

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th June 2009 at East Anstey Primary School at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's J White (Chairman), R Blake, C Gillett, I Noon, N Vereker and P Wood.

In attendance: Cty Cllr J Yabsley, District Cllr E Ley, the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe and one member of the public

16/06/09. To receive apologies. There were no apologies.

17/06/09. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda. None.

18/06/09. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th May 2009 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

19/06/09. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered on the agenda. The Clerk reported that the council's Standing Orders say that all payments must be agreed at a meeting of the Parish Council. At its next meeting the council will discuss amending the Standing Orders so that payments can be made between meetings if necessary.

20/06/09. Planning:

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received by the council. No applications.

b) To note any decisions made on planning applications by NDDC
 47289 Whitemoor, East Anstey. Change of use from private stables to commercial riding school together with extension to building 1 to form tackroom, creation of manege and erection of reception building.
 Decision – conditional approval granted.

c) To update the council regarding affordable housing. Falcon Housing Association has withdrawn from the scheme on financial grounds. Mike Kelly, NDC, has written to the applicant, Stags, suggesting that the application should be withdrawn. There has been no response from Stags yet but if NDC do not receive a reply within 21 days they will withdraw the application rather than refuse it and risk being taken to appeal. It was agreed that Stags will be asked to brief the Parish Council if they withdraw the application then wish to pursue the matter further. The council will look at having an independent Housing Needs Survey carried out.

d) To report on the Core Strategy Parish Workshop. Cllr White reported that he had attended the workshop. The strategy for the rural area and the eventual effect on rural parishes had been discussed. No parish should be non sustainable. Cllr White had brought up the problem of the county boundary running through the parish. A copy of the North Devon and Torrridge Settlement Assessment will be completed by the Chairman, Cllr White. Councillors will feed

back their views to him.

e) To inform councillors about the planning appeal by Coronation Power Ltd regarding the refusal of planning application 07/02262/MFUL by MDDC and & the appeal by Airtricity Holdings (UK) Ltd regarding the refusal of application 45489 by NDC. The inquiry is taking place between the 9th June and the 3rd July at South Molton. There were complaints from councillors that as part of the television coverage the application site was mentioned as being at East Anstey when it is not in the parish. Cllr White will write to the television company concerned to tell them of their mistake and the effect that will have on East Anstey.

f) Any other planning matters. None.

21/06/09. Finance: To approve accounts for payment. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Mrs J Larcombe - £272.00 Clerks salary & expenses (chq no 94)

Cllr J White - £84.98 printer cartridges for printing newsletter (chq no 95)

Wicksteed Leisure Ltd - £51.75 playground inspection (chq no 96)

22/06/09. Highways

a) To note, for reporting to DCC/SCC, any highways problems and to note works that have been carried out. It was reported that there is a dangerous manhole cover between the Jubilee Inn and Blackerton and a deep gully between Tuckers Moor Cross and Tregare. The Highways Department have been in the area today filling in potholes.

b) To list any work for the next visit by the Lengthman. The entrance to the gully opposite the Old Vicarage needs clearing.

c) Any other highways issues. The village signs remain an outstanding issue. There is concern about arrangements for grass cutting on the B3227. At Woodburn Cross half of the grass, on one side of the road, was cut by DCC but the grass on the opposite side of the road was still uncut three weeks later. Cllr Yabsley will take this matter up.

23/06/09. To receive the following reports:

a) District Cllr – Cllr Ley. Cllr Ley reported that he had attended the first hour of the wind turbine inquiry. The applicants tried to slip in an increase in height of the masts to 120m but this was not allowed by the inspector. In the last few weeks running up to the DCC elections there has not been anything happening to do with local government. A proposal has been put forward for a private 50 bed care home which would leave the Beech House site for other aspects of care such as day care and respite with some extra care flats. DCC would like to provide all elements in one area. They cannot afford to continue providing the service as it has been at Beech House. DCC will only pay £390/bed/week to the private sector but Beech House has been costing £700/bed/week. Staff are generally better paid and have better training in DCC homes.

b) County Cllr. Cllr Yabsley was congratulated on his re-election. Cllr Yabsley assured the council that he would be pursuing the replacement of the village name signs with the Highways Department. The new county council has a conservative majority with 41 councillors. The rest of the council comprises of 14 Liberal Democrat, 4 Labour, 2 Independent and 1 Green Party councillors. North Devon councillors will need support from Torridge councillors to drag money to the north of the county. The Leadership Team has met and has discussed a revised committee structure. There will be major cost cutting in providing services. A lot of money was spent by various departments in the six weeks before and around the election. More than half the council are new

councillors. There will be an induction day on the 15th June. After the Annual Meeting all committees will be agreed. Cllr Yabsley is waiting to see what committees he will be on. In Cllr Yabsley's opinion there is not enough hard entry time to get a new unitary authority in before the end of this government. The Conservatives have pledged that they won't force it if councils do not want it.

c) Police. No report.

d) Website. No report.

24/06/09. To discuss the report from the annual inspection of the Play Area. The report has been received from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. The council were aware of the problems noted with the multi play unit and have been trying to contact the manufacturers to arrange repairs. More safety bark is noted as being needed but consideration will be given to replacing the bark with a safety surface. Cllr White and Cllr Noon were given power to act to arrange repairs of up to £800 excluding vat before the next meeting.

25/06/09. To discuss the draft newsletter. It was agreed to put in information and publish the facts as shown on affordable housing. The articles on the May Day Fayre and the Village Green will be expanded. Organisations in the parish will be asked for details of future events that they will be holding and these will be listed. The venue for the next Parish Council meeting will be shown as Allways End instead of at the school. It was noted that there are toilet facilities at Allways End but not for the room at the school, where meetings are held.

26/06/09. May Day Fayre 2010. It was agreed that the best way forward would be for a committee to be formed comprising of representatives of all the organisations that regularly take part on the day. People that have regularly helped on the day should also be invited to be part of the committee.

27/06/09. Correspondence received by the Parish Council. The following correspondence was noted:
 NDDC – Standards Committee agenda & minutes
 NDC - Weekly Information Sheets
 South Molton & District Community News – June 2009
 North Devon Hospice – Open Gardens Event 11th & 12th July and 5th & 6th September
 Information about the Ironman Triathlon

28/06/09. Public Questions. A parishioner noted that initially Stags were approached because their piece of land was a site identified for affordable housing: they didn't lead. It was also reported that there had been a spate of burglaries in the area. Diesel was drained from a tank at Oldways End. It was suggested that there should be a mention in the newsletter about the newly opened equine centre. No emails are being received about Neighbourhood Watch or Farm watch.

29/06/09. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th August at 7.30pm at Allways End.