

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at the Village Hall .On Thursday 30th June 2011 at 7.30 pm

1. Election of Chairman of Parish Council- Clerk opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman, Sharon Rossiter nominated Peter FitzGerald, Andrew Jenkins Seconded the motion.
2. Election of Vice Chairman of Parish Council- Chairman asked for nomination for Vice Chairman Cliff Clark Nominated Andrew Jenkins seconded by Sharon Rossiter.
3. Public Open Forum-Information and Questions from the public- Jeff Parcell asked that the decision not to proceed with a Parish Plan be revisited .Mr Parcell discussed the merits of a Parish plan .Clerk explained the process and gave details of the amount of work involved and Mr Parcell agreed to look into the possibility of holding a public open meeting to establish if a sufficiently large group could be formed to take on the work. To be agenda item at next meeting.
4. Co-option of Councillor to fill current vacancy- Tony Appleton was asked to stand for the position, proposed by Jenny Steadman seconded by Sharon Rossiter.
5. Apologies for absence –Brian Young
6. Approve minutes of meetings 11th May 2011-Signed as a true record,
7. Matters arising from minutes- Clerk asked to amend the word “table” on item 6 of PC Mins 11th May to “council” at the request of Sharon Rossiter. Clerk very happy to do this .Discussion of progress with work on Coombe railings took place and it was agreed that the improvement of these railings become a PC aspiration while other sources of funding will continue to be sought.
8. Chairman’s Report- Neal Foot had retired from the PC and Jenny Steadman had replaced Neal. There had been good progress with highway improvement during the winter thanks to the work of Tony Appleton. The Allotments continue to be a success with only half of one allotment currently unused.
9. Planning activity-Andrew Jenkins –Two recent applications had been received and supported at Manin and Candle Cottage.
10. Footpaths Update and Parish Pump Update - Sharon Rossiter Eleven and a half miles of footpaths exist in the Parish. Since last meeting 14 footpaths have been walked and any issues forwarded to Eve Wynn at SSDC. The notice board to Coombe Hill is rotten at the top, Jenny Steadman to approach Rick Godley to enquire about repairs .Parish Pump is wasp infested and repair work will have to wait until autumn. Full copy of report on file.
11. Highways-Cllr Appleton reported no major deterioration although Long Lane was still a problem, resurfacing is unlikely repair more likely. Leigh Common ,road survey and “No

HGV” sign planned for this financial year. Verges were cut in June with another cut planned for A and B roads this year. Blocked drains had been reported by Tony Appleton and a full drain clearout had been schedule for November 2011.

12 Report on funding for playing fields- Andrew Jenkins This item carried to next meeting.

13 Progress on Defibrillator re report – Sharon Rossiter a paper had been circulated to all Councillors and the research has shown that the cost of Defibrillators has come down, training is free and there is no liability attached to operating a device. Tim Cook (district council)has opened a “match funding” scheme of up to £500 and with the total cost around £1400 it was decided the PC would make a donation if £500 could be raised within the community. Clerk to speak to Tim to establish ground rules for match funding. Familiarization sessions will be available to local people and it was agreed that the phone box on Bleke Street should house the Defibrillator. Clerk to speak to BT to arrange preparation of phone box.

14 Broadband-A Rural initiative- Sharon Rossiter said that £30 million of funding was available in rural areas and that Somerset has had their request for funding accepted. Clerk to write to confirm our interest in having our broadband speeds improved in Pen.

15 Address from Alzheimer’s Society- Steve Haigh of the Alzheimer’s Society gave a presentation concerning the prevalence of dementia and Alzheimer’s within the community. Help with diagnosis was discussed and a short video presentation showed the ways of treating these illnesses. Brochures and leaflets were left for Councillors to distribute and display on Parish notice boards together of details of local action groups..

16.AOB- Peter Fitzgerald gave details of housing survey about to be undertaken by SSDC, Felix Marsh would be coordination the survey which looks at the feasibility of affordable housing

Meeting Closed 9.37pm

Next meeting 7th Sept.2011

Signed as a true record.....

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