

THROWLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON MONDAY, 7TH APRIL 2014 AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Cllrs Jackie Crawford (Chair), David Hatton (Vice Chair), Jon Bell, Julian Edwards, David Jordan , DCC Cllr. James McInnes, WDBC Cllr. Paul Ridgers, Ian Brooker (DNPA) , Cllr. John Shears, Dawn Hatton, Friends of the Church
0 members of the community
Clerk in attendance: Julie Macey

- (1) **Welcome:** Cllr Jackie Crawford thanked everyone for attending
- (2) **Apologies::** Catherine Rees Stephan, Headteacher Chagford Primary School, P.C. Nadine Wilson, Cllrs. Roger Paul and Duncan Vincent.
- (3) **The Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes for the APM held on 8th April, 2013 were presented and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- (4) **Matters arising:** None other than those raised under the various headings.
- (5) **Reports:**
 - (a) **Chagford Church of England Primary School.** No report available. It was reported that the headmistress had left the post the weekend prior to the meeting.
 - (b) **Devon County Council.** Cllr. James McInnes confirmed that the Council continued to implement reductions in its budget and having reduced this by £100 million over the last four years, would have to find £110 million of further reductions in the next four. DCC have embarked on a number of consultations looking at ways of doing this and consultations can be found on the DCC Tough Choices website (www.DCCtoughchoices) which he asked councillors and parishioners to visit. Following the wettest winter, the roads have suffered. Cllr. McInnes urged parishioners to continue to report potholes. DCC have received an additional £7 million to deal with these and currently have 35 teams across Devon dealing with them. He confirmed he would come back on revised timescale DCC has put in place for dealing with reported potholes. He outlined his new role in respect of the DCC cabinet, and continuing responsibilities with regard to DNPA and membership of West Devon HATOC and County committee where there is a small budget for community projects. With regard to the Throwleigh Centre, progress with the Charity Commissioners had been slow but hopefully For Sale Signs would be erected shortly. He confirmed he would come back on responsibility for repairs to the roof etc. shortly. Discussions took place regarding problems experienced by parishioners with regard to phone lines and concern about availability/roll out of superfast broadband. Cllr. McInnes confirmed he would come back with details of Karen Bridford of DCC's Economy Department who was handling matters with BT. He stated that it was planned that by 2016, 91% of Devon should have 2 meg and that Devon and Somerset together with DNPA had pulled down some extra money towards this and were seeking match funding. A full copy of Cllr. McInnes report is attached to the minutes.
 - (c) **West Devon Borough Council:** Cllr. Paul Ridgers reported that the Council were facing a budget gap of around £304,000 for 2014/15 due to a cut in government funding with a further reduction in the following year. West Devon's element of Council tax will rise by 1.9%, which for a Band D home would equate to £3.81 per year. To achieve further required savings, all services would be merged with South Hams and a new IT scheme introduced. Unfortunately there would be staff redundancies. West Devon are continuing to lobby Government over funding inequality between rural and urban councils. Low cost housing initiatives continue in the borough. Unemployment rates remain below 3% although wage growth is still low. Discretionary grant scheme still in place Progress made in respect of dismissing wind farm applications. Recycling on track, with most of West Devon's waste going to Plymouth incinerator in the future with 5% ending up in ground. West Devon have called on the Government to renew the train line through Okehampton and local MP lobbying the case. Network Rail to report by July. Both Cllrs. McInnes and Ridgers informed last week about continuing closure of Throwleigh Post Office. It was

pointed out that this was a standard letter and that progress was being made in respect of outsourced centre in the church to be staffed by postmaster from South Zeal. Meeting to take place next week. Problem however to be overcome telephone line – a mobile signal would be required.

- (d) **Dartmoor National Park Authority:** Ian Brooker described the reductions in income of over 40% before the end of this Parliament and the reviews taking place. Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund, details of which will be available by end of May, will be available this Year (see dsdf@dartmoor.gov.uk) A revised Management Plan for the National Park, Your Dartmoor was launched in February this year and sets out a framework for partnership working and guiding decisions affecting the moor's future over five years. The financial agreement with DCC for managing the Public Rights of Way has been cut by 33%. Reasonable levels of repair are being maintained but a bid has been submitted to DCC for emergency funding. Ian Brooker thanked all the volunteers and especially Cllr. Paul for all their assistance and work during the year.
- (e) **Police tabled their apologies.** In the report tabled they outlined the various changes which are taking place from 1st April. Okehampton and Tavistock are to become the West Devon Division. There will be three teams across these area - response, neighbourhood and investigation. There will be five sergeants, 25 police constables and eleven PCSO's to cover the areas. A full copy of their report is attached to the minutes.
- (f) **Throwleigh Centre for Young People:** See comment DCC.
- (g) **The Archive:** The reprint of 300 copies of the book on Throwleigh is selling well with around 60 copies to date. An exhibition of photographs and documents organised by the Archive took place in November and was well attended. Representatives of the Archive attended meetings of the Dartmoor Local History Group organised by DNPA and have agreed to give a short presentation of some of their work on 20th June 2014. The Archive recently contributed to a joint BBC and Imperial War Museum project about the Great War, providing material about Oscar Greig who lived at Mill Farm from the early 1920's. The BBC interviewed also Maggie Clark and Tom Endacott. No broadcast date is currently available.
- (h) **Friends of Throwleigh Church.** The Friends was formed four years ago and has 51 members and a committee of nine. Their objectives are to raise funds to assist with maintenance of the building and to encourage use of the building for events in addition to the church services. During the year £4,500 was given for three maintenance/refurbishment items and the committee organised 8 events, the result of which is £6,000 in the bank.
- (i) **Parish Council:** Cllr. Crawford thanked all concerned for their efforts in the year. Cllr. Bennett retired during the year and we welcomed Cllr Jon Bell in joining us. During the year we received 11 planning applications, the same as the previous year, held several site meetings and were pleased to see that our comments in the main contributed in DNPA's conclusions. We received no burial grant last year nor this yet we covered this expense fully last year. We have received a reduction in grant this year from West Devon and have increased the precept to assist in covering the deficit. The post office closed in March last year. We hope to have some positive news regarding re-opening for 2 x 11/2 hr sessions shortly. The mobile library service to Throwleigh has been reduced to once a month with no service to Murchington. Following representations made by the Council and other local councils, the bus service has improved over the year. Our roads have suffered during the wet winter. Parishioners are requested to report these as soon as possible on DCC website – www.devon.gov.uk/pothole.
- (6) **Matters raised by Parishioners:** None
- (7) **Any other business:** None

