

Minutes of a meeting of Exbourne with Jacobstowe Parish Council held on Wednesday 24th February 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in Exbourne Village Hall.

98. Those present: Cllr Luxton - Chairman
Cllr Weeks
Cllr Glanville
Cllr Blakeman
Cllr Phipps

There were no members of the public.

99. Apologies for absence - Cllr Lawson (work commitments) and Cllr Cobb (family commitments).

100. Declarations of Interest - The clerk advised Cllrs that three new planning applications have been added to the agenda: Coxwell Farm and Higher Woodhall (both in Exbourne) and Land adjacent to Beech Lodge, Jacobstowe. Cllr Phipps declared a personal interest in item 8.1 and a personal and prejudicial interest in item 8.4

101. Minutes of the last Meetings – Cllr Weeks proposed that the minutes be signed as a correct record. This was seconded by Cllr Glanville. The Chairman signed the minutes.

102. Matters arising –

102.1 Meeting with Mrs. Foster, the Parish Council's representative on the Primary School's Governors. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Foster to the Meeting. She stated she has now been a Governor for two and a half years and the workload has been more than she had expected. The school has received good OFSTED reports. The current head teacher, Celia West, is to retire at the end of this academic year. The post has been advertised and it is hoped to have the new head in place before she retires. They do have a contingency plan and that is to amalgamate with North Tawton Primary School, but this would be a short term arrangement. A teacher recently had to go to balance the budget and this meant a reduction to two classes. An ex-governor has complained about this move. There are currently 43 pupils at the school, which is good for a small village School. Celia West considers that if the number fell below 18 then it would be unviable. Cllr Glanville asked if she knew the projected numbers of children in the area (she didn't, but could get them). Cllr Phipps stated it was only about 8 children from Exbourne that attended the school. Cllr Weeks asked if the numbers balanced. Mrs. Foster explained that a higher number of children had left compared to those joining the school. Cllr Luxton asked if there was feedback available from Okehampton College as to how students from Exbourne compared with students from other schools. Mrs. Foster explained that Celia West may have this data. Cllr Weeks asked if the school has any preference as how far away the new head lives from the school. Mrs. Foster explained that it will depend on the applications they receive. Cllr Luxton stated the parish council

had received complaints about the way in which parents park their vehicles when collecting their children from school. Mrs. Foster stated she would pass this on.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Foster for being the Parish Council's representative and for attending this evenings meeting.

Mrs. Foster then left the meeting.

102.2 Discuss whether to join the Hatherleigh.net website – Cllr Blakeman proposed the parish council joins the website and review the situation in 12 months time. This was seconded by Cllr Glanville and agreed by all.

The clerk to send a letter to them stating the intention to join and ask if they would like to have an informal meeting to discuss the layout. If they do then it was felt it would be beneficial for Cllr Blakeman to be involved. It was also considered it would be useful to have links to organisations in the parishes (e.g. the school).

102. 3 Winter maintenance of Devon's roads (a letter has been received from Cllr James McInnes wanting feed back on potholes and grit bins) – with regard to grit bins the clerk was asked to respond asking for one in Hayfield Road. Also submit the comment that rural roads are in need of regular maintenance (Gully clearing and draining) to keep the water off the roads and reduce the damage caused by cold spells of weather.

Potholes – the letter has been sent to Bruce Pedrick. No response has been received, but it is hopeful that the work will be done.

Cllr Weeks stated he had spoken with the three landowners regarding the overgrown hedges. All responded favourably and will endeavour to trim the hedges by the end of March.

He also stated there is a rumour that DCC are considering not gritting the 'B' roads. There would need to be strong objections if this proposal was put forward.

103. New Items –

103.1 Jacobstowe Community Action Team (permission is sought for the provision of a pedestrian gate from the car park) – the Chairman had asked Cllr Weeks to ascertain whether planning permission would be needed. As the gate is to be placed as part of a post and rail fence planning consent is not required as long as the gate is not over 1m in height. All were in agreement to give permission to the Jacobstowe Community Action Team – the clerk to mention the 1m height stipulation.

The Chairman updated the council on the Jacobstowe Open Space – he has spoken with the Arch Deacon, who had to admit the letter had been mislaid. The chairman has sent him another copy, but this will not be considered until the Glebe Committee meeting in June.

103.2 Drain behind the Methodist Chapel – Cllr Weeks stated the drain on the Manor Garden side had been opened and the water had washed against the

Chapel wall. DCC had been told and had carried out work, but it had moved the problem further upwards (this was last year).

(Cllr Blakeman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as it involved land owned by him).

