. Bus Routes and Subsidies – The Chairman reported that following an item at the Transport TAG she had been asked to inquire whether the Parish Council would provide financial assistance towards a bus subsidy. This was discussed. It was agreed, unanimously that this should not be considered as so few buses serve the Parish.

535. DCC Letter requesting information to assist with Community self-help information during extreme winter weather - The letter had been circulated to Members and was discussed. It was agreed unanimously, that the Council would be able to help with items (a) and (b) only.

536. Report of Flying of model planes at Braeside Road – The Clerk reported a complaint had been received of the flying of a large model plane, with an approximate 5' wingspan, at Braeside Road. Concern was raised over safety and nuisance to other users of the site. Cllr R Warman reported that there is a club/organisation where more information on rules and regulations could be obtained. The Clerk will investigate. An item will be put in the next newsletter.

RESOLVED: It was resolved to exclude the Press and Public for the next item Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr Mrs V Bell. Agreed unanimously.

537. Leave of absence Request – It was agreed, unanimously, that a leave of absence of an additional 6 months effective from 26th May will be given to Cllr J Crow.

538. Exchange of information:

1. Next Full Council meeting 26th May 2010. This is the Annual Meeting of the Council. Nomination slips for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committees will be sent with the May Agenda.
2. Cllr Bryan reported on the recent fire at Matchams and praised the Fire Officers for their speedy turnout and efficient handling of the event. Cllr Bryan was nominated to write on behalf of the Council, to be copied to the Clerk for information.
3. Reserves Subcommittee are meeting soon to discuss the banking arrangements and will report.
4. Cllr Mrs Smith apologised but she will be absent from the Annual Meeting of the Council.

9.10pm meeting closed.

Chairman

Report given by Mr S Davies, Avon Heath Country Park Manager

Conservation Management – In 2000 we had a process of looking at Heath Conservation programme. There was a lot of tree removal on the Heath sites. Discussions with various parties to negotiate and we have now just completed the 10 year plan and fine tuning the management. In 2000 legislation changed under the CROW Act. We formed a partnership with RSPB. Since 2008 the DCC Ranger Service has managed the park. We were upgraded last year. The management will now be species specific with a more holistic approach. We will be managing for specifics such as orchids, pinks. Woodlarks on Avon Heath last year were more than the other 30 sites in Dorset. Avon Heath is a very special site but is only 600 acres.

Grass and management will be done for these selected species. The Ph of the soil is becoming more acidic. We are doing soil surveys to try and rectify to assist the specific species. This needs to be exactly right and very carefully done. Currently we are using a processed lime which is slow releasing and we will monitor.

The next 5 years we will be eradicating the unwanted plants such as Ragwort, to do so we may need to spray with Roundup. There is a lot of Bracken, which we will spray but in between are other species are rare and need to be encouraged.

In the North Park there has been some small Pine encroachment. From October/January the North Park should have been cleared, the work being carried out by volunteers.

Most trees in the park are Pine but we are trying to encourage diversity and broad leaved trees. WE are changing the dynamics of some areas.

Habitat management was contentious and at times difficult in the last 10 years.

We need to get Avon Park financially stable. In partnership with Highways (who own the lorry park and toilets). Highways threatened to close the toilets but through negotiation, Highways sold some land and the toilets to the park. The toilets will be moved into the Cafe and they will then be open longer and will not cost the taxpayer or County anything.

There is now a proposal to alter the building and make it a children's day nursery for 50 children. This will provide an income. A landfill tax grant has been applied for a new play area.

Cuts are coming our way so we are looking at alternatives for income. Some land may be used for holiday lets, we are currently looking into this.

January 2011 is the deadline for all the plans to go in. County Property Management is coming to look at the Park.

Cllr Dyer asked about the car park next to the MOD in Boundary Lane. Parking in the gateway is dangerous and inconveniences pedestrians. The public have been parking on the verge. October last year, the MOD asked for the vegetation to be cut back as the sight lines were affected.

SD responded: It is a Highway issue. MOD have worked with DCC Highways and dragons teeth are to be inserted. It has been done before and they were removed overnight. Legally we cannot put a car park on SSSI land.

Cllr Mrs Warman: People are backing out onto the road and tanks are having near misses. DCC will need to look at.

Cllr Bryan: I think after yesterday's fire there was only one access available for safety it is essential that the gates and access points are kept clear.

Cllr Dyer: A couple of suggestions from residents: There is a splay at the gateway why not bring the fence line in or chain across bringing the gateway out more.
SD responded: To date there has not been an obstruction.

Mr Davies was thanked for his attendance and report.

Mr B Kliger – Conservation Volunteer Co-ordinator:

Mr Kliger will be focusing on getting more volunteers from within the Parish involved. Now have 13 regulars. They assist Avon Heath and Moors Valley and are going from strength to strength. Jubilee Copse is on the AHCP schedule. Matchams View worked on by volunteers. The Trailway is also an environmental space and very encouraging. Volunteers lay hedges and are contributing to the enhancing of these spaces. There is an increase in Smooth snake numbers.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kliger.