

## EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

### **The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 7.30pm at East Ansteay Primary School**

**Present:** Cllr's J White (Chairman), I Noon, P Edwards, N Vereker, PCSO J Rozpotynski and four members of the public.

- 1. Welcome.** Cllr White welcomed everyone to the meeting. The new Clerk Mrs J Larcombe was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to councillors.
- 2. Apologies.** Apologies were received from Cty Cllr J Yabsley, District Cllr E Ley, Cllr N Vereker and Saki (Care).
- 3. To approve the minutes of the APM held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007.** The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Chairman's report.**

This past year has been very much a settling down period for the council, with four new councillors including myself. Two members from the previous council brought the total to six, and the shortfall of two was to remain throughout the year. A month ago Peter Wood joined the council but then unfortunately Iain Bew resigned, and so we are back to six once again. Also during this period, with Jill Larcombe now onboard, the council has had no less than three different parish clerks.

As a new council we were fortunate to gain the services of Trish Harrogate, a fully qualified and experienced parish clerk, who was with us until the end of February. As an inexperienced councillor I personally found her knowledge extremely helpful and I am sure that Jill will keep me on the straight and narrow. Also, I would like to thank all the councillors for their support during the year.

It has been disappointing that so few members of the parish attend our meetings but we have been well supported by District Councillor Eric Ley and on a few occasions by County Councillor Jeremy Yabsley.

A change to the way of working that we have introduced is the use of email. As not all councillors have a computer, internal communication has been somewhat restricted, but external communication to agencies such as NDDC has proved to be very effective, especially in the speed of response. Also, items such as planning documents for North Devon and Mid Devon District Councils are now posted online and can be readily accessed and commented on.

During the year we have produced a Job Description and Contract of Employment for the parish clerk, as well as Standing Orders for the Parish Council. We have updated the Risk Management Policy, the Council Objectives, and the Emergency Plan, although there are additions to be made to this. We have tried to initiate the Parish Plan but there has been little or no response to setting up the Steering Group so the plan has been put on hold for the moment. Your input during the Open Forum would be useful. The Newsletter has been continued albeit in a different format and we hope that it keeps not only the Parish but the village of East Ansteay abreast of what is going on.

Despite our efforts, both with NDDC and Stags, we have failed to progress the whole question of Affordable Housing. The formal position is that now, in addition to the contribution from Stags to the cost of providing the affordable housing, additional funding might be available from the Housing Association. This still leaves outstanding matters to be settled by NDDC with both Stags and Falcon, but it is hoped that these will shortly be overcome so that the scheme can be taken forward. We, the Parish Council, currently still await a meeting with NDDC, Stags and Falcon. My own personal view is that the ball remains firmly in Stags court, the financial figures are not realistic and should be seen against a deteriorating property market. Fortunately, the one family in the parish that did require urgent accommodation has been re-housed in Dulverton.

The other electronic innovation has been the development of the website with its pages on Local Contacts, Links to other sites, and the History page based on the considerable research by Neville Vereker. Although essentially a parish website, we have established links across the county border to websites such as Brushford, and West Somerset Council and Police. The Brushford Council has a very interesting and different approach in trying to engage with its parishioners via its website. Having been asked about the hit rate on our website, since records began in March there have been 121, of which 99 are unique and 22 returning visitors. There were 18 on Easter Sunday.

Outside, in the play area, repairs to the two rocking units are nearing completion, and a new wooden seat has been produced and will be installed. The play area was inspected last week and received a generally satisfactory report.

It is our intention to replace the open noticeboard at Oldways End with the glazed noticeboard next to Village Green, and that one replaced by a new glazed and lockable noticeboard specifically for Council notices. The new noticeboard will be of the same design as that for Brushford.

Lastly, the May Day Fayre. CARE at Blackerton have played the major part in organising the event, supported by the PTFA. Lady Hamilton is opening the event, and there will be a number of food and craft stalls, refreshments including a beer tent, Exmoor Zoo, Bouncy Castle, and a number of children's events and competitions. The Anstey WI and the Anstey Garden Show will be there, and a Dog Show and Car Boot Sale will be held in the adjoining field. The next coordinating meeting is on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> of this month, so if you are not already involved and wish to be, please contact Karen Milton, Sharon Turner or me. Notices have been displayed on the noticeboards and the website showing the events and CARE are ensuring that the local papers carry as much publicity as possible. The tents will be erected late Sunday afternoon and if any of you are able to help it will be appreciated.

