

THROWLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON MONDAY, 13TH APRIL 2015 AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Cllrs Jackie Crawford (Chair), David Hatton (Vice Chair), Jon Bell, David Jordan , DCC
Cllr. James McInnes, WDBC Cllr. Paul Ridgers, Ian Brooker (DNPA) , Dawn Hatton on behalf of the
Archive, Dr. Alex Degan, Moretonhampstead Health Hub
12 members of the community
Clerk in attendance: Julie Macey

- (1) **Welcome:** Cllr Jackie Crawford thanked everyone for attending
- (2) **Apologies::** PCSO Kayleigh Drake
- (3) **The minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes for the APM held on 7th April, 2014 were presented and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- (4) **Matters arising:** None other than those raised under the various headings.
- (5) **Moretonhampstead Health Hub.** Dr. Alex Degan gave a talk on the hub's objectives, ownership and governance, the services already in place and under development which included a feasibility study on the viability of a domiciliary social care agency combined with a day care centre and work in connection with allocating remaining space in the hospital building to a range of voluntary sector and commercial providers. He confirmed that progress had been slower than envisaged. He confirmed that new ideas and initiatives were emerging, support from stakeholder groups and engagement with local community, parish councils, district and county councillors. There is a determination to make the Hub work and being one of only two pilots (the other Budleigh) he sees this as an opportunity to be ground breaking.
- (6) **Reports** (as available)
 - (a) **Chagford Church of England Primary School.** No report available.
 - (b) **Devon County Council.** Cllr. James McInnes confirmed that the Council continues to implement reductions in its budget. The net budget for 2015/16 is £437.7 million with a 1.9% rise in council tax. The reduction in budget for this year is £46 million and a further £34 million is projected to have to come out next year. He outlined some one year only additions to this year's budget such as £1 million towards local welfare assistance, road gritting to keep current routes, public transport to have some flexibility on DCC supported bus routes, school crossing patrols to continue the service whilst alternatives investigated and support for the CAB. In view of general election no projected future funding figures (2 years) have been made available from the government. Cllr. McInnes outlined the schools' dedicated grant (£465 million) , additional money from Central Government (£16.5 million) but explained that this still left Devon school children with approx £270 per child below national average. The campaign continues for fairer funding. With regard to highways, Cllr. McInnes confirmed that despite average winter, potholes were still appearing and urged parishioners to report them as soon as they could. The local highways team is changing and an update will be made available in due course. Cllr. McInnes outlined his new responsibility as Cabinet Member for Children's Schools and Skills and confirmed he continues to be a member of Dartmoor National Park Authority, appointed by DCC. He also confirmed the small budget County Councillors have available for community projects and in this context his pleasure being able to support the relocation of Throwleigh Post Office.
 - (c) **West Devon Borough Council:** Cllr. Paul Ridgers reported that the Council were facing a budget gap of around £560,000 for 2015/16 due to a cut in government funding and by 2017/18 further savings of £2 million from a budget of £7.8 million would be required. West Devon's element of Council tax will rise by 1.9% this year which for a Band D home would equate to £3.89 per year. To achieve further required savings, all services merging with South Hams is well under way, loss of staff at senior management level and a new IT scheme has commenced. These changes will enable wider access to the council's service 24/7, there will still be staff at the key centres and an outreach bus.

Low cost housing initiatives continue in the borough. Unemployment rates remain below 2.5% with wage growth now improving. Discretionary grant scheme still in place for local projects. Cllr. Ridgers was pleased to see the continuation of the post office service in Throwleigh and the positive PR in the Okehampton Times. Recycling rate is now 57.8% placing it within the top 10 local authorities. Several new initiatives such as Fresher for Longer campaign, Love your Clothes and Love Food Hate Waste have been introduced and advertised on new liveries, advertising hoardings, in supermarkets, bus shelters etc.

