

THROWLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON MONDAY, 8TH APRIL 2013 AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Cllrs Peter Bennett (Chair), Jackie Crawford (Vice Chair), David Hatton, David Jordan , Roger Paul, Duncan Vincent, DCC Cllr. James McInnes, WDBC Cllr. Paul Ridgers, Ian Brooker (DNPA) Paul Evans, Community Action North Devon
3 members of the community
Clerk in attendance: Julie Macey

- (1) **Welcome:** Cllr Peter Bennett thanked everyone for attending
- (2) **Apologies:** Cllr. Julian Edwards, Catherine Rees Stephan, Headteacher Chagford Primary School, P.C. Nadine Wilson,
- (3) **The Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes for the APM held on 17th April, 2012 were presented and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- (4) **Matters arising:** The Chair wished to record his thanks to Councillor Edwards for the remedial work carried out to the village notice boards
- (5) **Reports:**
 - (a) **Chagford Church of England Primary School.** The Chair read out the positive report received from Catherine Rees Stephan which outlined the objectives in the School Development Plan in respect of building stronger and more sustainable partnerships with the school community and school activities.
 - (b) **Devon County Council.** Cllr. James McInnes confirmed that the Council continued to implement reductions in its budget and outlined targeted investments which include Children's Centres and Early Years Services, training for parish volunteers to tackle emergencies, increased funding for child protection services. Additional funding for improving older peoples services, capital investment in South Devon Link Road and restoration of Grand Western Canal. He outlined the contract that had been signed with BT to enable superfast broadband to be provided to 91% of Devon by the end of 2016 and discussed progress on the possible sale of the Throwleigh Centre, increase in the remedial work to the roads and potholes. Cllr. Bennett expressed his thanks for the remedial work to the roads and also for his assistance in respect of the works to the road near Monks Withecombe. It was noted that remedial work to the potholes had slowed down recently. A full copy of Cllr. McInnes report is attached to the minutes.
 - (c) **West Devon Borough Council:** Cllr. Paul Ridgers reported the savings of almost £300,000 that had been made through the merger with South Hams, and reduction in management and administration costs. The reduction in grant from the Government and effects of inflation on contracts, goods and services, has led to a 1.9% increase in the West Devon element of Council Tax. The recycling rate has now reached 60% and the complex process of creating a policy for large scale solar and wind farms continues to be under consideration. In anticipation of further reductions in Government funding, the process of identifying further savings continues. A full copy of his report is attached to the minutes. Cllr. Bennett outlined the Parish's experience of poor communication, timing and advice in respect of West Devon's decision not to contribute towards the Parish's costs with regard to burial costs. Cllr. Ridgers noted this and confirmed he would take appropriate action.
 - (d) **Dartmoor National Park Authority:** Ian Brooker described the various tasks and projects to improve the Public Rights of Way in the Parish which had had to be delayed as a result of the weather but which had now been completed due to a successful bid to DCC to secure extra funding. He outlined other tasks carried out with the assistance of Throwleigh Commoners, the Sticklepath and Okehampton Conservation Group and South Tawton Scouts and on one occasion several Throwleigh Residents. He confirmed that he had had few problems with litter or dealing with the public during the year and thanked Cllr. Roger Paul for his help and guidance as always.
 - (e) **Neighbourhood Watch:** Cllr. Hatton confirmed there was nothing of significance to report.

It was agreed to remove this section from next year's agenda.

- (f) Police: PC Nadine Wilson tabled her apologies for her absence and confirmed that there was nothing significant to report. There had been two reported domestics, one vulnerable adult referral, one theft non specific and one burglary where entry was gained but no property stolen.
 - (g) Throwleigh Centre for Young People: Paul Evans confirmed that their licence runs out at the end of August this year. In view of the uncertainty over the future of the building, their advertising had been minimal. They had however secured bookings in June, July and August. Mr. Evans was aware of the possible auction of the building. The Cllrs. confirmed that they would like to see the building used and not empty.
 - (h) The Archive: Michael Paget's report, attached to the minutes, outlined the progress in the growth of the archive and the sale of the book which is to be reprinted with several changes, 300 copies of which should be available in April/May. An exhibition is planned in November/early December to launch the reprint. Mrs. Hatton confirmed the invitation received by Throwleigh Archive to attend the archive seminar with local history groups at DNPA and the excellent comments received on the work Throwleigh Archive has carried out.
 - (i) Parish Council: Cllr. Bennett thanked the Clerk, Ian Brooker the other Councillors for their efforts in the year together with members of Village Hall Committee and PC Nadine Wilson. Discussions had been constructive and open. During the year the Council had received 11 planning applications as opposed to 18 in the previous year. He outlined the accomplishments and matters dealt with which all had contributed to in the year – the Jubilee celebrations jointly with Gidleigh, the Street Party and Picnic on the Moor, the Beating of the Bounds, various TAP funding ideas which had been promoted but not taken up in light of lack of support of adjoining parishes, the enforcement issues at Wonson Manor which were still not resolved, the reintroduction of the Snow Warden Scheme, the securing of 106 Agreement for the back drive of Gidleigh Hotel to be used for emergency use only, Cllr. Edwards' excellent work in respect of computer training which had been taken up by 6 parishioners, Monks Withecombe flooding resolved with pressure from Councillors and action by DCC, dispensation forms, sale of Throwleigh Centre issue to ensure young people of Throwleigh continue to benefit, pressure put on Greyhound to revise revised timetable, precept frozen again, Monk's Withecombe planning conditional and time limited, Post Office closure and Church alternative progressing, precept/budget agree to carry on with burial grant for current year in spite of WDBC process issues. As he was stepping down as Chair and Councillor, he asked Cllrs. to review meeting times of future meetings. Cllr. Crawford reported that a profit of £1.28p was made on Beating of the Bounds day despite horrendous weather conditions and expressed a vote of thanks from all concerned to Cllr. Bennett for his hard work and contribution over the years.
- (6) Matters raised by Parishioners: None
- (7) Any other business:
Mrs. Hatton outlined the activities, membership and objectives of the Friends of Throwleigh Church and it was agreed to add this to the list of reports for next year.