Back at the time DCC had been contacted and had informed the parish council that they did not have the funds available to carry out further work then, but if the parish council contacted them again near April 2010 when the new budget starts it may be possible to add it to the new programme of works.

All were in agreement that the clerk should contact DCC and ask for this scheme to be considered. The clerk to liaise with Cllr Weeks.

103.3 Serving of notices by e-mail – there was an item concerning this issue on the Nov/Dec DAPC Newsletter. The Local Government Act 1972 states the summons to a meeting should be left or posted to the home of the councillor. The NALC takes the view that if a parish council passes a resolution for the Service of summons and agendas and supporting documents by email **and** it has standing orders which confirm this arrangement then this would be acceptable. Delivery of a summons by email would still be technically wrong.

Cllr Weeks proposed that the Standing Orders are amended to read that summons to meetings may be sent by email. The clerk to prepare a resolution for the next meeting. This was agreed by all.

Cllr Glanville stated it would be helpful to have a paper copy of the dates of the forthcoming meetings.

103.4 Insurance – Cllr Weeks felt the parish council should seek quotations for the insurance. When the renewal arrives the clerk to liaise with Cllr Weeks.

104. Matters Arising from circulated correspondence

104.1 Cllr Blakeman asked if the parish council wished to comment on the Proposed unitary authority. The council felt they did not wish to at this moment in time.

105. Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

105.1 No issues to report this time.

106. Planning

Cllr Weeks, in the absence of the chairman, had convened a discussion concerning items 106.1, 106.2 and 106.3 prior to the meeting. Cllr Phipps had declared an interest in item 106.1 and had not taken part in the discussion for this application.

106.1 Applic No. 00070/2010 Land Adjacent to Pookes Ridge, Exbourne - erection of agricultural building. It had been decided to support this application in view of the proposed use of the building. The chairman requested

ratification of this decision. Cllr Glanville proposed and Cllr Blakeman seconded with all in agreement.

106.2 Applic No. 00077/2010 Risdon Farm, Jacobstowe – installation of 3 solar Panels, 3 sun pipes and glazed porch. It had been decided to support this Application as it is a reasonable amendment to the original approved plans. The chairman requested ratification of this decision. Cllr Glanville proposed and Cllr Blakeman seconded with all in agreement.

106.3 Applic No. 00066/2010 Old Broomford, Jacobstowe – conversion of barn To holiday let. It had been decided to support with a request for the provision to Made to accommodate barn owls and bats as indicated possible in the survey. The chairman requested ratification of this decision. Cllr Glanville proposed and Cllr Blakeman seconded with all in agreement.

106.4 Applic No.00116/2010 Coxwell Farm, Exbourne – erection of agricultural storage building. Cllr Phipps had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room. It was decided to support this application as it is necessary for the applicants business and it is well screened. All were in agreement with this decision.

Cllr Phipps was invited back into the meeting.

106.5 Applic. No. 00130/2010 Higher Woodhall, Exbourne – replacement of ground floor window and door with windows similar to those at first floor. It Was decided to support this application as it was an appropriate alteration to make to a listed building as it removes the addition of the modern window and door. All were in agreement with this decision.

106.6 Applic No. 00134/2010 Land adjacent to Beech Lodge, Jacobstowe – outline application for single dwelling. Cllr Weeks stated it would be considered as infill development. It was decided to support this application, but ask that WDBC consult with the landscape officer with regard to the trees and consult DCC with regard to the access onto the main road. Also request that consideration is given to the privacy of the neighbouring property, Beech Lodge. All were in agreement with this decision.

107. Finance

107.1 The balance shown in the bank account on February 5th is £4125.64. There are no outstanding cheques, but hire of the hall for October, November, January and February (totalling £66.00) has to be taken out. This brings the actual balance to **£4059.64** (General funds £4026.72 and P3 £32.92)

107.2 Review of budget – this was discussed. Cllr Weeks asked that the £69.09 listed under I.T. be placed under Clerks miscellaneous expenses. He was confident that the projected carry forward figure (mentioned when setting the budget) will be fairly accurate. He had also discussed with the

Chairman that he felt the clerk had been underpaid. It was agreed she would be paid 16 hours per month @ £8.30 (£132.80). Over 6 months she should have been paid £796.80 when she has received £622.17. There is a deficit of £174.63.

107.3 The clerk presented an invoice for £174.63. It was proposed by Cllr Glanville that it be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Phipps.

108. Matters at the discretion of the Chairman.

108.1 Cllr Weeks asked if Cllrs have any highway issues for the parish lengthsman then to let him know by March 6th.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 31st March 2010 at Exbourne village Hall. The meeting will start at 8.00 p.m. as no guest is expected.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.