

## **KILMINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 7.30 P.M. THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013 IN THE MAIN HALL, AT KILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**1. PRESENT:** Cllr. M. Collier, (Chairman), Cllrs. Bolton, Hodges, Huscroft, Newbery, Penzer, Tattershall, Trott and 45 members of the public.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr. Vickers and P.C.S.O. Trott and Messrs. Abrahams and Lavender.

**3. GUEST SPEAKER:** The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, former District Councillor Mike Green who now had a role as an ambassador for the Jurassic Coast.

Mr. Green began his presentation by explaining that the Jurassic Coast had been given World Heritage status because it was an almost perfect example of the geology of the Jurassic geological period in which the strata were exposed along a coastline and were so readily on view to the public.

Using a colourful set of “building blocks”, Mr. Green gave a lively explanation of how the various strata were laid down. He then moved on to illustrate how the geology had had a lasting impact on the landscape in other ways through its use over the centuries in buildings. Mr. Green then showed a number of slides he had taken of buildings in Kilmingon from historic times to the present day and commented on the different building materials used – even speaking out in favour of retention of inappropriate materials as these reflected the “history” of the time they were used.

Mr. Green then responded to questions from the floor after which the Chairman gave the vote of thanks.

Cllr. Collier went on to propose that the Agenda Item on Affordable Housing be brought forward to enable Mr. Green to relate some of the experiences Beer Parish Council, of which he was a member, had had in forming a Community Lands Trust in order to progress the delivery of affordable housing in the parsh. Cllr. Collier said that, like many parishes wishing to have affordable housing, Kilmingon was finding the difficulties in securing funding very frustrating and was giving consideration to the possibility of forming a Community Land Trust, so had felt it would be helpful to benefit from the experience of others.

Mr. Green opened his remarks by stating that at the time the discussions on the Draft Local Plan took place, residents had indicated that they did not wish the village to grow. However, residents were also keen to have affordable housing for young people who were not necessarily in housing need but wished to be able to live in the village in which they had grown up. It was also viewed as important that control over the allocation of the housing be in the hands of the parish and not at the whim of any outside body.

Investigation had suggested that the best way this could be achieved was through the formation of a Community Land Trust. Funding to look into this option had been received from the Community Land Trust Network. Of the models suggested, Beer had chosen to go for a National Provident Society. This had been set up in December 2012 and shares of a value between £1 and £20,00 could

be taken out by individuals who became members. Gifts, donations and legacies could also be accepted. Following a public meeting, the rules for the Society were drawn up by specialist solicitors in Birmingham. The Community Land Trust will act as the developer and the shareholders will take the risk. Investment in the houses would remain in Beer. Mr. Green said that between £1 million and £3 million would have to be raised before any return on the investment would be seen but that the group would be eligible for a Public Works Board Loan.

Cllr. Collier thanked Mr. Green for sharing his experiences with the meeting.

Refreshments were taken at this point.

4. MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Cllr. Penzer, seconded by Mr. Hurford proposed that these be approved. Agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING: None.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman opened his review of the year by commenting on the various events which had been arranged in connection with the Diamond Jubilee. He said that this had been a very successful community effort and paid tribute to the work undertaken by the organising committee. He said that the display of scarecrows had attracted the interest of the national press.

He recalled that in the previous year the proposal to site a new Baptist Chapel on the eastern corner of the northern end of George Lane had caused some conflict in the village but said that an alternative and more acceptable site had been found in Whitford and this had now been granted planning approval.

The gypsy encampment off Roman Road was still a source of difficulty he said. Another issue about which residents were concerned was that of dog fouling and if necessary the dog warden would be asked to become involved.

The new cycle track between Axminster and Kilmington had now been opened and was proving popular with both walkers and cyclists.

Cllr. Collier regretted that little progress had been possible in respect of affordable housing, principally because of the lack of Government Funding being made available.

Concluding on a more positive note, Cllr. Collier said that the notices for the passing bays in George Lane had now been installed.

