

# THROWLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2012 AT 7.30 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Peter Bennett ( Chair), Julian Edwards, David Hatton, David Jordan , WDBC Cllr. Paul Ridgers, Ian Brooker (DNPA) Cllr. John Shears (DNPA)  
3 members of the community  
Clerk in attendance: Julie Macey

- (1) **Welcome:** Cllr Peter Bennett thanked everyone for attending
- (2) **Apologies:** Cllrs. Jackie Crawford, Roger Paul, Duncan Vincent, James McInnes (DCC) P.C. Nadine Wilson, Paul Evans, Community Action North Devon.
- (3) **The Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes for the APM held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 were presented and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- (4) **Matters arising:** No progress report had been received from the North East Dartmoor Community Land Trust since their presentation at the last meeting.
- (5) **Reports:**
  - (a) **Chagford Church of England Primary School.** No report or apology for absence had been received from the school. It was estimated that approximately 20 children from the Parish attended the school and that it was important to keep this link open. Cllr. Bennett confirmed he would follow this up.
  - (b) **West Devon Borough Council:** Cllr. Paul Ridgers reported the savings that had been made through the merger with South Hams, the £430,000 cut in grant from the Government and the reasons behind the 2.5% increase in council tax for 2012/2013. One of the results of their efforts to achieve savings was their ability to continue to financially support the discretionary grants fund. The recycling rate has now reached 60% and a policy for large scale solar and wind farms is under consideration. A full copy of his report is attached to the minutes. Cllr. Bennett put forward an estimate of the Parish's contribution to the council tax and asked why there was no rebate/reduction for not using the West Devon's planning services. Cllr. Ridgers confirmed he would look into this.
  - (c) **Dartmoor National Park Authority:** Ian Brooker outlined the redundancies in numbers of staff at DNPA but confirmed that he would be staying for at least the next three years and his area remained unchanged. He described the various tasks and projects to improve the Public Rights of Way in the Parish he had completed in the last year and thanked Roger Paul for his assistance when required. A discussion ensued in respect of litter on the Moor and the policy of no litter bins being provided .
  - (d) **Neighbourhood Watch:** Cllr. Hatton confirmed there was nothing of significance to report.
  - (e) **Police:** PC Nadine Wilson tabled her apologies for her absence and confirmed that there was nothing significant to report. Cllr. Bennett outlined the thefts from outbuildings in Murchington and the stepping up of police patrols following this.
  - (f) **Throwleigh Centre for Young People:** Cllr. Bennett read out Paul Evans report which is attached to the minutes. It was noted that the centre had been rebranded the Northmore Adventure Centre, that the groups attending would be fully staffed and supervised at all times, and that 3 weeks had been booked so far this year with marketing increasing in the summer.
  - (g) **The Archive:** Miichael Paget's report, attached to the minutes, outlined the progress in the growth of the archive and the sale of the book for which investigations are on going in respect of a reprint. Mrs. Hatton confirmed the invitation received by Throwleigh Archive to attend the archive seminar in May at DNPA. Cllr. Bennett drew the meeting's attention to the very kind gesture the Archive has made in respect of donating mugs to children to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee

- (h) **Devon County Council:** Cllr. Bennett read out Cllr. James McInnes' report which accompanies these minutes. It was noted the reductions made, the key and targeted investments which include £5 million for highway maintenance on C class and other minor roads, identified £89 million of savings over 3 years and small budget for community projects available. Cllr. Bennett confirmed his previous request that some money could be used on an extension to the salting route in the parish which remained unresolved.
- (i) **Parish Council:** Cllr. Bennett thanked the Clerk, Ian Brooker and the other Councillors for their efforts in the year. Discussions had been constructive and open. During the year the Council had received 18 planning applications, many of which had required site visits, the attendance at which had been commendable. He outlined the increase in the number of planning enforcement issues and agreed that the clerk would send all the relevant paperwork to Cllr. John Shears. He outlined the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations to take place, which include picnic on the Moor in conjunction with Gidleigh, the Street Party, the Archive's generous gift of commemorative mugs for children, village photographs and Beating of the Bounds in August.
- (6) **Matters raised by Parishioners:**
- Mrs. Annaly stated that the notice board in the village needed attention and that the pools of water outside Monks Withecombe had not improved. It was confirmed that Highways had attended the latter but that the landowner had refused to let them in. The parish council were aware of the problem and would continue to monitor it.
- (8) **Any other business:** The question of the notice on the cross was raised and an explanation given. The Beating of the Bounds to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> August was briefly discussed and it was agreed to arrange a meeting for people interested in assisting with the organisation of this on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.