

Thurlestone Annual Parish Meeting

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 24th April 2017
At 7.30 pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall

**Present: Cllr A Rhymes – Chairman,
Guest Toby Russell – Devon Air Ambulance
County Councillor - Rufus Gilbert
District Councillor- Judy Pearce**

In attendance: 14 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.

Which Covered :

- **It was a year full of challenges and would like to thank his fellow councillors re all their hard work**
- **Feels we are not always listened to – and that SHDC planning dept could be more proactive and supportive – we are not against development but must be appropriate and fit in.**
- **Thanks also to all those residents who come to our meetings and listen to what is going on.**
- **Roads – are getting worse – bigger lorries down our small roads.**
- **Lack of Parking is an issue in the Village – would like to see some extra spaces made for surfers etc.**
- **Cobbled road – still no definitive answer – and now have someone else looking into this for us.**
- **Neighbourhood plan - coming to fruition by end of the year – and would like to thank the committee for all their hard work.**
- **Memorial Green – have removed a cherry tree and looks a lot better – the memorial now has more space and shouldn't get so dirty. Have also replaced the path which was costly but makes a big difference.**
- **Village sign design – 44 entries and 15 year old winner – new design looks very good.**

- Last August Mr Johnston (Bantham Estates) – came to see us and outlined his vision for future of the estate – we will see what happens.
- With the amount of traffic coming into the village – should we look at 20 mile speed limit sign?
- Parking through the main street of the Village is a big problem – with large trucks coming through -need to find a solution to this.
- Would like to end with a tribute to Peter Hurrell who sadly died at the end of last year – he was a champion for West Buckland – had great knowledge of the Parish which is irreplaceable. The bench is a fitting memorial to him and he will be sadly missed by all of us.
- Finally would like to thank the clerk for all his hard work which makes my Job much easier.

Guests

County Councillor – Rufus Gilbert

Covered following issues

- Roads are still an issue – budget has improved but still £1m per week short but has fought hard to make sure Thurlestone roads were addressed. Skanska has now taken over as contractors for maintenance of the roads – so should see an improvement.
- One quarter of your council tax bill goes to pay for care of the elderly – extra money is being put into this area – and this comes from the roads budget.
- The shires do miss out to larger metropolitan areas – which have a much bigger budget you should lobby your MP about this.
- The road into Totnes (Hallwell – area) – is to be resurfaced in June.
- There are now 16 parishes (new boundaries)– one of the biggest issues is 2nd Homes – there are now many more than 4 years ago – and a lot of these owners now vote down here.
- People are coming here earlier and younger than before.
- Enjoyed his time representing us – the County Council is quite different to the District Council – ie more distant and more party political - the district council is closer to the real world.
- Was happy to take questions – and speed through the Village was raised – this could be reduced with Vaz signs – Parish Council would need to apply – after election.

Toby Russell – Devon Air Ambulance

Gave a brief Presentation which included.

- Currently fly two aircraft based in Exeter – cover 94% of population. Vision is to be a 24hr service – currently cover up to 12 Midnight but hope to extend this to 2/3 in the morning.
- Work with communities to set up night landing sites – needs a lot of co-operation.
- Site has to be 50m x 50m (half size of a football pitch). They use night vision goggles. Site has to be flat and free from trees - also near to where people live. Needs to have Lighting in place to guide the aircraft in and also for the Paramedics for loading patients onto the Helicopter. Road access is also very important and needs to be by the landing area.
- With regard to Thurlestone – looking at a couple of potential sites – one on Golf Course and other at top of Village – Geoff Stidsons fields. Making good progress – need to talk to land owners – lighting is a problem – as you need electricity near to the site – or a battery system could be used as an alternative. Best to have an electricity supply if possible. Lighting is by way of a 10 Metre high pole (will need planning permission)– near to a gate if possible. This is turned on and off by them as they arrive and leave .Community would have to find finance for power supply although there may be possible grants.
- Have 32 sites live at moment – inc Salcombe, Malborough and Kingsbridge. Have needed to come here quite often.
- Hopes to come back to us and put forward a plan to implement a landing site. Grant is available toward costs – but may need to fund raise.
- Could take up to 12 months.

3. District Councillor – Judy Pearce

Covered following issues

- 2nd Year in office – thanked Parish Council for their support.
- So what has the District Council been up to over last year – T18 (reform to reduce staff by 30% by 2018)– has been bedded down – not been able to reduce staff as envisaged.
- No grant at all next year – (£600 deficit this year) so still need to make savings.
- New homes bonus is also being reduced.
- Work force is 292 full time equivalent plus workmen of 150.
- Planning department is very busy – Busiest in the SW.
- Have achieved 300 new affordable homes.
- Homeless strategy – very active in this area.
- Road improvements between Loddiswell and California cross should go ahead this year.

- **Waste collection – need to reduce costs but not service. If Bin not collected can be reported on line – and this can be transmitted to the cab (can go back and correct).**
- **Heritage front – Bantham Ham is an Ancient Monument –and any development around this area needs to take this into account – eg Proposed Barriers at Bantham beach.**
- **Some District councils are borrowing money to buy commercial property – to obtain rental income – but probably missed this boat – to late to be viable.**
- **Problems going forward – Planning offers difficult to recruit.**
- **On the whole the improvements made this year outweigh the disappointments.**

Questions – taken – Rubbish Bins are being left out in the road. Up to the Parish Council to try and find a solution but DC has no powers on that.

Open Forum

White line at entrance to Old Vicarage has been put in place – but is not long enough!
Will contact Adam Keay (Highways) – to ensure put right.

There being no other business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

25th April 2017 Chairman