The Chairman closed his remarks by thanking Cllr. Moulding, Dist. Cllr. Chubb, his fellow Councillors, Mrs. Vickers (webmaster) Mr. Wilcox (Tree Warden), Mrs. Woodsford (Bus shelters) and the Clerk for their support during the past year.

7. PLAYING FIELD REPORT : Mr. Bolton said that all the routine maintenance work around the field and to the pavilion was done by a team of volunteers and thanked them for the tremendous job they performed in doing this to such a high standard. He echoed a point made by the Chairman with reference to the village as a whole, and that was the problem being caused by dog fouling.

Moving on to the Play Area, Mr. Bolton said that it would cost over £1000 to undertake the work identified in the recent report from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

8. SCHOOL REPORT : In the first report since the formation of the Axe Beacon Federation, Mrs. Huscroft said that there were 89 pupils on the school roll. 14 pupils had left in the summer and the intake in September had been 11.

She went on to report on the successful achievement of the pupils in a range of tests and the outstanding grading awarded in the recent O.F.S.T.Ed. inspection, in which Grade 1 was achieved in all four areas. In addition to academic work, the school had been involved in a broad range of sporting and cultural activities including maypole dancing, mini-olympics and art projects.

In conclusion, Mrs. Huscroft paid tribute to long-serving member of staff, Mrs. Bowmer, who had been at the school for 19 years and was responsible for much of their musical activity.

9. THE COMMON : The Parish Clerk reported that, in keeping with advice received from environmental specialists, one cut of the Common had been undertaken during the previous summer. Invasive weeds were being monitored and dealt with in accordance with published guidelines. She said that the wet weather had meant that care had had to be taken to avoid damaging the surface by taking machinery onto the land and this had limited what could be done on some occasions.

No income had been received and the cost of maintenance was gifted by the Parish Council.

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT : Cty. Cllr. Moulding began by indicating his particular areas of responsibility within the County Council and reminded the audience of the County's continuing need to reduce spending because of the difficult economic settlement imposed by Central Government.

Moving onto more local matters, he welcomed the fact that a section of Whitford Road had now been resurfaced but said that the atrocious weather over the past twelve months had left the roads throughout the county in a dreadful condition and that it would be some time before repairs on minor roads were dealt with properly. However, he welcomed the good communications between the parish and the county through regular liaison with the office of the local Neighbourhood Highway Officer.

Cty. Cllr. Moulding then gave an update on the travellers camp in Roman Road. He said that numbers fluctuated throughout the year. Many of the individuals were homeless and as such had considerable rights and it was difficult to move them on. He said that he and Dist. Cllr. Chubb visited the site regularly to monitor what is happening.

11. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT : Dist. Cllr. Chubb said that he was the Environment portfolio holder, which gave him responsibility for waste and recycling. He was pleased that the recycling level was now 50%. A problem which was becoming more widespread was that of dog-fouling and a new campaign to try and eradicate this was about to begin.

Other issues which had occupied District Councillors had been the developments at Cranbrook, which were going well, and the viability of moving the Council offices away from Sidmouth to Honiton.

He concluded by thanking the Parish Council for the work it had done during the year.

12. FOOTPATH REPORT : In her report, Mrs. Penzer indicated that the footpaths, generally, were in a good condition. However, she said that there were a few specific problems which needed to be tackled and one instance of obstruction and that some way marking would be updated.

The main problem areas were:-

Obstruction on Footpath 11, where a gate has been padlocked and topped with barbed wire. The matter has been referred to the County for action

The need to replace the stile on Footpath 19.

Mud issues at the top of Bridleway 17.

Mud and obstruction problems on Footpath 22.

Mrs. Penzer asked that residents wishing to raise any matters of concern should contact her on 34287.

13. PUBLIC FORUM : Among points raised by members of the public were:

That the closure of the gates on the new cycleway was unsatisfactory as it was disruptive to the continuity of the exercise to have to dismount to negotiate each gate.

Whether the allotment plots were fully tenanted and if they were not that steps be taken to ensure that weeds on vacant plots do not go to seed.