

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

May is always a busy month for the parish council. The following meetings all took place on Thursday, 10 May 2012, in the Village Hall. All councillors were present plus Gary Fisher the new parish clerk.

### **Annual Meeting of Parish Council**

The councillors elected Cllr Pett to be the new Chairman, and Cllr Nethacott to remain as Vice-Chairman. Gary Fisher was elected as the Responsible Financial Officer for the council. The councillors all expressed their thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Deane, for all his hard work.

### **Regular meeting of Parish Council**

A new item will appear on all future agendas. This is an open session for members of the public to speak. Sarah Blake attended the meeting and presented the councillors with details of a seminar being given by CPRE on the subject of wind turbines. Cllr Bond offered to attend.

The annual return for the year ended 31 March 2012 was approved and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer. The internal audit report will be completed by Mrs Pat Kirby.

The following items of expenditure were agreed:

- Insurance premium of £144.59 for the year ending 31 May 2013 payable to Community First.
- Grants to Buckland Filleigh Village Hall for £140 to buy stepladders, and £130 to purchase 25 "medals" for the parish children as part of the Jubilee celebrations.
- Grant to Shebbear Community School for £300 as a contribution to a £4,000 project to refurbish the hard court area.

There were no police matters to report. It was noted that reports from the police to the council have been erratic. The parish clerk will request the police to provide an update before every meeting.

The planning application from Mr Wye and Ms Tesh for replacement of an existing garage at Glebe House had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no objections.

The footpath at Grasscott was briefly discussed and subsequently deferred to the next meeting as time was limited and a fuller discussion is required.

Correspondence had been received from Debbie Fowler regarding the Diamond Jubilee Beacon and asking about insurance cover. As a result the clerk had contacted the council's insurance company who confirmed that the existing cover would apply if: it is a Parish Council event; less than 500 people attend; a Risk Assessment is carried out; and Health and Safety guidelines are followed. It was agreed this would be a council event and Cllr Balsdon and Cllr Nethacott would head the sub-committee to manage the event and ensure the event meets the necessary obligations.

At the close of the meeting, the councillors expressed their gratitude to Martin Fowler the previous parish clerk.

### **Annual Parish Meeting.**

This meeting 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.

In addition to the councillors and the clerk, the following people attended: Peter Blake, Sarah Blake, Freddy Hulm, Vron Martin, and Sally Strange.

The Chairman's Report summarised a relatively peaceful year, other than issues concerning wind turbines. The council will continue to strive to benefit the parish as a whole.

Sally Strange, Head Teacher of Shebbear Community School, gave a brief report of activities at the school, and thanked the council for the grants and assistance given throughout the year. We wish her well in the new Headship role she will be taking up elsewhere at the end of this term.

Freddy Hulm thanked the council on behalf of the Friends of St. Mary's and the Parochial Church Council for the council's contribution towards the cost of renewing the tarmac on the paths within the churchyard.

Vron Martin spoke on behalf of the committee for Buckland Filleigh Village Hall and thanked the council for their help and financial assistance throughout the past 12 months.

No other items were raised and the meeting was closed for tea and biscuits.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Council will be on Thursday, 12 July 2012 at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall.

**Gary Fisher, Parish Clerk**

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