

# Thurlestone Annual Parish Meeting

## Members of the public and press are welcome to attend

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
At 7.30 pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr A Rhymes – Chairman,  
County Councillor Rufus Gilbert, David Cohen – Salcombe Parish Councillor

In attendance: 12 Parishioners/Councillors and Phil Millard (Clerk)

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

## Chairmans Report

Chairman gave a report giving details of the main events over the last 12 months.

Advised it had been a relatively quiet year – but sub committee's had helped a lot with the workload.

### Which Covered :

- Blocked drains – were sorted by the lengths man – but now they are left.
- Footpath to Hope Cove now open.
- Phone Box – West Buckland has been renovated – we gave £500 towards costs
- New Owner of Bantham Estates – came to see us and promised not much would change!
- Broadband– still bad - hope for improvement soon – by the autumn as promised by BT?
- Neighbourhood Plan – being worked on by our subcommittee – is progressing.
- Toilets – Closed for 4 months over the winter – no complaints.
- School - Resigned as Governor – has been a school federation for 2 years – was it for the best not sure – and only time will tell – no fulltime headmaster anymore.
- Police not seen much – but to be fair we do not have much crime! We now have a resident policeman living in the Village!
- Planning – we concur with David Cohen (see report later on)
- Website for Parish being developed – should be ready in 2/3 months time.
- Thanked all the councillors for all their help and hard work over the year.
- Thanked Clerk for his support.

## Guests

### David Cohen – Parish Councillor Salcombe

Had written to us regarding Localism and Planning – came to outline his plans  
And ask for our support .

David's background is very varied and included time with the Department of the environment and  
Has held various consultancies – Has lived in Salcombe full time for 20 years.  
His main interest is communities and their development.

His report covered

- The localism Act – empowered small communities - however not working as the views of the Councils in respect of Planning are by and large ignored.
- Joined Salcombe Parish Council 18 months ago – has become very frustrated with the planning process – take a lot of time to consider applications – attend site meetings etc
- However the Parish Councils views are usually then ignored – which leads you to ask why are we bothering!
- District council seem to be frightened to go to appeal – in case they lose and have to pay costs.
- **Proposition** – if an application is opposed by the Parish Council then at District Level we would get 35% of Votes – District councillor if supports us gets 15% - we would then only need 1% ( ie one district councillor) to get it declined.
- **If goes to appeal** – should be no cost to SHDC – applicant should bear the cost.
- This would have to be done via an amendment to the Localism Bill – would have to get our MP to support us – after elections – would be difficult – but can be done.

**Took Questions** – Our own experiences are similar and we would be very supportive and would like to work with David and Salcombe PC.

### County councillor – Rufus Gilbert gave a short report which included

- Website – is a very good idea – looking forward to when it is up and running.
- Broadband – should be delivered this autumn – as agreed by BT.
- Budget reductions continue – 2 years ago was £1 billion – now £750 m
- Libraries are being reorganised
- Schools in top 10 in country
- Pot Holes - lot of catch up done – more to do – but getting better.
- Footpaths – Footpath to Hope Cove restored – Deviation 12.

### **Open Forum**

The outstanding work in West Buckland was raised and County Cllr Gilbert will get  
An answer in next few days for us.

There being no other business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed  
the meeting at 8.30 pm.

28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 ..... Chairman