

Thurlestone Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 26th April 2010
at 7.30 pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr A Rhymes – Chairman,
PC Steve Mullin – Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
Helen Clayton - SHDC
Stuart Watts – Aune Conservation Association

In attendance: 12 parishioners and Phil Millard (Clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm. He welcomed everyone and introduced the evening's speakers.

1. Chairman's Report

Guests, Ladies and gentleman, it gives me great pleasure to give you the chairman's report for the last 12 months, May started with our long standing tree warden Charlie announcing that he was stepping down from this role after years of looking out for the parishes trees, some of SHDC views weren't wholly in agreement with Charlie so He felt it time to hand the post over to someone else, I would like to take this chance to thank Charlie for all his hard work and effort and we still look forward to his dulcet tones on meeting night.

It took a few months to find a successor but the job now lies in the hands of Hal Plews and we wish him well with the new post.

June came in with a bang courtesy of RC Pillars, I was told that a mystery lorry had demolished the pump house and not stopped, but all was well as our clerk received a call from Pillars explaining the incident and after discussion they agreed to put it right. Pump house is now as good as new.

Parking at the school was also brought up and letters have gone out to parents to try and alleviate the problem, situation will be monitored and further action taken if needed. Owing to the severe weather over the winter the state of the roads in the Parish are coming in for some stick. The last 2 meetings seeing a 50% increase in the discussion on Potholes. Alas there is not much being done by SHDC but it is not for the want of trying, I've lost count of the Emails we have sent regarding this.

July came and so did the rain and an E mail from Phil regarding our beach and I quote, "it seems we have underestimated South Milton! I am not sure if we are on a war footing but we should certainly be mobilising our forces, we will fight them on the beach etc....This was regarding the South Milton sands/Thurlestone sands debacle but for the record it is clearly Thurlestone Sands, End Of.

This month also saw Helen Clayton come along and explain the need for the definitive map review. Also on the agenda were Sat Navs bringing problems to West Buckland with large lorries getting stuck. Dog Poo bins also a real issue, or rather lack of space and non frequent emptying. Recent work to the green triangle and the cobbles caused quite a stir, parking being the reasons for the changes, these changes are now policed and a member of the public who lives nearby has the authority to issue tickets.

August Holiday or so we thought but not this year, we had 2 meetings with reps from SHDC regarding the LDF frame work, after lot of discussion it was felt that the Parish should be asked for their opinions, so with the help of Village Voice we got these by letter/E mail. Views of the parish were then passed on to Rebecca Black at SHDC. Signage came under the spotlight with the sudden appearance of 65 metal posts from the church to South Milton. Letters of objection were duly sent to SHDC. We also received letter from Evans Estate re horse riding on the beach, it seems unless you have adequate insurance cover you cannot take your horse to water!

October – After months of pestering the Phantom Light post outside Homefield has been removed.

November – John Halliday attended regarding the metal posts – we had not been consulted –they E mailed an old Email address!! It was felt double yellow lines would have been more effective and cheaper option. The cost of posts was revealed as £4,724.26 which could have been spent on Potholes!

The FDP was proposing post 2016 that possibly 15 houses would be built on one site, of these 40% would be affordable, we asked for restrictive covenants on the remainder, no holiday homes, but this would be up to the developer.

December –meeting was short (Xmas Shopping?) Signage was again discussed, No Parking sign on memorial to be moved, Parish Plan – it was agreed that members from Parish would get together and take this further – Kit to liase.

January – Weather was taking toll on our Roads particularly in West Buckland, John Halliday has been asked for a review of signage and traffic regulations, we await his reply.

The school building continues apace all is on target and on Budget, by September 2010 we will have a light modern and airy school, which will be state of the art packed with the latest technology that will enhance the learning facilities for pupils and Teachers alike. This is the culmination of years of planning, hard work and fund raising by the school and the community. Resulting in this very modern amenity. It has not been easy and caused many a debate. But it is without doubt a facility that the Parish can be very proud of on completion.

February – To our amazement our district councilor was in the room, after we all got over the shock she advised that the old telephone exchange is to be turned into 4 eco friendly 3 bedroomed houses, all fabricated on site, it was also agreed that the company undertaking this project would be asked to attend a future meeting and give a brief talk.

March – Parking- School – attempts to sort out this situation had so far failed – public meeting called for to thrash out a way forward. Involving the children was seen as one of the best ways forward, so encouraging more children to use the school bus from Kingsbridge, much more car sharing, next term will see a big push in the curriculum to address this problem and try and make things easier for all concerned.

