



**99.3 Restoration of war memorial at Jacobstowe** - the clerk has passed the information on to Rod Lane. This item can be removed from the agenda and the council will wait until they hear from him.

**99.4 Clerk's employment status and PAYE** – the clerk has exchanged emails with HMRC and has been advised that the parish council can hold a completed P46 form. The clerk would need to declare her income on her partnership tax return (as she does now). The chairman will receive a letter from the accountants to state that the income has been declared. If the earnings exceed the threshold then a PAYE scheme would have to be set up, the P46 would have to be sent to the Tax Office and NIC would have to be deducted from the clerk's earnings.

## **100. New Items**

**100.1 Highway Matters ( a letter received from Sheila Stoneman)** – Mrs Stoneman has sent the parish council a copy of a letter she has sent to DCC concerning the potholes between the bridge over Holebrook near Birchwood and Lower Narracot. Cllr Weeks stated he has been informed that the potholes have been prioritised with 'A' class roads being filled in first, then 'B' class roads and then the unclassified roads being tended to last.

The lengthsman is due again in early March and he has sent in a list of items for him to do.

Mrs. Stoneman has also raised the trimming of the bank beside the A3072 as you approach Exbourne again. The clerk informed her the council did not wish to trim the bank and the land owner adjacent to the bank has agreed to trim it. The council re-iterated they did not wish to pay someone to trim it.

## **Julie Luckhurst, the new head of Exbourne C of E Primary School, arrived.**

**99.1 Meeting with Julie Luckhurst** - the chairman welcomed Julie to the meeting and thanked her for giving up her time during the half term week. She explained that Exbourne is currently in consultation to federate with 4 local schools ( Boasley X, Bridestowe, Lydford and Okehampton College). There are currently 60 schools in Devon that have federated. The process has taken 2 years so the current economic climate is not the main reason although finance is an influencing factor as the school currently benefits from minimum funding and this could be withdrawn in 2012/13. Exbourne school opened in 1838 and currently has 45 pupils, but there is room for 60. Eleven schools were originally involved in the discussions to form the Dartmoor Federation.

There will be one governing body for the five schools made up of 19 governors : - 6 parent governors ( 2 from Oke College and one from each of the other four schools), 4 Community governors, 5 staff governors, 2 Local Authority governors and 2 foundation governors.

Resources, teaching knowledge and administration can be shared between the schools. There are also benefits with economies of scale.

When the library is built at the school it is hoped to make it a community library so members of the public can use it.

Cllr Weeks asked about the parish council's representative on the current governing body. Mrs. Luckhurst explained that she would have input into the forum, but not the overall governing body.

New schools would not be able to join until 2012 to allow the federation time to get Established.

The chairman asked about Hatherleigh and North Tawton primary schools. Mrs. Luckhurst explained they had dropped out before she got involved. Okehampton Primary is currently on special measures and wish to concentrate on getting out of those so it was not the right time for them.

Ofsted has a positive view of federated schools.

There is a process to de-federate, but no-one has done this yet because federation is still in its early stages.

She did not think it would be easy, but there are many benefits. If Okehampton College wished to become an academy then Exbourne would probably have to pull out because the church would have reservations.

Cllr Glanville asked about the forum. Mrs. Luckhurst explained that it was an autonomous body that represents the ground roots of the school. They have no voting powers, but can inform the representatives on the governing body of their views. The PTFA continues as it is now.

The consultation finishes on March 7<sup>th</sup> and the school will advise the parish council of the decision taken.

Cllr Weeks thanked her for her clear and concise description of federation. The chairman thanked her for attending.

Mrs. Luckhurst then left the meeting.

**100.2 Nominations for Royal Garden Party** - Cllr Weeks nominated the chairman and Cllr Phipps seconded this nomination. The chairman was happy to be put forward. The Clerk will send his details to the DALC.

**100.3 Amendments to Register of Interests form** - the clerk has received a reminder from the Borough Solicitor that Cllrs should check their Register of Interest. Those present checked and verified they have no amendments to make.

## **101. Matters arising from circulated correspondence (info only)**

There was none.

## **102. Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**

**102.1** Request from Ian Brooker for a small remuneration to assist with his costs in overseeing P3 – the clerk informed the council that he was paid £20 last year. Cllr Weeks stated that Ian did a very good job and proposed it be increased to £25 this year. Cllr Cobb seconded this proposal and all were in agreement.

## **103. Planning**

**103.1** Applic No. 01206/2011 Meadows Edge, Exbourne – alternative proposal for erection of extension. Cllr Weeks explained that this application has the addition of a window on the north elevation. Cllr Glanville proposed that the council supports the application. This was seconded by Cllr Phipps and agreed by all.

**103.2** Applic No. 01210/2011 Orchard House, Exbourne – alterations and extension to outbuilding to form additional ancillary accommodation. The previous application had been refused because it was considered too large in comparison to the dwelling. It was decided to support the application, but ask that one of the conditions is that it is ancillary to the main dwelling, request that the permitted development rights are removed (if they have not been already) and ask that the car port remains open fronted as it is now. Cllr Cobb proposed and Cllr Glanville seconded with all in agreement.

**103.3** Applic No. 01101/2010 Hayes, Holebrook Lane, Exbourne – erection of two new dwellings. This has been granted conditional consent. The notice was placed in the circulation file.

#### **104. Finance**

**104.1** Received grant of £100 from Rights of Way for P3

**104.2** An invoice for service of clock – this has not yet been received so cannot be paid this evening.

**104.3** Donation to Ian Brooker for overseeing the P3. A cheque was signed for £25 (agreed under item 102.1)

**104.4** Details of balance at bank - the most recent bank statement shows a balance of £6189.68 as at 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (this includes the £100 from P3). There is the hire of the hall for Oct/Nov/Jan/Feb (£66.00), the Grant to the pre-school (£75). There is one outstanding cheque for £276.26 and the cheque signed this evening for £25. This brings the balance down to **£5747.42**. Of this there is currently a negative balance for P3 of -£186.96 and £5934.38 is precept money. The clerk pointed out that there is VAT to reclaim of £459.38 connected to P3 and this will bring the balance up to £272.42.

#### **105. Matters at the discretion of the Chairman**

**105.1** The Chairman stated last months problem of sewage seepage near Court Barton had been rectified, but there was now further seepage north of this location. The clerk to contact South West Water again.

The next meeting will be held at The Village Hall, Exbourne on Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 8.00 p.m.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m.