

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th October 2009 at Allways End at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: District Cllr E Ley and the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe.

44/10/09. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr R Blake.

45/10/09. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda. None.

46/10/09. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th August 2009 as a true record of the meeting. With the alteration of Linscombe to Liscombe in 34/08/09 b) and Vicarage to Rectory in 37/08/09 b) the minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

47/10/09. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered on the agenda. It was reported that the gully opposite the Old Rectory has been unblocked. Potholes were filled in and then two days later the whole road was dug up near Counties Meet. Work had already been carried out with regard to the cattle grid by the picnic area on the A361 before Cllr White could contact the Chairman of Knowstone Parish Council.

48/10/09. To discuss the number of burglaries/thefts in the parish. No-one from the Police was able to attend the meeting as they were needed in South Molton for a Public meeting called by the Mayor of South Molton. Cllr Vereker reported that following a burglary on his property the Police and finger print squad came very quickly. One footprint had been found. He had attended the Police Marking Day in South Molton on October 10th. Marking kits/stencils are available to parishioners. The details of how to obtain them will be put in the newsletter. Cllr White will contact Avon & Somerset Police to find out about Neighbourhood Watch for the Somerset side of the parish.

49/10/09. Planning:

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

b) To note any decisions made on planning applications by NDDC. No decision notices received.

c) Any other planning matters. Information had been received about a Planning Training Session organised by Barnstaple Town Council. No councillors wished to attend.

50/10/09. To discuss the future of SELF Unlimited (formerly CARE). Cllr Ley has had a meeting with a representative of the company, who are looking to run down the

site, probably over the next eighteen months. It is now government policy for the residents to become part of the community rather than kept separate. One house might be kept. The company are now looking at a new use but there is no planning policy that covers the site. At the companies first meeting with a NDC Planning Officer it was suggested that there might have to be some economic use. In Cllr Ley's view there is a potential for twenty or twenty one homes which could be a mixture of open market and social housing. Mike Kelly, Chief Planning Officer NDC, has visited the site and agrees with Cllr Ley. To take this type of development of the site forward three or four local parishes need to become involved. It was suggested that these should be East Anstey, West Anstey, Knowstone and possibly Molland. A working party meeting will be arranged by Cllr White with Peter Williams of SELF, East Anstey Parish Council, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Knowstone Parish Council, the Chairman of West Anstey Parish Meeting and Cllr Ley. The meeting will be held at Allways End Methodist Hall.

51/10/09. Finance

a) To approve accounts for payment and transfer of funds between accounts. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Mrs C Butcher - £15.00 internal audit (chq no 98)

Mrs J Larcombe – £107.00 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 99)

Audit Commission - £161.00 External audit (chq no 100)

Cllr J White - £49.98 printer cartridges for printing newsletter (chq no 101)

It was agreed not to transfer any money at this point. The play area costs have been met from the Precept and the grant from NDC.

The Clerk reported that the Annual Returns for the years ended March 2008 and March 2009 have been returned by the Audit Commission. The Audit Commission have reported that the information given in the annual returns is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. It is recommended that a Fixed Asset Register is produced. It was noted that in the Year ended March 2007 the grant from NDC was included in the Precept amount by a previous Clerk. This no longer happens.

b) To adopt the Financial Regulations as distributed. It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting in order for the Chairman and the Clerk to go through them. It is recommended that a Fixed Asset Register is produced. It was noted that in the Year ended March 2007 the grant from NDC was included in the Precept amount. This no longer happens.

c) To adopt the Business Risk Assessment as distributed. It was resolved to adopt the Business Risk Assessment.

52/10/09. Highways

a) To report on the Highways Management Visit. A traffic technician from the DCC North Area Highways Management team met with Cllr White and Cllr Blake in the parish to discuss problems such as speed of traffic, and road width, particularly past Hollowalls and New Park Cottages. Vehicle and trailer positions were noted and photos were taken. Two recommendations were made:- the temporary installation of traffic measurement equipment to monitor traffic flow and the painting of two large white SLOW signs on the road surface. One near the entrance to Weirholme and the other on the slope below Hollowalls Cottage. Two points were made clear. One was that unattached trailers on the public highway are illegal and two was that any trailer not displaying a number plate is assumed to be uninsured. Such trailers are liable to be removed. Particularly if

they are causing an obstruction. This information will be put in the newsletter. The new village signs have arrived. It was agreed to check with SCC whether the 'layby' beside Little Hawkwell is a layby or passing place. A letter to Highways will be drafted suggesting alternative for parking.

b) To note, for reporting to DCC/SCC, any highways problems and to note works that have been carried out. Overhanging branches were reported between Weirholme Farm and New Park. It was suggested that Cllr Blake contact the Highways Department with details of the owner/s of the hedges. The condition of the road between Whitefield Farm entrance and the Jubilee Inn is appalling. It was agreed that a letter of complaint should be sent to the Highways Department with a copy sent to Cty Cllr Yabsley.

c) To list any work for the next visit by the Lengthman. The next visit will be on the 24th November. No work was put forward.

d) Any other highways issues. The Highways Department will be thanked for the new village signs.

53/10/09. To receive the following reports:

a) District Cllr – Cllr Ley. Cllr Ley advised the Parish Council not to let the Highways Department fob them off using cost as the reason for the road repairs needed between Whitefield Farm entrance and the Jubilee Inn not being carried out. Following a parishioner's court appearances appealing against planning enforcement on his wild boar farm Cllr Ley said that he thought planning enforcement was a farce.

b) County Cllr – Cllr Yabsley. No report.

c) Play Area. Lappsett, the manufacturers of the multi play unit and swings, have failed to carry out the repairs to the climbing frame because the parts are no longer available. The Parish Council will try to find someone else to carry out the repairs or will consider replacing the equipment. In the meantime parents will be advised to ensure that only sensible play takes place on the equipment.

d) Website. No report.

54/10/09. To consider adopting the red phone box in East Anstey. It was agreed to adopt the phone box from BT at a cost of £1. The telephony will be removed. Enquiries will be made as to who will be responsible for the maintenance.

55/10/09. May Day Fayre 2010. A meeting was held on the 16th September to set up a committee to organise future village fairs. It was anticipated that the committee would be made up of representatives of those organisations that take part on the day as well as volunteers from the parish. Unfortunately although the usual volunteers turned up the attendance by organisation representatives was poor. It was agreed that the fair would be moved to the Spring Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May in the hope of better weather. The fair will be held in the field next to the village green in order to have a central arena for the Dog Show, children's events and tugs of war. Notification of stalls will be needed in advance and no two stalls must be alike. There will be a car boot sale. The next meeting will be held on the 11th November.

56/10/09. To discuss the draft newsletter. Councillors considered a draft copy of the newsletter. The new village signs will be mentioned. Users of the Village Green will be asked to show vigilance when using the equipment while the Parish Council considers how to replace it. It was noted that the proceeds of a dance have been donated towards the cost of the proposed disabled access to the Methodist Hall.

57/10/09. 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 – October 2009
- Senior Council For Devon – Newsletter no 4 September 2009
- Go North Devon – Transport & Travel Guide 2009/10
- DCC – SW Love Food Hate Waste Campaign
- Safer North Devon – ‘We’re building safer communities together’
- Devon Rural Network – Rural Devon Profile 2009
- CCD – Village Green
- NDC – North Devon Direct
- MST – invitation to MST Machinery & Tool Show 21/10/09 at Westpoint

58/10/09. Public Questions. There were no members of the public present.

59/10/09. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th December 2009 at 7.30pm at Allways End Methodist Hall..