

PORLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Porlock Village Hall on Wednesday, 10th. March 2010 at 7pm due notice having been given

Present: The Chair was taken by Cllr. Alan Wright and the following Councillors were in attendance: Cllr. David Britnell, Cllr. Terry Gable, Cllr. David Latham, Cllr. Malcolm McCoy, Cllr. Angela Palmer, Cllr. Joe Roake, Cllr. Kim Rowe and Cllr. Malcolm Sage

1. Apologies were received from Cllr. Mike Edward, Cllr. Marilyn Russell, Rev. Ivan Selman (Chairman, Dovery Manor Management Committee), Mr. Steve Rawle (Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee), and Mr. Mike Fraser (Telephone kiosks)

2. The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th. March 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Public Participation

Including those presenting reports there were approximately 18 electors present.

Mr. Joe Westerdale requested that the Parish Council consider the rural nature of the village when changes to the environment were considered. Although accepting that changes sometimes need to be made he asked that urbanisation be avoided. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council were in complete sympathy with this outlook. During the Parish Plan exercise the population of the parish had been asked what level of change they wished to see. Analysis of the response to this question showed that people were willing to accept change if it would be of benefit to the community, but that there was little support for major change.

Nigel Lamacraft asked whether the plans for the new access road and affordable housing in Villes Lane could be considered as major change. The Chairman replied that this project was in-filling, small in scale and also of benefit to the community, and therefore in the context of the Parish Plan would be acceptable.

Sue Lamacraft agreed that the housing was in-fill and was not a major impact, but did not feel that this applied to the road – her concern was that the road would encourage speeding, but the Chairman felt that the County Council's design had addressed this issue.

Roger Beasley asked whether the Council felt that the Parish Plan had an effect on the decisions of the Planning Authority. The Chairman confirmed that since the responses contained within the Plan represented the views of over 50% of the local population it was taken very seriously by all organisations on whom the community relies for services. The results of the Plan had been discussed with all

authorities and they had listened and responded. The Chairman gave as an example the extra bus services that had been provided for Bossington and Allerford.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman delivered a full report on the work of the Council over the year and thanked the Councillors for their support – special thanks were given to the Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Keith Jacobs, for the work he had undertaken during the consultation and implementation of the Dog Control Orders.

The Chairman informed those present that the Council expected to receive the planning applications for the road and housing in April or May. Should the application be approved by ENP then SCC had indicated that it would not commence on the road until September to avoid undue disruption in the village during the peak summer months.

6. Reports from the Charities

The Henry Rogers Charities

Mrs. Cecily Corner, the Clerk to the Charity, confirmed that the Henry Rogers Charity had now combined with the Winsford Land Charity and that the name of the charity had changed to the Henry Rogers Charities to reflect this. A copy of the audited accounts showed that a balance of £817.67 had been brought forward. The addition of the transfer of funds from the Winsford Land Charity together with COIF and Bank Interest had allowed for 11 pensioners to receive funds of £12 per month with a bonus of £17 at Easter and £25 at Christmas. The balance at the end of the year was £1162.43. The recipients of the pension must have lived within the boundary of Porlock Manor for at least 5 years.

Holes Charity

Mr. Nigel Lamacraft commenced by requesting to know whether the meeting held a member or representative of the Holes family as there has been an on-going dispute between the family and the Church for some while. There were no such members present and Mr. Lamacraft proceeded to give details of the accounts as follows:-

A balance of £3.03 had been brought forward from the previous year and £84.14 had been received in interest. From this fund £80 had been distributed to the poor of Doverhay leaving a balance of £7.17 to carry forward.

7. Reports from the Community

Visitor Centre and Lovelace Centre

Mrs. Denise Sage, Manager of the Visitor Centre, reported that it had been a very busy year as far as the number of people through the door, but that income was seriously down. The profit made by the Centre during 2009 was £627 as opposed to £5,533 the previous year. There will almost certainly be further grant funding lost in the coming year, but with the generous support of the community the Centre fully intended to retain a high profile.

With the help of others the Centre had won the Village of the Year Competition and had also embarked on several ambitious projects such as the Community Orchard. The members of the Tourist Association Committee had worked in tandem with the staff at the Centre to produce several events to bring people into the village and Mrs. Sage thanked everyone for their help. There were special words of praise for Chris & Roger Miles who had manned the Lovelace Centre for the past year. Chris Miles in particular had worked hard to produce excellent posters and artwork for the various village events as well as maintaining the entries on the website.

