

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

All Councillors were present at the regular meeting in March, except for Councillor Nethacott who was busy with lambing duties.

Parish Clerk. There have been further developments in this matter: Mr. Gary Fisher, a resident of Sheepwash, has kindly volunteered to take up the position. He attended the March meeting where he was able to get a hint of what he was taking on. He will start on 6 April. His details are at the foot of this item.

Footpath Survey. All the parish footpaths appear to be in good order. There will be no grant from the Parish Paths Partnership in 2012/13, but funds are still available in the Parish Council coffers for any repairs that may be required during the year. Anyone who walks the paths and sees a need for attention should contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk.

There were no police matters to report.

Planning Matters. Torridge District Council had sent their usual roundup of planning applications made in neighbouring parishes during the preceding weeks and this included an application for a wind turbine at Stibb Cross. The details of this application can be viewed on the TDC website and the reference is 1/0073/2012/FUL. Objections have already been filed by CPRE and some local residents. Parishioners who believe they will be affected by this project are entitled to put their views on record by writing direct to the District Council or by logging in to the website. Time is of the essence if you wish to do this.

Following are some other items that may be of interest:

National Bus Passes. These all come up for renewal on 31 March 2013 and Devon County Council are making preparations to replace 170,000 passes for Devon residents (almost a quarter of the total population). There is no need to re-apply: new passes will be sent to all current holders' registered addresses starting in January 2013, and a publicity campaign will start next month.

Bulk buying of heating oil. The Community Council of Devon has started a scheme called the Devon Oil Collective. If anyone is interested in joining, with the object of reducing of both their costs and the number of supply deliveries in the parish, please contact the team running the scheme. They are Dawn Eckhart and Karen Churchward (Email [oilscheme@devonrcc.org.uk](mailto:oilscheme@devonrcc.org.uk), Tel 01392 248919 ext. \*290). They are also looking for a co-ordinator for the parish, so if you are interested in helping them out, please give them a call.

Okehampton Farmers' Market Association are looking for more stallholders at their market which is held every third Saturday of the month in the centre of Okehampton. If anyone who is developing or running a local producer business and is interested in having a stall, they can contact the association through their website at: [www.okehamptonfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.okehamptonfarmersmarket.co.uk)

The next regular meeting of the Council will be on Thursday, 10 May 2012 at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall. This will be preceded by the Council's Annual Meeting at which the Chairman for the coming year will be elected by the Councillors.

Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting for parishioners, which is a statutory requirement for every parish, will be held on Thursday, 10 May at 8:00 pm at the Village Hall. This is an opportunity for parishioners to raise and discuss any matters of general concern and vote for action on matters that require it. It is also an opportunity for community organisations to publicise their activities and report on how they have used any grants that the Parish Council has given them during the preceding year.

**Gary Fisher (Parish Clerk from 6 April 2012)**  
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