- (d) **Dartmoor National Park Authority:** Ian Brooker confirmed that the sad loss of Roger Paul has ramifications for the whole community of Throwleigh and for him to lose such a willing and helpful voluntary warden who also covered Gisleigh, will make any replacement very hard to find. Some interest has been shown in taking on his role and this will be followed up in due course. The authority has conducted a review into how they deliver Public Rights of Way Service with an emphasis on more voluntary help in the future. It is possible in the light of this that contracts to keep hedges cut along narrow paths will end from 2016. This will affect the maintenance and possible future use of routes such as Deave Lane in Throwleigh where landowners that have land abutting onto this lane will be reminded of their duty to keep hedges cut back at their cost. DNPA will continue to maintain surfaces of paths but routes over the whole network will be prioritised. Bids have been put in for works to Deave Lane and Footpath 11 near Clannaborough Woods but response awaited. Annual cuts by strimmer will eventually be done by voluntary wardens, local conservation groups or by members of the local community. Training and a local scheme in place to facilitate this. It is also likely that responsibility for field furniture, gates, stiles etc will return to landowner with either 25% payment towards cost or some materials being supplied by DNPA to offset cost. This has highlighted concerns re. standards and time scales which will be reviewed. Ian expressed his gratitude and thanks for the amount of work completed by volunteers in respect of pond clearance, completing trench for cable to the new post office and gorse on Pykes Meadow.
- (e) **Neighbourhood Watch:** Cllr. Hatton confirmed that there was one reported crime in the area which took place between 1st September and 1st October 2014 relating to chemicals being sprayed on two occasions to plants in gardens in Throwleigh area which caused to die
- (f) **Police** tabled their apologies. PCSO Kayleigh Drake confirmed that the crimes surrounding Throwleigh are isolated incidents and nothing to be aware of.
- (g) **The Archive:** The reprint of 300 copies of the book on Throwleigh is selling gradually. 2014 Was the year of commemoration fo the start of the Great War. In February the archive were Contacted by BBC Radio Devon about their research on Oscar Greig who flew in the war and was shot down by the Red Baron in 1917. Jo Loosemoore came to Throwleigh to interview Michael Paget, Maggie Clark and Tom Endacott. This has been compiled into a feature broadcast in June and now on BBC website. BBC also made short video on Oscar which was shown on local news. A number of the Archives photographs are included in exhibition at Princetown – Dartmoor Life in the First World War and contributions continue to Dartmoor Life. Meetings have taken place with South Tawton Local History Group to assist in setting up an oral history project and the archive has acquired some interesting images of farming in West Week probably from the 1940's.
- (h) **Friends of Throwleigh Church.** No report
- (i) **Parish Council:** Cllr. Crawford confirmed that the past year had been relatively quiet for the Parish Council but the council membership itself had to change as a result of Julian Edwards moving away and then the very sad loss of Roger Paul. Roger's support and knowledge was a great asset for the Parish Council and for the Parish at large and he will be greatly missed. We are fortunate to have found willing recruits to take their place on the Council in the forthcoming year. We received only 5 planning applications in the past year and one planning appeal. We were lucky to have a relatively calm winter but with possible cut backs on road maintenance and gritting imminent, the Council decided to become more self sufficient and invest in a salt spreader. We are grateful to the support of Cllr. James McInnes of DCC who enabled this, assisting with the majority of the payment out of grant monies for small projects. Despite the reduction in grant from WDBC, the burial grants for the Church and Chapel have been paid to assist in the upkeep of the cemeteries. After the closure of the Post Office in 2013, it was a great success to have it finally reopen in the Church this January. With much help from various members of the community it seems to be well supported and hopefully will remain so. The old school at Providence was finally sold with sale proceeds going into a CharitableTrust for the benefit of local young people or youth groups. The trust is in the

process of being set up, with trustees appointed.

- (6) **Matters raised by Parishioners:** Dr. Richard Loding confirmed that trustees had been appointed in respect of the Providence Community Arts Centre who acquired the Old School in Providence and that he was a member of the Steering Committee along with Colin Childs, Lisa Lyon and Stella Phillips. He confirmed that the Arts Centre was being run for the benefit of the community and thanked parishioners for their support. Dr. Loding stated that they had experienced some difficulty from the national park as to the possibility of the school being used as a private residence. He confirmed that they would be looking for help with grant monies towards the leaking roof. He suggested regular updates to the parish council meeting. The clerk to establish to clarify this.
- (7) **Any other business:** None