An Action committee for our parish plan has been put in place and identified 4 core issues.

1. Planning
2. Signage
3. Technology and information structure
4. The best kept Village (our aim is to win this year)

April – Shock of Shocks – Shonaugh appeared at this meeting as well! Advised should we wish to sell our house between May and September we would need to get a bat report, much to the amusement of our very own batman Charlie! Who is never short of a question for her.

A contingent from Bantam/West Buckland have asked to take on overgrown allotment area and turn into a village green area. Need to look into insurance /costs involved. But in principle have no objections to this project.

Highways, things are now getting beyond a joke and cannot see things improving quickly, ah well keep sending the E mails Philip.

Finally my thanks to Phil (Clerk), councilors and the police for all their help during the year.

2. Guests

Helen Clayton – DCC-Public Rights of Way officer

Helen had come to give us an update on the Definitive Map review for Thurlestone which started last year. Orders had now been published and we are entering the objection period. Helen took us through the Process and the suggested Modifications to our Paths and bridleways.

The last review was done in the 1950,s and this was therefore a very important process to ensure that rights of way are kept.

Presentation is attached for information.

Helen then took questions – Main concern was over the right to remove seaweed from Bantham beach – this is a right that goes back generations (horse and cart) – but recently Evans Estates have tried to stop it. Evidence forms will be needed and then this can be looked at within the review. Process could result in a public meeting eventually to try and resolve.

Stuart Watts – Aune Conservation Association

Stuart introduced himself, he has been chairman for 4/5 years. The association has charitable status. Main purpose is to preserve, protect and improve the Avon Valley. Second main purpose is to educate the public. They publish information brochures (examples left for us).

Supported by strong committee. They now look after the valley from source to the sea. Also have a new website and provide advisory publications. Have particular concerns with the spread of Himalayan Borsum and Japanese Knotweed.

They have 205 households registered and 350 members. Involved in planning issues, sewage arrangements, safe navigation, water quality and liase with the Duchy of Cornwall.

Also involved in research and use the Governments Environment Agency data. Phosphates are a problem which are as a result of household cleaners etc –these are not taken out by treatment. As a result plants grow too much and this then effects the river and fish stocks. They keep prodding the agency to get action. They are involved in lobbying and liaison with SW Water, Natural England, Duchy of Cornwall etc

Future Focus – AGM last week – decided do not do enough about ecology of river. Need to do something about it plus deal with invasive weeds(Himalayan Balsall and Japanese knotweed) and concentrate also on beach cleaning. They also clean the tidal road area but have to wear high visibility jackets and comply with health and safety. They need a comprehensive insurance policy as well to cover workers which is expensive.

PC Mullen – Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

Since January this year we have had 6 crimes reported in the parish of a total of 239 for the whole of the Kingsbridge area. Thurlestone is a very low crime area and feedback from the community is positive in relation to how safe people feel living in the Parish.

The parish continues to be policed by PCSO Dave Gibson and me from Salcombe under the supervision of PS Jane Corkhill and Insp Chivers.

Dave has in the last year run several very successful Police Surgeries in the parish using various locations.

We are both familiar faces at the Wednesday coffee mornings giving residents who might not normally contact the Police a chance to sit with us and discuss any concerns they may have.

We continue to provide regular updates on our neighbourhood Policing website as to what problems we are dealing with our communities and what we are doing to resolve them. We also publish dates of forthcoming meetings and surgeries we are attending.

The last few months have seen us working closely with the School and Village Hall in respect of parking issues. This has involved high visibility patrols and attending meetings to discuss the situation and together look for suitable solutions. Our work towards this continues but was recently frustrated by an incident in the car park which resulted in personal injury. This matter is currently under Police investigation. We continue to work towards resolving the issues along with the School Village Hall and Parish Council.

I would like to thank the Parish Council and other organisations in the Parish for their support over the last 12 months and look forward to the year ahead along with the challenges it brings.

3. Open Forum

The question of Badgers digging under the Coastal Path was raised – there is a hole in the middle of the path by the green hut on the golf course. There is a real risk that someone walking the path might not see it and break a leg. The golf course cannot touch it as it will be prosecuted. Anything to do Badgers has to be dealt with correctly and Helen Clayton advised that we should contact the District Council as the Coastal Path is a public highway. The District Council is responsible for the Path and might need to close it or redirect it temporarily to enable them to solve the problem. Helen has suggested we send E mail to her with exact location and she will then forward to the Highways section that will need to deal with it.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

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26th April 2010

Chairman