There was concern at the number of empty shops appearing in the High Street, but owners had been contacted for permission to put artwork in the windows to lessen the impact. Also of concern was the large number of properties available for self-catering whose owners lived away.

Mrs. Sage concluded by thanking the whole community for its support in the past year.

Police

PCSO Anne Stoneham reported on the number of recorded crimes in Porlock under the various categories and was pleased to inform the meeting that there had been 7 less than in the past year – this gave rise to an improvement of 27% in the crime statistics!

Information on how PCSO's will be involved in the implementation of the new Dog Control legislation is still awaited, and pending the appointment of a new Beat Officer, Charlie Fitzpatrick will continue to cover for Porlock.

Village Hall

Cllr. Joe Roake read a report from Steve Rawle, the retiring Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee:

The Committee had had to cope with 5 resignations during the year, but had also been pleased to welcome new members. Unfortunately to date it has not been possible to find a new Chairman.

The lettings during the year had remained stable at £9,000 and the Committee had also worked very hard to raise £900 from three fund raising events.

The maintenance of the Hall was on-going with the installation of a new heating boiler and maintenance on the electrics having been carried out during the year. Other projects had also been undertaken by the DIY maintenance team.

All users of the Hall were happy with the new arrangements for the Car Park, but others using the Car Park had complained at the lack of spaces.

The Chairman had concluded his report by thanking his Committee for all their hard work during the year and for their support during his term of office.

Recreation Ground

Mr. Michael Lacey, Chairman of the Managing Trustees, reported on a very successful year of fund raising, with the Mouse Racing being the only casualty. Last year this event had raised £1,000 but due to poor weather and other unforeseen circumstances only £85 had been raised this year.

During the coming year it is intended to once again hold the Football Festival, the Classic Car Rally, the Country Fair and cycling events, and to conclude the year by holding a Firework Display on New Year's Eve as happened this year, instead of 5th. November. The Committee also hopes to raise funds by actively promoting the hire of their marquees and tents.

The Committee had received more in donations this year than ever before with a figure of £10,820 having been given. One of the donations, given anonymously, for £10,000 had been especially generous. The Committee's accounts were not yet audited but Mr. Lacey reported a bank balance of approximately £35,000 and no liabilities.

Mr. Lacey concluded by expressing health concerns over dogs being allowed in the Recreation Ground under the new Dog Control Orders.

Doverly Manor

Mr. Roger Beasley, Treasurer to Doverly Manor Committee, read a report from the Chairman, the Rev. Ivan Selman, who had been unable to attend the meeting. Rev. Selman had reported on the successful conclusion of the Doverly Manor for Posterity (DM4P) project and the opening event which had taken place in May. The scheme had been completed within budget, and with additional grant funding from ENP it had been possible to provide a bridge from the first floor to the rear garden to improve access to the whole building for those with mobility problems.

Other projects had included the restoration of the fireplace in the Great Hall and the pebble path at the front of the building, as well as the continuation of improvements to the garden.

Rev. Selman had expressed the Committee's regrets at the death of Michael Ireland, and wished to put on record their gratitude for his long years of service to the Committee.

Mr. Beasley continued with a report on the Committee's finances. After expenditure from the various grants had been met the balances, together with normal income, amounted to £16,036 at the end of the year. Mr. Beasley reported the Committee's intention to create a reserve balance for use in future projects.

8. Precept and Councillors Attendance at Meetings

Precept

The Clerk reported that a sum of £41,500 had been precepted for the coming financial year, which amounted to a rise of £3,119 on the previous year. This additional sum will be spent almost entirely on

tree maintenance work, which is now a requirement for landowners whose trees may pose a risk to the public.

The cost of the precept on a Band D property will be £56.44. The present cost is £52.40

Councillors Attendance Record

Three Councillors had achieved a full record of attendance- these were Cllr. Keith Jacobs, Cllr. David Latham and Cllr. Malcolm Sage

Councillors David Britnell, Kim Rowe and Alan Wright had all been absent for one meeting and Councillors Malcolm McCoy, Joe Roake and Marilyn Russell for two meetings. Cllr. Edward had been absent for three meetings.

There had been a total of 15 absences largely accounted for by illness or holiday.

There being no other business the meeting was closed and was followed by the monthly meeting of the Parish Council