

KILMINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 7.30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 22ND APRIL 2015 IN THE MAIN HALL, AT KILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

1. PRESENT: Cllr. M. Collier (Chairman), Cllrs. Bolton, Hodges, Huscroft, Newbery, Penzer, Trott, the Clerk (Miss H. Kirkcaldie) and 52 members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllr. Vickers and Mesdames Chapman, Lewis and Perkins.

3. GUEST SPEAKER: The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Anna Crabbe and some of her team of Duke of Edinburgh's Award candidates.

Mrs. Crabbe began by giving a brief history of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme from the time it was set up in 1956. She said that it was aimed at people between the ages of 16 and 25 and consisted of 3 levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Activities covered included volunteering, physical activity, skills and expedition, also involving residential activities. An average 195 people finish their gold award each day. Today, much of the recording of activities is done on-line, reflecting how the scheme has always moved with the times.

In Kilmington the scheme is run via the Baptist Church and this had the benefit of being an open group with a mixture of young people who did not necessarily know one another already, which is not the case with school-based groups.

Mrs. Crabbe then gave a brief slide presentation illustrating the activities of various groups over the years before inviting three of the current cohort of candidates - Mariella, Finn and Rory - to share their experiences of participating in the scheme. Through three entertaining and informative presentations each imparted to the audience a real sense of enthusiasm and enjoyment for what they were doing and the sense of achievement it had given them.

A most interesting presentation concluded with an entertaining demonstration of the art of putting up a tent, after which the team responded to questions from the floor.

The Chairman thanked the speakers and invited the audience to show its appreciation in the usual way.

There was a short interval during which refreshments were served and the audience had the opportunity to look at a display relating to the Award Scheme.

4. MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Hurford proposed that these be approved. Agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING: None.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: the Chairman began by thanking parishioners for attending.

He said that the past year had been a busy one, with many issues to consider and numerous planning applications to discuss.

He welcomed the fact that, after many years of discussions and negotiations, work would be starting shortly on an affordable housing scheme for the village on land off George Lane.

Cllr. Collier paid tribute to Mrs. Vickers who was retiring having set up the village website eight years ago and put in many hours work as webmaster ever since. He said the site was recognised as one of

the best village web sites. He said that two new village residents would be taking over from Mrs. Vickers.

Cllr. Collier said that the pride with which local residents cared for their village was reflected in Kilmington receiving the award as county winner in the Larger Villages Previous Winner category for the second year running, an achievement which was marked by a presentation ceremony in the Village Hall in November. The Parish Council was presented with £100 worth of tokens by the sponsors, Mole Valley and had given these to the Pre-school Group.

A fresh landmark in the village was the new Baptist Chapel which now occupied the site next to the Village Hall and had blended in very well, said the Chairman.

He went on to pay tribute to the three local parents who, with help from Cllr. Vickers, had spear-headed a campaign to secure a reduction in the speed limit on the A35. He said that a traffic survey was to be undertaken during the summer and report on the findings should be forthcoming in September.

Cllr. Collier said that the Parish Council had given financial support Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride, East Devon Citizens' Advice Bureau, Postscript and the Village Hall and had directed its share of the Parishes Together Grant towards The Project, an Axminster-based charity concerned with young people's mental health.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking his fellow Councillors, the many other residents who gave the Parish Council particular assistance and the Clerk for their support during the past twelve months. He thanked retiring Councillors, David Vickers and Rachel Tattershall for their many years' service and wished them well.

8. PLAYING FIELD REPORT : Cllr. Bolton emphasised the important contribution made by volunteers in keeping the Playing Field, the Pavilion and the area generally in good condition. He said that Pavilion had been much used by the Baptist Church over the past five years and he hoped that new hirers would take up the time slots made available as a result of the completion of the new Baptist Church. He went on to mention that the annual safety inspection of the Play Area had been carried out in March and the Parish Council (which was responsible for the Play Area despite its being sited on the Playing Field) would be acting on the recommendations made. Cllr. Bolton concluded by saying that dog fouling remained a problem.

9. SCHOOL REPORT : Cllr. Trott said there were four full time and two part time members on the teaching staff and 8 other staff at the school. The roll remained steady around 95 pupils split into four classes, each of two year groups. An intake of 15 pupils was expected in September. The Federation of which Kilmington is a member achieved a balanced budget and expects to do in the coming year. Cllr. Trott concluded by describing the many, varied activities in which the pupils participate and thanked the Parent Teacher Association for the support which it gives in so many ways but organising a varied programme of fund raising events.

10. THE COMMON : The Clerk said that the Parish Council had gifted £172 worth of maintenance works to the Common during the course of the year. This had included cutting of grass and careful weeding and clearance of the heathland area in the middle of The Common.

11. WEBSITE REPORT: In a written report read out by the Chairman, the webmaster, Mrs. Vickers, stated that the website had received 11,000 hits during the year, compared with the 4000 received in its first year.

12. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: there was nothing to add to what had been said in the Chairman's Report.

13. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT : Cty. Cllr. Moulding said that as chairman of Place Scrutiny he had set up working parties to look at flooding, energy policy, future delivery of highway services, young people and unemployment, and community resilience. He went on to stress that the County Council continued to have its grant from central Government reduced and gave examples of the severe impact on service provision across the board, such as reductions in the Parish Lengthsman scheme. He said that as a result of public consultation it had been agreed that the County Council would continue to stock grit bins.

Cllr. Moulding gave an update on negotiations to try to ensure that all 5 hospitals in the Wackley group would have 16 beds, the number deemed necessary to ensure safe nursing practices and responded to questions from the floor.

14. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT : Dist. Cllr. Chubb reminded the audience that although they paid their Council Tax to the District Council much of that money was passed on to other authorities such as the County Council and Devon and Cornwall Police.

He spoke about the recent decision to relocate the District Council offices to Honiton, with a sub-office at Exmouth. He said that in his role as Environment Portfolio Holder he was involved in negotiations for a new waste contract. He said that this would include collection of cardboard and mixed plastics in response to public demand for this. A consequence of introducing this service would be a reduction in the frequency with which general waste would need to be collected.

15. FOOTPATH REPORT : Cllr. Penzer read out the Footpath Warden's report on behalf of his wife, who was unable to be present. Mrs. Penzer said that the footpaths were generally in good condition at present. The way marking on some routes would be improved shortly.

The paths from Chantry Bridge to Clifthorne Farm and Nower Farm to Marsh Farm had been cleared recently and other improvements made.

Annual Surveys had been undertaken and sent to Devon County Council.

In conclusion, Mrs. Penzer urged residents who used the paths to follow the Country Code and let her know as soon as possible of any problems they encountered.

16. SPEED LIMIT AND ROAD SAFETY ON A35: this had been covered in the Chairman's Report.

17. COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RECORDS: In response to a question raised by a resident, the Clerk said that of a possible 26 possible attendances, actual attendances over the past 24 months ranged from 11 to 24, with three Councillors having fewer than 20 attendances. It was requested that reports in Postscript should list those Councillors present.

18. PUBLIC FORUM :

a) Post Office – the Post Mistress explained that she had been offered a change of contract by the post office which it was not in her interest to accept. As a consequence the Post Office would be offering the franchise to the Londis Store at the garage. She said that she thought it unlikely that this would be accepted. In that event the Post Office would have to offer her a different contract which would be more advantageous to her. She said it was a case of waiting to see how the situation developed but wanted to explain how things stood herself to avoid any misleading rumours circulating.

b) Mr. Lavender proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for the support it gives the community.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.