## **5. Financial report for year ending 31 March 2008**

### **East Anstey Parish Council 2007 - 2008**

Opening balance @ 01/04/07

£ 3,828.91

<b>Receipts</b>	
Precept/Grant	£ 3,460.00
Vat refund	£ 53.04
Building Society Interest	£ 41.61
Refund of election costs	£ 235.68
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£ 3,790.33</b>

<b>Payments</b>	
Insurance	£ 543.27
Administration	£ 137.53
Clerks salary & mileage	£ 939.50
Subscriptions	£ 62.00
Play area	£ 636.99
Website	£ 235.00
Room hire	£ 115.50
Grant	£ 100.00
Election expenses	£ 235.68
Vat	£ 6.47
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£ 3,011.94</b>

<b>Opening balance + receipts - payments</b>	<b>£ 4,607.30</b>
<b>Closing balance @ 31/03/08</b>	<b>£ 4,607.30</b>

## 6. Annual reports from representatives of local organisations:

**East Anstey Parish Church.** During the past year the weekly Sunday services have been reasonably well attended. The joint service with West Anstey has worked well particularly with a special item. There have been two weddings and one funeral during the past year. Extra fundraising will be needed to meet the cost of repairs following the five yearly inspection of the church. £6000/year has to be contributed to the Diocese Fund for wages. The captain of the bell ringers would like an extra ringer. Other ringers from outside of the parish are needed for a full peal of bells. The hedges of the church yard have been trimmed back this winter. Wet weather has made the gate to the new churchyard difficult to open but this is being looked at. The church is always open. Mr Chapman (Lay reader) has suffered a stroke and will not be able to help. It has previously been suggested that the Church could be used for other things but there has been no development on this because it is limited as to what it could be used for. The Methodist Church has a hall.

**Allways End Methodist Church.** The service at 11.00 am is open to everyone and they are invited to attend for divine worship. The new Deacon is Rena Easton. It was suggested that the Methodist Church details could be included in the newsletter.

**East Anstey Primary School.** Report attached.

**Parents, Teachers and Friends Association of EAPS.** Report attached.

**East Anstey Pre-School.** Report attached.

**Anstey Womens Institute.** Report attached.

**Anstey & District Garden Show.** Report attached.

**Anstey Short Mat Bowls Club.** This is a successful and enjoyable club with 18 – 20 members and 2 teams. Two of the members have played for the county. The club meets every Monday night.

**Anstey Young Farmers' Club.** A report was sent by email but couldn't be downloaded.

**C.A.R.E. Blackerton Village.** It was agreed to ask Saki to give a presentation to a Parish Council meeting. It was suggested that someone from Care could be invited to come onto the Parish Council and be involved in the community.

**Police Community Support Officer.** A local resident has had two tanks of heating oil stolen. Business premises over the Somerset border have been broken into. There have been two break ins in Bampton and one in Dulverton where chainsaws and strimmers have been stolen. There was concern that people on the Rural/Farm Watch Scheme have not had the message. Farmers are advised to keep everything secured. People collecting old batteries had called at properties in the parish about a month ago. A resident reported that his dogs had been disturbed twice in one night and found that his greenhouse had been opened. A 'Give Way' sign has been removed: the previous sign was broken. PCSO Rozpotynski was asked if he was aware that the drug squad had visited a property in the parish. He was not aware of this.

## **7. Open Forum.**

A parishioner reported that there is inappropriate use by motor vehicles on the bridlepath known as Scratchy Face Lane. The owner of Oak Farm says that, according to his deeds, he has a right of access through the bridlepath. The owner of Oak Cottage doesn't want to get in a dispute over this but would like the surface to be upgraded or filled in with planings. DCC is not taking any action. Details of the ownership could be obtained from the Land Registry via the internet.

A parishioner asked whether East Anstey village signs were to be put up at Oldways End. This will be pursued with the Highways Department and Cty Cllr Yabsley.

It was felt that there was a lack of community feeling since the pub had closed and it was suggested that a club for older members could be started, possibly meeting at the Methodist Hall. The Jubilee Inn puts on a weekly Senior Citizens meal and could Develop this further. On the second Wednesday of the month the dinner at the school is open to anyone if they book. This could be put in the newsletter.

It was noted that Cllr Bew has resigned from the Parish Council. It was suggested highlighting councillors non attendance at council meetings in the newsletter.

Leaflets from the South Molton Information Centre were given out.